

CAN YOU WIN A MORMON TO CHRIST BY LOVE ALONE?

BY ANDY POLAND,
GENERAL MANAGER

When I was teenager, I had a Christian friend named Charles. He was a good Christian; he tried not to swear, went to church on Sunday, did service in the community and invited me over to his house for cookouts. I was amazed at his dedication to the commandments and the fact that he was not Mormon.

When I saw Charles engaged in serving God and trying to keep the commandments, there were several things I thought to myself. My first thought was: *Charles would make a wonderful Mormon. After all there are not many Christians that believe they should try and live the commandments. Charles just needs water added to become a Mormon (baptism).* My Mormon beliefs taught me that good Christians had a lot of truth; they just did not have the *fullness* of the gospel.

I would then start to plan ways that I could get Charles involved in Mormonism. I would invite him to family home evenings and see if he had interest in reading the Book of Mormon. I would invite him to attend the Easter Pageant or to the Christmas lights at the temple. I thought that if I engaged Charles in conversation about my beliefs, that he would gain a testimony of the work and join the Mormon Church. Fortunately for Charles, he never accepted my offers, but he never explained why.

After observing the righteousness of my Christian friend, several thoughts never entered into my mind, for example: *I wonder if Mormonism is wrong and Christianity is right. Or: The life my Christian friend is leading is the kind of life I want to live. It was definitely too far from me to consider: His life is so much better than my Mormon way of life.* I

realize now that it was impossible for my Christian neighbor to *out good* my Mormon way of life, because I was already doing many good works to earn my salvation.

If good works didn't convince me to consider a relationship with Jesus, what could my friend have done to reach out to me? When I read about the great commission of Jesus, I found some interesting instructions given. "He said unto them, 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whosoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whosoever does not believe will be condemned'" (Mark 16:15).

Notice that Jesus tells us to go into the world and preach. It does not say go into all the world and do good works that they may know the good news. On the contrary when He told us to love one another it was for a different purpose. "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one another" (John 13:35). Jesus did not say that people will know the good news of the gospel through our love, but that through our love they would know that we are the followers of Jesus. Good works show whom we follow, not what we believe.

So how does one come to know God? Paul asked the question "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" (Romans 10:14). Notice that Paul said that faith is gained through preaching.

What is the good news that we preach?

Jesus is the only God of the Bible and Jesus provides eternal life to you on the day that you start believing. "I tell you the truth, whosoever hears my word and believes on him that sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life" (John 5:24).

It is difficult to talk to our neighbors about the hope we have in Jesus. We are afraid they might reject us. Our Mormon neighbors cannot consider the wonder of God without hearing the good news of the Bible. The challenge that Jesus laid before us was to spread the good news through talking with our neighbors. If God wanted to do it another way He could have, but He chose us to be the vessels of His gospel. I never want to miss the opportunity to speak about the love of Jesus when given the chance. My actions will never do what my words can to describe His love for me.

In my personal salvation experience at the Concerned Christians' Thursday night Bible study, the Christians there opened the scriptures to my mind and explained how one gains salvation and God opened my heart to accept it. If they had not spoken the good news of Jesus, I would not have been saved. God blessed my heart that night and filled me with faith in His son Jesus. I am so glad God provided the words of salvation taught by those Christians, and gave me the faith to believe because that night—God set me free in the love of Jesus.



Next issue:

Some Conversation Starters



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AMAZING QUOTES

From LDS Church Leaders:



“Salvation is to be found in one place alone, as so designated by the Lord himself when He said that this is ‘the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth’ (Doctrine & Covenants 1:30).

I bear you my witness that Joseph Smith was the prophet of the Restoration, just as he claimed to be. I echo the strains of that stirring hymn: ‘Praise to the man who communed with Jehovah!’”

(Elder Tad R. Callister, November, 2009, *Ensign* p. 37)

BIBLICAL RESPONSE:

Jesus taught that salvation is not found in a church but only in Himself. “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6b). Because LDS salvation is found in the church, Latter-day saints are not afraid to praise and worship Joseph. Even the apostle John failed to understand the significance of worshipping an angel; “At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, ‘Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God!’ (Revelation 19:10a). The angel taught John that God alone is worthy of praise!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM THE STAFF & VOLUNTEERS AT CONCERNED CHRISTIANS

Concerned Christians Radio Program on KXXT 1010 - Mondays at 4pm

The program is called, *Out of Mormonism* where you will hear testimonies of ex-Mormon Christians, and much more. If you are outside the Phoenix area, you can listen to our prerecorded broadcasts online anytime via streaming audio. Simply go to www.familyvaluesradio.net and click the flashing, red “ON AIR” (upper left-hand corner). Listen anytime to our podcasts: www.outofmormonism.com; or just go to our website for details: www.concernedchristians.com.



ARIZONA'S CHRISTIAN STATION
KXXT1010

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times (Micah 5:2).





HOW SIGNIFICANT IS THE EVIDENCE FOR JERICHO'S DESTRUCTION?



By Bob Betts

In the previous issue of *The CROSS* newsletter, I gave a brief description of the DVD, *Jericho Unearthed*. The DVD highlights three different archaeological digs at the Jericho site, and what the evidence tells us about the historical accuracy of the *Bible*. But, then, the accuracy of every historical event found in the *Bible* is significant. If any of them were inaccurately recorded, then the *Bible* would be thrown into the arena of mythological stories, rather than the Word of the One true God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And if this were the case, then none of the Judeo/Christian beliefs could be taken seriously.

A company of evangelical Christians has endeavored to create a series of DVD documentaries called *Expedition Bible*, which provides historical confidence in the *Bible*. They have so dedicated themselves to this ambitious project that they moved to Jerusalem to produce it on location.

Another reason for the significance of such historical confidence in the *Bible* goes directly to the point of our ministry here at Concerned Christians, and to that of every other like-ministry to Mormons. Mormon apologists have long tried to cast the *Bible* as unreliable due to alleged corruption of the content, including allegations of missing books and wrong translation. Have any LDS apologists ever proven any such allegations? **No.**

Then, what possible motivation could they have for throwing the *Bible* under the bus, so to speak? Answer: *The Book of Mormon*.

The problem for the vocal LDS defenders of the *Book of Mormon* is the lack of any definitive evidence for a single person, location or event described within the *Book of Mormon*. LDS would have us to believe that it contains a 1,000-year history of the Americas throughout the Western Hemisphere, yet with nothing physical to show for it! Every alleged defense is nothing more than pure speculation. Therefore, their counter offensive is to claim that the *Bible* is as historically unreliable as the *Book of Mormon*.

It is an absurd offensive, since there are so many archaeological/ historical evidences for biblical persons, locations and events. Besides Jericho, we know of at least 26 other biblical locations. Many biblical events which occurred at these locations are undisputed, though certain particulars such as exact dates may be less concrete. Old Testament names of individuals and cultures have been discovered and documented as well.

Faith is required to believe that the *Bible* is more than just a history book – that it is also the actual recorded revelations of God to mankind. But, blind faith is required to believe that the *Book of Mormon* is the Word of God, in the absence of any viable, historical substance whatsoever.

Jericho, having been unearthed and critically examined by experts in their fields, and proven to be a true sign of the fulfillment of the biblical account of Joshua and the destruction of Jericho, is delightfully evident!

We applaud the work of those connected with *Expedition Bible* and encourage them in their ongoing work to contrast the reliability of the *Bible* with the non-existent viability of the *Book of Mormon*.



From the Mailbag



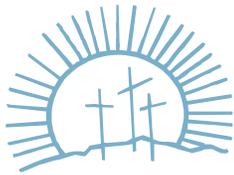
Dear Concerned Christians,
I enjoyed the latest newsletter. Andy thank you for your interesting information on the non-Christian Mormon religion. It seems that there's always more non-talked about things in the LDS church coming out all the time. Thanks for all you and Bob do converting and educating so many people. You're much appreciated, both of you. Happy Thanksgiving. [Mesa, AZ]

Dear Concerned Christians,
Enclosed is a donation offering to help with the expenses in continuing your ministry. Thank you for sending The CROSS newsletter. It's very interesting and gives us hope. We keep praying for our son, daughter-in-law and their baby that the Holy Spirit would cause them to question Mormonism, be troubled, and then seek the One true living God, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Thanks again to all of your staff members. God bless you all! [Pinetop, AZ]

Dear Andy,
My husband passed away Sept., 2009. He was a great supporter of your work and enjoyed reading *The CROSS*. I know he would want me to continue to support your work. [Mesa, AZ]

Dear Concerned Christians,
I always look forward to your newsletter. Continue to keep my granddaughter and her husband in your prayers. They have a little girl and a boy now. It was devastating to have my only granddaughter marry a Mormon and become a Mormon. In Jeremiah 31:11 it says, "I am the Lord, the God of all the peoples of the world, is anything to hard for me?" With God, nothing is impossible. Keep up the good work you are doing! [Bahlem, NE]

Dear Concerned Christians,
Thank you for all you do to spread the truth about the cult of Mormonism! [Columbus, OH]



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Dear Concerned Christians,
Thank you for your awesome ministry, you give such hope and joy to those who receive your newsletters! God has, and is blessing you richly. [Port Orange, FL]

Dear Bob,
Thanks for your help and encouragement as I met with the sister missionaries. [Cedar Park, TX]

Dear Concerned Christians family,
Here is a small donation to help cover postal costs. I am greatly encouraged to read how you've impacted many former Mormons and many who may be struggling now. Your ministry has touched countless lives and is an inspiration to many. My best friend converted from Christianity to Mormonism through marriage. My heart hurts. Thank you again. [Lansdale, PA]

Dear Concerned Christians,
Thank you for putting the information about the movie "September Dawn" in the last newsletter. We rented it and it's really an eye opener. Makes me sad to think how people can so blindly follow someone and not question whether it is right or wrong. It has made me pray even more for those in the Mormon religion, including my own family. May God bless your organization to continue to show people the truth. [Huachuca City, AZ]

Hi,
God bless your efforts to reach Mormons. This will be a one-time gift, so sorry. I have lost a granddaughter to Mormonism. [Apache Junction, AZ]

Dear Brothers,
Keep up the good work! The new newsletter is good. You manage to include a lot of useful info on one sheet. Please keep the "Amazing Quotes" feature. The radio program is terrific! I go to work early that day so I can get off work early and not miss any of it as I drive home! Andy's articles have been encouraging and thought provoking. [Phoenix, AZ]

Dear Concerned Christians,
Andy, your article in the last newsletter was quite interesting. The Mormons are trying so hard to make people believe that they are Christians! I think their idea that "*Mormon beliefs fit [within] these parameters [of Christianity]. If so, he [the Mormon bishop] said, we must accept them as Christians so that investigators would not be scared away by their teachings*" is very telling. We, as true Christians, have nothing to hide. As you also stated, their leaders masquerade as apostles of Christ and will receive what their actions deserve on the Day of Judgment. It is so sad that they lead so many astray. I pray God will continue to bless your endeavors to reach out to Mormons and educate people to the falseness of their teachings. [City/State withheld]