



# THE CROSS

Concerned Christians

Volume 2, No. 4—2010

---

## THE DECEPTION OF PERSONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS

---

BY ANDY POLAND  
GENERAL MANAGER

Have you ever met someone who did not care about what commandment he broke? This type of person was not afraid to do evil and belief in God was far away from him. In the scriptures, these types of people are described as arrogant and haughty (see Psalm 10). As a Mormon, I loved being able to say that I was not like the arrogant, because I believed in keeping the commandments.

Mormonism excels at explaining the benefits of keeping the commandments. And to be sure, anyone who keeps the commandments of the Lord will find that the commandments protect us and give us the benefits of avoiding the pitfalls of sin. For example, someone who uses drugs and alcohol will find that they have a hard time avoiding addiction. Or if someone dabbles with adultery, they will find that their family life will be filled with pain and despair from broken hearts. I found that Mormonism understood the natural consequences of keeping the commandments applied to everyone.

Although Mormonism taught me the value of keeping the commandments, it failed to teach me how to escape pride. Pride is difficult to escape because pride lies to you. My pride taught me that my righteousness made me worthy to receive forgiveness from God. I knew for certain that God hated sin, so therefore I believed that he would absolutely reward me for my righteous acts. My thinking was “the good people go to heaven because they are good.”

While I was a missionary I read a scripture that confused me. Jesus taught about the Pharisee and the tax collector going to the temple to pray. “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not

like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God have mercy on me, a sinner.’ I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Luke 18:10-14). I looked at the life of the Pharisee and could not understand why he was rejected by God. He was keeping the commandments, fasting, and praying to God to give him thanks. I asked myself ‘Didn’t God require us to keep his commandments before he would forgive us? I believed the tax collector was not worthy of forgiveness and the Pharisee was worthy, but Jesus taught that the tax collector was worthy of forgiveness and not the Pharisee?!?!’

I could not understand the scripture because I did not know that God was looking for something different than personal righteousness. He was looking for humility. Paul talked about the need for the Israelites to give up personal righteousness before they could be forgiven. “For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God” (Romans 10:3). As long as I was trying to be good enough, I could never know the righteousness that comes from God. In fact Paul said “Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law, rather, through the law we become conscious of sin” (Romans 3:20).

The simple lesson that the tax collector learned was that he could never be good enough to be worthy of forgiveness. The tax collector was totally dependent on

God to save him from himself. Paul also understood his personal situation rendered him trapped in his current condition without God. “I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good but cannot carry it out” (Romans 7:18). Paul knew what he needed to do, but could not do it.

So if no one can depend on personal righteousness, what did Paul depend on? “I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith” (Philippians 3:8b-9). Both Paul and the tax collector learned that God wants us to give Him our sin and our personal righteousness. In our humility, God meets us and gives us His righteousness.

It seemed strange to me that God wanted me to meet him in my weakness until I accepted the fact that my pride was sin. In my pride, I could not know God’s forgiveness nor could I leave my fear and worry about punishment. “There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he loved us first” (1 John 4:18-19). It was impossible for me to give love freely until God set me free from the fear of punishment. Till I was set free, the only reason I did good was so that God would not punish me. I was trading my good works for forgiveness which made my act of righteousness selfish, not selfless. At the moment God forgave me, I finally realized the true meaning of love. Love must be given away freely or it is not love; it is a business transaction.



Concerned Christians  
525 E. Broadway Rd.  
Mesa, AZ 85204

www.concernedchristians.com

Phone: (480) 833-2LDS

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

P.O. Box 18

Mesa, AZ 85211-0018

**General Manager:**

Andy Poland

andy@concernedchristians.org

**Founders:**

Jim and Judy Robertson

jim@concernedchristians.org

**The CROSS Newsletter Editor:**

Judy Robertson

judy@concernedchristians.org

**Website questions / comments**

**Office Manager:**

Bob Betts

bob@concernedchristians.org

## AMAZING MORMON QUOTES

### September 11, 2010 (153 years after Mountain Meadows Massacre)

This Amazing Quote article is in remembrance of the 120 men, women, and children, who were tricked into believing that the Mormons were friends and later slaughtered by the same Mormons at Mountain Meadows on September 11<sup>th</sup> 1857. Two years after the massacre, Brigham Young found a monument built by Company K, 1<sup>st</sup> Dragoons (A group of federal troops that discovered the unburied bodies some months after the horrible event scattered in the field where they were killed). On top of the monument of stones built by Company K, they erected a cross with these words inscribed on it: "Vengeance is mine saith the Lord. I will repay." When Brigham saw the inscription, he raised his arm to the square and said "Vengeance is mine saith the Lord, and I have taken a little of it." The Mormons in Brigham Young's company immediately tore down the monument without another word spoken. Please see *John D. Lee* by Juanita Brooks p. 265-268 and *Waiting for the Worlds End The Diaries of Wilford Woodruff* p. 262.

Although Brigham Young approved of taking vengeance against his enemies, Paul taught differently. "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head" (Romans 12:19-20).

## Concerned Christians Radio Program on KXXT 1010 - Mondays at 4:00 pm



Our radio broadcast 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 prerecorded broadcasts online anytime via streaming audio.

Go to [www.familyvaluesradio.net](http://www.familyvaluesradio.net) and click the flashing, red "ON AIR" (upper left-hand corner). Listen anytime to our podcasts: [www.outofmormonism.com](http://www.outofmormonism.com). Or visit: [www.concernedchristians.com](http://www.concernedchristians.com)

**3 per DVD**

*For each sale of the  
Bible vs. Joseph Smith DVD*

*\$3 will go toward  
the Gilbert DVD distribution*

Get your copy today for only \$10

480-833-2537

### *The Bible vs. Joseph Smith—3 per DVD*

For every sale of this DVD, \$3 will go toward supporting the distribution of the DVD to the community surrounding the soon-to-be-built temple in Gilbert. You will benefit from this DVD as well ... from the creators of *The Bible vs. The Book of Mormon*, *DNA vs. The Book of Mormon*, *Jericho Unearthed*, *The Jesus Tomb Unmasked* and *Lifting the Veil of Polygamy*. This may be their best film to-date, produced entirely in Israel by Living Hope Ministries/ SourceFlix, testing the predictions of Biblical and Mormon prophets.

## ADAM'S ROAD HEADS TO GILBERT, ARIZONA

By Bob Betts

Adam's Road is coming to Gilbert, Arizona for a FREE LIVE CONCERT, Saturday October 2, at Crossroads Park, 2155 E. Knox Rd., just west of Greenfield Road (Knox Road is between Warner and Ray Roads). The concert starts at 6:00pm with a "warm-up band," Knights of Melchizedek, followed by Adam's Road at 7:00 pm.

FREE ADMISSION

in concert  
**Adam's Road**  
(A BAND OF EX-LDS CHRISTIANS)  
Produced by Concerned Christians  
And Springs in the Deseret Productions  
Saturday, October 2, 2010 @ 6 PM  
Crossroads Park—2305 E. Knox Rd., Gilbert, AZ

FREE ADMISSION

Adam's Road is a non-denominational, not-for-profit, Christian band of five former Mormons (four of whom were LDS missionaries), sharing the Gospel through music since July, 2006. Micah and Matt (brothers), Jay, Steve and Joseph all live in Winter Garden, Florida, where, together with their wives, they partially support themselves as owners and operators of a historic bed-and-breakfast called the Edgewater Hotel. All but one of the members are married with children.

It all started when God connected a Baptist minister with a young Mormon missionary named Micah Wilder. The minister challenged Micah to read the Bible through for the first time. Micah took that challenge. Over the course of his two-year mission, he came to know the grace and love of Jesus Christ, and learned that salvation was by grace through faith, and not by works of a religion. Then, with only three weeks left on his mission, Micah was confronted by his Mormon leaders about his change in faith. Professing faith in Christ alone, he was promptly kicked off his mission for no longer believing in the LDS religion.

Other conversions out of Mormonism: Stefan, the band's Communications Administrator is ex-LDS. And Micah and Matt's parents, Michael and Lynn, resigned after being active Mormons for over 30 years. Lynn left a tenured position at Brigham Young University. Michael's exit came after he re-read the New Testament and began delving into little-known aspects of Mormon history. Adam's Road operates from love offerings and donations, and gives away their CDs at their shows. Learn more about Adam's Road at their website: [www.adamsroadband.com](http://www.adamsroadband.com). †

## From the Mailbag

Concerned Christians,

We are committed tithers of our income to our church. We also have a special place in our hearts for the work you are doing and want to help as much as we can. Therefore, we have committed a tithe of the earnings on our meager investments to Concerned Christians. Keep up the good work. In His service. ~ El Dorado Hills, CA

Concerned Christians,

Keep up the great & wonderful work you are doing for those trapped in Mormonism. God bless, in Christ. ~ Hardy, VA

Concerned Christians,

Thank you so much for the DVD. How sad – the bondage these people are in. I will use this DVD to let people who are Christians know the importance of leading [Mormons] to Jesus. ~ Las Vegas, NV

Dear Bob,

Let us give thanks to the Lord for He is good and His mercy endures forever. Thanks for all of your work among the lost and the valuable information you have provided for us to use

in witness. Praise the Lord! Per our conversation this a.m., enclosed is a check to cover costs of the DVD, *The Bible vs. Joseph Smith*. Thank you for sending it along with the 6 booklets on the comparison of Christianity and Mormonism. May the Lord continue to bless all of His faithful witnesses. Grace, hope, peace. ~ Surprise, AZ

Concerned Christians,

God has provided a miraculous gift of provision for us in a time of famine and we want to share it with you. He is faithful! ~ Mesa, AZ

Dear Bob and CC,

Please use this [check] as the Lord leads you. I keep your ministry in my prayers. Thank you for the work you all do to see the lost [are] found. May God continue to bless Concerned Christians and the many Mormons you reach with His gospel. Blessings. ~ Broken Bow, NE

Concerned Christians,

Thank you for keeping me informed on what is happening with Latter Day Saints. ~ La Mirada, CA



# Concerned Christians of Mesa

P. O. Box 18  
Mesa, AZ 85211-0018

**NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION**  
U. S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Phoenix, AZ  
Permit No. 1383

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Inside this issue:	Page
◇ The Deception of Personal Righteousness	1
◇ Amazing Mormon Quotes ◇ Concerned Christians Radio Program ◇ 3 per DVD	2
◇ Adam's Road—In Concert ◇ From the Mailbag	3
◇ From the Mailbag (continued)	4



See Details  
on Page 2

## *From the Mailbag—continued from Page 3*

Dear Concerned Christians,

I always appreciate the newsletters you send. I encourage you in Christ Jesus to keep up the work our God has put on your heart. We must stand firm on his promises and spread the good news! Thank you! ~ Queen Creek, AZ

Concerned Christians,

We're happy with the updates you provide us with in the newsletters. Hope this [check] helps. In his love. ~ Tempe, AZ

Hi Concerned Christians,

God bless you – Use this [check] where most needed. Last week, a friend and I led a LDS lady to the Lord – Praise the Lord! In Christ ~ Vernon, AZ

Dear Concerned Christians,

For the last six years I've worked side by side with a Mormon colleague from whom I have learned so much professionally and have a great deal of respect personally. My burden for her being under the yoke of Mormonism however is what led me to search and find your organization, learn from it, and contribute financially to it over the last few years. I have had some general conversations with her about her religion and have constantly prayed for her, but her staunchness and devoutness to it have hindered her from thinking she's anything other than a Christian. I just left my job recently and gave bibles and handwritten notes to my coworkers as parting gifts. Your last

newsletter arrived on the exact day I had planned to write the note to my Mormon friend, and it helped me focus some thoughts and use terms that I thought would be meaningful to her in presenting the true gospel. Prior to me getting her gift to her on my last day, she gave me a nice little gift with a note card that had the line "His peace comes through obedience to His law and ordinances." The stark contrast between biblical Christianity and Mormonism had never been so clear in our interactions. She ended up receiving my gift and letter – which I thought was loving and respectful – after I left on my last day. I didn't expect to hear one way or the other how it was received, but soon thereafter she went to the trouble to mail me a note saying that I was patronizing and self-righteous and the she was disappointed that I 'misunderstood' her after working together for six years. Of course she was helpful enough to refer me to [Mormon web sites] as if I had no knowledge of Mormonism and that those websites would clearly show that Mormons are Christians and that I was wrong. While her reaction and the likely severing of our ties greatly disheartens me, I have to take comfort in (Scripture reference - Matthew 5:11-12). So, I won't let Satan get me down about this and thus it's with continued prayers for her and for your vital ministry that I send you this check. We must be bold and stand on the truth of Christ alone, no matter the cost. May the Lord bless you and strengthen you. P.S. Please pray for my Mormon friend so that the veil would be lifted. ~Annandale, VA