



# THE CROSS

Concerned Christians

Volume 2, No. 5—2010

## WHY IS KNOWING THE TRUE GOD IMPORTANT TO GOD?

By ANDY POLAND  
GENERAL MANAGER

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, I never knew you. ‘Away from me, you evildoers!’” (Matthew 7:21-23).

Why would Jesus say this about a people that appear to worship him? They tried to do good works and in the Lord’s name, should they not also be considered his followers? On the surface, these verses seem to show some unfair qualities about God. As a former Mormon, these verses have profound significance to me.

I think the issue that Jesus is identifying is our relationship to and service to God. My service to God is dependent upon who I believe God is and by my relationship to him. In other words, because my service to God is shaped by what I believe about God I need to know the truth about Him in order to accomplish his will. Jesus highlighted this concept when he said that the ones who enter the kingdom of God will be “only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

My Mormon beliefs about God’s nature shaped my motivation for serving God and in the end robbed me of the ability to truly serve God. My belief and service to God was inexorably tied to the idea that God had a physical body like mine. God needed a physical body to become a god, and therefore because I am the literal offspring of God I had the potential to become a god as well. Therefore my motivation for serving God came out of a desire to be a god; not out of a desire to be subject to God.

The focus of my life was to find all of my inborn godly qualities and make them become the power I needed for godhood someday. I was learning how to worship myself so that someday I might be ready to receive worship from my children as their god. I was convinced that I would make a very merciful and reasonable god for my kids once I received my own godly power.

My conversion to Christianity caused me to realize that I was not serving God, but my own interests. My desire to be equal with God was not much different from Satan’s desire to be greater than God. (See Isaiah 14:12-15). I wanted to be worshiped and exalted like God. Consequently, my attempts to serve God in his name were not doing his will but accomplishing my own. My righteous acts were pure selfishness. Paul understood that our actions must serve others for Christ’s sake. “For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake” (2 Corinthians 4:5). Jesus also rejected selfishness to serve God “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).

The only true God of the Bible has given me much reason to hope. Before, it was all up to me to be worthy of godhood, something of an impossible task because I could not stop sinning. Now that I am God’s servant, I no longer seek personal glory but simple dependence on God. His power extends beyond my meager ability to keep the commandments and saved me in spite of myself.

I have gone from reliance on self and self-worship to total reliance on God and to God centered worship. He truly has become my beginning and my end; the

one and only God to whom I owe my life, my hope, my understanding, and my love. Jesus said “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks” (John 4:23).

When I was Mormon, my self-appointed godhood and my desire to be independent from God crippled my ability to worship God and prevented me from becoming a dependent servant of God. My Mormon life demonstrated to me that the lies that I believed about God prevented me from coming to God. The reality is that everything that exalts itself against God will be brought to destruction and ruin. “The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day” (Isaiah 2:11). Praise God that he humbled me before the great judgment so I could escape his wrath and know his love and forgiveness. †

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## 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)



**In this issue of**

*The CROSS...*

We have expanded the "Amazing Quotes" section to include an in-depth article. The following article addresses three erroneous teachings that LDS church leaders have imposed on the Bible and on the historic Christian faith, with serious consequences.

## TEMPLES, TITHES AND WORTHINESS

By Bob Betts

**TEMPLES:** The Mormon religion believes their temples are literally the "Houses of the Lord," and they are considered to be the Mormon's most sacred locations on earth. According to the LDS teaching manual, *Gospel Principles*, 1997 version (pp. 255-256), "Worthy [Mormon] Church members may go there to receive sacred ordinances and make covenants with God. Like baptism, these ordinances and covenants are necessary for salvation. They must be performed in the temples of the Lord."

**TITHING:** One of the LDS conditions of temple worthiness is tithing. This tithing is "one-tenth of our increase. This means that we give one-tenth of all we earn [to the Mormon church] before we pay for our own needs such as food, clothing, and shelter" (*Gospel Principles*, p. 208). That money is used to "1. Build, maintain, and operate temples, meetinghouses, and other buildings. 2. Provide operating funds for stakes, wards, and other units of the Church. 3. Help the missionary program. 4. Educate young people in Church schools, seminaries and institutes. 5. Help in family history and temple work [i.e. genealogical research and baptisms for the dead]" (*Gospel Principles*, p. 209).

**WORTHINESS:** A Mormon must be worthy to enter those temples. Worthiness is determined by the member's obedience to all the LDS ordinances. The Mormon must first submit to a special interview conducted by their ward bishop. He has a questionnaire that he goes over with the member, addressing about 20 issues. Among them, the bishop will delve into the member's "personal conduct, worthiness, and loyalty to the Church and its officers. The person must certify that he or she is morally clean and is keeping the Word of Wisdom, paying a full tithing, living in harmony with the teachings of the Church, and not maintaining any affiliation or sympathy with apostate groups" (*Ensign*, October 2010, pp. 30-31).

### What does the Bible say about Temples, Tithing, and Worthiness?

**TEMPLES:**

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands" (Acts 17:24).

Continued on next page

## TEMPLES, TITHES AND WORTHINESS Continued from preceding page

Then, what type of temple *does* God live in?

“Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple” (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).

Since the Apostle Paul was speaking to the Corinthian believers, and speaking of a singular temple, we understand that believers are the collective temple of God. And, again:

“For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people’ ” (2 Corinthians 6:16b).

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit” (Ephesians 2:19-22).

Clearly, God's people are God's temple, and He dwells among His people.

### TITHING:

Where is Jesus' or the Apostles' teaching on tithing? It is absent. Tithing had a definite Old Testament function: the physical support of the priest's who served in the tabernacle (later the temple), doing sacrifices for the sins of the people, and offerings as God so commanded, each with their own significance (Leviticus 27, Numbers 18, Deuteronomy 12 & 14). But, because Jesus took the permanent place of lambs (Hebrews 7-10), as the perfect, sacrificial Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29), there is no longer a need for priests to serve in that manner, and receive a tenth of the tithes of the people. And, tithing in the Old Testament was *never* tied as a requirement to anyone's salvation. While generous and glad giving is the New Testament standard, tithing became obsolete at the moment that Jesus proclaimed on the cross, “It is finished” (John 19:30).

### WORTHINESS:

“What does the Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.’ Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: ‘Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him’ ” (Romans 4:3-7).



## From the Mailbag

To All,

Thank you for all that you do for the Christian community. My family and I appreciate it. ~ Chandler, AZ

Concerned Christians,

Thank God for people like the Robertson's and you, Andy. Signed, an X-Mormon, ~ Mesa, AZ

Concerned Christians,

I appreciate receiving *The CROSS* and applaud the work you are doing in bringing the true gospel of Christ to the Mormon people, and educating others to their false teaching. Some years ago, I was asked to speak on Mormonism to an adult Sunday school class. One lady told me after class how much she appreciated learning about the Mormon church's teaching – she had just returned from Florida, and a Mormon sat next to her and shared some teachings with her – she did not know how to respond. (I had papers printed for everyone to take home). I have found through the years that so many people know nothing about the Mormons. I was raised in the Mormon church. My mother and grandparents joined the church through missionaries' teachings and came

to the U.S. through the church's sponsorship and settled in Salt Lake City. I became a Christian after I married and through the years have read many books and articles on the Mormon church, the latest being Judy's book *Out of Mormonism*, and Christine Carroll's book, *Journey out of Mormonism* – both excellent books. I am so thankful to God that I found the true Christ and the one and only God. How blessed I am! I hope to be able to send you monthly support now, to be used in whatever area is needed most. I pray that God continues to bless your work. In Christ, ~ Petersburg, IL

Dear Concerned Christians,

Thank you for your newsletters. I appreciate receiving them and it is an encouragement to read how you present the biblical Jesus to the Latter Day Saints. Enclosed is a gift for your ministry. I am praying for you. ~ Scottsdale, AZ

Dear Friends,

Keep up the good work. I know this is not much, but it's all I can spare right now. I hope it helps a bit.  
~ City/State withheld

Mailbag continued on back cover



# Concerned Christians of Mesa

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Concerned Christians,

Mormons claim they never attack other beliefs [and that] their attack on Christianity is just passive. Whenever I am asked [by a Mormon] which church I attend, they have had some odd personal attack on the pastor, and they call him "anti-Mormon." But oddly, the pastors always say how nice Mormons treat them. Members of my family who are LDS are so nice to me in person, but I hear from others outside of my family who tell me about the mean and vicious things they [my LDS family members] are saying about me. I just know it's easier for the LDS to attack the believers, than [to examine] their belief because they have no defense for their beliefs. ~ Rigby, ID

Dear Jim and Company,

Greetings from Taber, Alberta! Well done faithful servant! For doing a diligent consistent service for God's Glory and helping set captives free for people lost in Mormonism. Southern Alberta is truly under a heavy yoke of Moroni spirit, but God, we trust, and our prayers continue for His lost people. Thank you once again for you truly have the heart of Jesus. Our prayers and God's hedge of protection continue to protect all those precious people serving Him (and Andy Poland). God bless you all! ~ Alberta, Canada

Dear Concerned Christians,

Enclosed please find what little I can do to help with the

wonderful service you do. It has been [two years this December] that, with your awesome help, I have been able to call myself an Ex-Mormon! Praise Jesus! I enjoy your literature and my sister in Payson and I always go over the most recent newsletter together, commenting on the letters and insights. I have been blessed in finding a wonderful Christian church that I attend faithfully every Sunday. It is a Bible-based congregation with a pastor that stresses the importance of the Word of God. I've learned more in reading the Bible this past [two] years than I ever did in 50+ years of Mormonism. Thank you, and thank God! In Christ's love, ~ Mesa, AZ

Jim, Judy & Staff,

Last August I sent you a poem I believe the Lord gave me for a friend who had joined the Mormon "priesthood" along with a prayer cloth. About 2 weeks ago, I was in Sun City, AZ to visit my father and I spoke to Andy on the phone confirming your address. I have been blessed to be able to send you an offering as I am now able to, since I'm now working. Thank you for your testimony in *Out of Mormonism* and may God continue to bless your deliverance ministry. I am now attending a good, Bible-believing church that teaches safe, sound doctrine. When you are visiting the Norfolk-VA Beach area, please worship with us at Rock Church in VA Beach anytime. Sincerely in Christ, ~ Virginia Beach, VA