

THE CROSS

Concerned Christians

Volume 3, No. 1—2011

HAS THE BIBLE BEEN CORRUPTED?

BY ANDY POLAND
GENERAL MANAGER

As a Mormon, I had very little trust in the Bible. I believed that the Bible, at the time the Apostles and prophets wrote it, had been perfect and incorrupt. My Mormon beliefs taught me that over the centuries the translations and copies of the Bible were made by evil men. These men had altered and changed the Word of God into the teachings of men without divine inspiration. On my mission, I read the Bible to learn how to more effectively convince Christians to convert to Mormonism rather than as a way to gain insight into the nature of God and salvation. The Bible was far too corrupt to provide any relevant understanding about God or salvation. In my Mormon view, pure undefiled truth could only be discovered from direct personal revelation from God.

I never would have considered the Bible as a source for truth, that is, until I had a good reason to doubt my own feelings and personal revelations. God knew that about me. So He proved to me that my revelations and feelings could fail. God used my failed personal revelations to cause me to search for the truth. I could never be more grateful for this scripture, "who foils the signs of false prophets and makes fools of diviners, who overthrows the learning of the wise and turns it into nonsense..." Isaiah 44:25.

When I began searching for validity within Christianity, my first question was "Is the Bible reliable or is it as corrupt as I had been taught?" I wanted to know if the Bible accurately represented the teachings of the Apostles and prophets so that I could determine three things.

1) Who was Jesus? Was he just a man

or was he also God?

2) How can I communicate with God and know the answer I received was not from the devil or from my own heart?

3) How do I gain eternal life and peace with God?

I began my research by reading *A Ready Defense* by Josh McDowell. I was amazed at the wealth of evidence provided by Josh that supports the accurate translation of the Bible. Josh explained that there were over 6,000 ancient Greek manuscripts for the New Testament books. I was fascinated to learn that these manuscripts came from different time periods (70 AD to 450 AD) and from different locations across Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Each of these manuscripts agreed with each other!! There was no smoking gun of deception or corruption; only the quiet assurance that the words of the Apostles had been carefully preserved by hundreds of people. The Old Testament also had wonderful evidence proving God's preservation of it. The caves at Qumran contained all the books from the Old Testament minus the Book of Esther and all of the books predated the time of Christ. When comparing the Hebrew of those manuscripts to the Hebrew of today's Old Testament, the proof of the Bible's preservation became very clear.

What does all of this mean to me? The answer is simple. My faith in the Bible and in Jesus is based on three things:

1) The Bible manuscripts proved that the words of the prophets and Apostles were preserved from corruption.

2) The Apostles testified that they saw the resurrected Lord. Each of these men suffered a martyr's death for something they believed was real - the resurrection

of Jesus. They talked with him, saw him eat food, and witnessed his ascension into heaven. Some may say that it is a small thing for people to die for what they believe. We have people all over the world willing to die for what they believe in. But if Jesus did not rise from the grave, then we would have to believe that the Apostles chose to die for something that they knew was a lie. No one is willing to die for something false. Jesus, by his resurrection, proved that he was God.

3) The final testimony of the truth of the Bible came from Jesus himself. Jesus said that the Old Testament writings contained the words of eternal life. He proclaimed their reliability and then stated that His words would never pass away.

Once I trusted the reliability of the Word of God, then I knew that there is a simple logical test for finding the truth in anything else. Logically speaking, truth is unchangeable and it cannot contradict itself. Two plus two equals four is an unchangeable fact. No matter how much I argue against the truth it does not change the reality of it. Therefore, the truths found within the Bible stand as a logical light that shines in the darkness. If I find anything that contradicts the teachings of the Bible then I can know right away that it does not come from God. God has given us a wonderful tool for discernment. By proving to us that His word has been preserved, the only question that remains is, "What are we going to do with the Word of God?"

I have chosen to follow the Word of God and let it guide me to the truth. As a



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

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



ARIZONA'S CHRISTIAN STATION
KXXT1010

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



Donation Receipts For Year End 2010

If you made a monetary contribution to Concerned Christians in 2010, you will receive a receipt in the mail this month. THANK YOU—Your prayers and contributions are deeply appreciated!

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

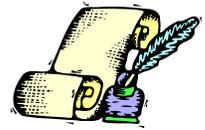
HAS THE BIBLE BEEN CORRUPTED?

Mormon, I spent a great deal of time arguing against the Bible and trying to change the Bible to match my beliefs. When I became convinced that God was speaking through the Bible then I allowed the Bible to alter my beliefs about what truth is.

My new life and relationship with the Jesus of the Bible has given me new reason to live and to enjoy life. Jesus has taken away my fear of punishment that is so persistently found within the teachings of Mormonism and has given me a new reason to follow him through love. It is marvelous to think that God carefully preserved His word for us, so that anyone can know the truth of His love. ✝



AMAZING QUOTES FROM LDS CHURCH LEADERS



“Wherefore, thou seest that after the book hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church, that there are many plain and precious things taken away from the book, which is the book of the Lamb of God.” - Book of Mormon, 1 Nephi 13:28

BIBLICAL RESPONSE:

It is a foregone conclusion within Mormonism that the “book of the Lamb of God” (the Bible) is corrupted by evil men of an evil church after the deaths of the Apostles. That would mean God’s promises of preserving and protecting His truth, are untrustworthy. But, trusting God includes faith in God’s mercy and kindness that He has always been directly involved with ensuring that His truth endures to all generations, stands forever and will not pass away.

Psalms 100:5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Psalms 117:2 For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.



January DVD Distribution



Please join us in praying for three things regarding the DVD distribution of the *Bible vs. Joseph Smith* (scheduled for later this month in Gilbert and Show Low, AZ). Pray for 1) the Mormons, 2) the Christians, and 3) the non-believers that will receive the DVD. Maybe for the first time in their lives Mormons will have an opportunity to learn about the manuscript evidence for the accuracy of the Bible. In addition, a strong witness for Jesus will be presented through the specific fulfilled biblical prophecies. But don't just pray for the Mormons! Many Christians will receive a copy of the DVD in our mailing. Pray that these Christians will be awakened and excited to share their faith in truth and love to their Mormon neighbors. Please don't forget to pray for the unbelievers who are not Mormon. One of the best parts of this DVD is that it provides wonderful evidence for the Bible and shares several specific fulfilled prophecies about Jesus. An un-

churched nonbeliever could watch the DVD and come to believe in Jesus.

I also have one more prayer request for this distribution. Pray that this distribution perks the interest of the news media. The more people that talk about this DVD, the more people who will want to watch it and find a reason to believe in Jesus. I want this to be one of the loudest ways we can say why we believe in Jesus and the Bible as the infallible miraculously preserved word of God. God can set people free from bondage once they know His truth and the sweet hope offered in Jesus. God demonstrated how His word can change lives through my own life - I was one He set free. My prayer is that God will use this DVD to set people free from bondage and falsehoods and bring them into a relationship with his Son. ~ Andy Poland



From the Mailbag

Concerned Christians,

Please send two copies of the DVD, *The Bible vs. Joseph Smith*. This is a wonderful tool for witnessing with very convincing proofs. May God continue to bless your ministry. ~ Surprise, AZ

Concerned Christians,

We have been praying for 9 years that our son (who converted to Mormonism in 1999) will seek and find the true Jesus. He still thinks he is by definition, a Christian, and that Mormons believe in the same Jesus as Christians do. Thank you for your work and ministry to Mormons. We will continue to enjoy your newsletters, support CC as we can, and pray that our son and his family will find the truth about Jesus and become saved in His name. ~ Susanville, CA

Concerned Christians,

Thank you so much for airing the extensive discussion regarding Glenn Beck. As an ex-Mormon and a Christian, I have never had much respect for him and his references to the "truth." I remember how I had a "different dictionary" and a standard for truth that was nothing more than my feelings and comfort. My Christian and non-Christian conservative friends do seem to give Beck a lot of credence which just seems to illustrate the corruption and apostasy of our times. A few Americans still have hearts to hear God's Spirit, and if God can speak through a donkey, He can use Beck to get their attention in spite of his Mormonism - so that much is good! Thanks again. ~ Phoenix, AZ

Dear Jim and Judy,

This 81 year old, great-grandmother prays for you. I do so appreciate your newsletter - makes me cry for my Mormon friends that are lost, but also tears of gratitude to the LORD

for your ministry. Love, ~ Buckeye, AZ

Dear Concerned Christians,

May I have a subscription to your [free] publication, *The CROSS*? I have a fine friend who is Mormon, but who is expecting a home in heaven for all the good works she performs. I should like to be able to show her a better way, the ONLY way. Thank you and God bless! ~ Chandler, AZ

Dear Mr. Poland,

Thank you for your testimony presented at Light of Church. Your witness is so powerful and so needed in a world full of confusion about religion. May God continue to bless Concerned Christians. ~ Chandler, AZ

Concerned Christians,

We always enjoy receiving *The CROSS* and the great work you are doing. The distribution of the DVD in the Gilbert area is a great project, so I would like to contribute to that. We met a new couple from TN at our church. In visiting with them, the Mormons were mentioned and they were not familiar with that religion. So we gave them Judy's book, *Out of Mormonism*. They were appalled. Evidently because of the area they were in, they were not aware of the Mormons. So, guess that's a good thing. They are thankful for the truth about our God and the church. Bless your ministry. May God's blessings be with you. ~ Oregon

Concerned Christians,

Praise God for the mission work you are doing among the Mormons. Keep my granddaughter and her husband and 2 children on your prayer chain. Jeremiah 32:27 ~ Columbus, NE



Concerned Christians of Mesa

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

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To Concerned Christians,

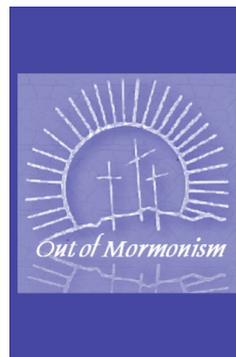
I apologize that I have not been able to give for some time, so I hope the enclosed gift will help with some needs. I currently do not have a home church, so I'm sending my tithe to various ministries until I find one. I encounter a lot of Mormons and I know this sounds odd, but I do find it difficult to witness to them if you do not have a home church. With that said, please keep me in your prayers that God will lead me to one soon. May God continue to bless your hard work. ~ Chandler, AZ

Concerned Christians,

I sure enjoyed Andy's article, The Deception of Personal Righteousness. Thanks for all you are doing to help Mormons out of the LDS religion. God bless you and those you reach. ~ Gilbert, AZ

Hi – Concerned Christians,

I wish I could send more money, but will continue when we can. We are interested in purchasing 2 of the new DVD's, *The Bible vs. Joseph Smith*. I will call about that and stop in to pick them up. Keep up your wonderful missionary work! ~ Mesa, AZ



Only \$1.99 to get the latest *Out of Mormonism Shows and extras.*

Concerned
Christians
480-833-2LDS

**Leaving
Mormonism for a
relationship with
Jesus? Yeah, there
is an app for that.
Look for the
application for both
iPhone and Droid
coming in January.**

