



THE CROSS

Concerned Christians

Volume 3, No. 2—2011

LOVERS OF THE TRUTH?

By ANDY POLAND GENERAL MANAGER

If God wants everyone to be saved, why does He allow some to perish in hell? I think as humans we first want to blame God for his decision to create a place where people would be separated from God forever. But does God decide to separate Himself from us or is that a decision that we make in this life? Paul provides interesting insight into this question. *"...They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness"* (2 Thessalonians 2:10b-11). Notice that the perishing first refused to love the truth and it's for this reason, God sends them a powerful delusion. We make the choice. If we choose what to believe, God does not force us, then we truthfully can't blame Him for sending us to hell.

Jesus spoke of this problem when he was speaking to Nicodemus – *"This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God"* (John 3:19-21). Notice that the theme of Jesus' example is a simple question of whether you loved or hated the truth.

Jesus never wanted to violate our decisions to refuse the truth or of decisions to love the truth. *"The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance.*

Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. This is why I speak to them in parables: 'Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand'" (Matthew 13: 11-13).

Jesus even explained this concept to the sons of darkness. *"Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He as a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Yet because I tell you the truth, you do not believe me! Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God"* (John 8:43-47). Of course the Pharisees' disdain for the truth ultimately caused them to take the life of Jesus rather than to be set free by his words.

What happens when we start to cling to the truth? Probably the best example is when Nicodemus came to Jesus to ask him a question. Nicodemus recognized this truth – *"Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him"* (John 3:2b). Nicodemus came to Jesus because he started to cling to the truth about him. This simple love of the truth led to a wonderful discussion about the need for each of us to be born of the Spirit.

What if the truth makes us feel bad? What if the truth is that we have done awful things? Will we still love the truth? Paul is a very good example of

one who loved the truth in spite of truth's sting. While Paul was on the road to Damascus in the very process of killing the servants of God, God spoke to Paul. *"As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed all around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' 'Who are you, Lord?' Saul asked. 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' he replied"* (Acts 9:3-5). Paul could have run away from the truth, rather than choose to accept the humiliation of realizing that he had fought against God. It was Paul's love of the truth, even though difficult, that finally set him free from his delusion.

It was Paul that gave the reason why we need to be gentle to those who oppose the truth. *"And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those that oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant unto them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will"* (2 Timothy 2:24-26). Notice that God will grant us repentance leading us to truth and then we can escape the lies of the devil if we choose to love the truth.

So the question remains for each of us to answer. Do we love the truth or would we rather love the lie? If we love the truth God will use it to bring us to salvation. If we choose to love the lie then God will send the powerful delusion. In the end, it will be our true love that we will cling to in the eternities, either the father of lies or the spring of everlasting truth.





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

CONSCIENCE CLEARED

BY BOB BETTS

In February of this year (2011), I received a call from an ex-Mormon Christian woman who lives in the Midwest. She told me her story of having come out of Mormonism and the reason for her call, now. Since we didn't ask permission to publicize her story, I'll call her "Janice."

Janice was a Mormon convert in the early 1980s. Her husband was raised LDS, and was always devout and active. As similar stories often go, Janice began to have questions and doubts, as things weren't adding up or making sense. Her husband also began having his own doubts. But, it was difficult for them to discuss their individual issues with each other.

On April 29, 1987, Janice contacted Concerned Christians. Jim and Judy Robertson were then in the South Seas, ministering in the Tongan and Samoan islands. So, Janice spoke with one of the Concerned Christians staff members.

Because of the strain on Janice's relationship with her husband, she preferred to keep her call from her husband's knowledge. Since she didn't want the lengthy call to show on their phone bill, she asked the staff member if she could call back "collect."

(continued on back cover)

AMAZING QUOTES FROM LDS CHURCH LEADERS

"The Spirit is a still, small voice—a voice that is felt rather than heard. It is a spiritual voice that comes into the mind as a thought put into your heart." Boyd K. Packer, *Ensign*, Feb. 2011 page 42.

"But, behold, I say unto to you, that you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right. But, if it be not right you shall have no such feelings..." *Doctrine and Covenants 9:8-9.*

BIBLICAL RESPONSE:

Although current LDS leadership continues to teach that feelings are the way to know the truth, the Bible cautions us that our feelings will lead us astray.

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

Proverbs 28:26 "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool:

but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered."

We need to be sure that we are following the truth contained in God's word. As stated in the Book of Psalms, it is the word of God (not our feelings) that guides us to the truth.

Psalms 119:103-105 "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Announcing: Concerned Christians National Conference August 5th and 6th, 2011 / Mesa Convention Center “Should Christians be Concerned about Mormonism?”

Want all of your questions about Mormonism answered in one weekend? The National Conference entitled, “Should Christians be Concerned about Mormonism?” will take place at the Mesa Convention Center. Mark your calendar and register online or by returning the enclosed card. Seating capacity is 2,000. Early registration pricing is \$15 per person; \$25 per married couple if registered before July 1, 2011. No charge to Pastors and their spouses.

(See enclosed registration card for more details)

You don't want to miss this!

FEATURING:

- Sandra Tanner, keynote speaker (Sandra, a great-great granddaughter of Brigham Young, has been said to be perhaps the world's leading expert on Mormonism).
- Adam's Road Band (all ex-Mormons)
- Panel discussion with ex-Mormons
- Ex-Mormon ministries personnel for Q & A
- Many other resources, including Judy Robertson's re-released and updated book, *Out of Mormonism* and showing of *The Bible vs. Joseph Smith* video.

Accepting registrations now!

From the Mailbag



Dear Friends at Concerned Christians,

Thank you for the very informative articles in the newsletter, especially those written by former Mormons. I have many Mormon friends and neighbors who I pray for regularly. Someday soon I hope to share my Christian faith with them. Yours in Christ. ~ Riverside, CA

Beloved brothers in Christ,

I will take this opportunity to wish you many blessings. I would like to inform you that I have received the books and DVD's that you have sent to me. You have no idea what this means to me. It has been a great happiness and blessing for my life. As a matter of fact, I plan to use this information to help the Mormons know the truth so that they will understand that the truth is in the Bible and not in the Book of Mormon. Thank you again very much for your kindness and understanding. Really, your ministry is driven by the blessings of God. You can always count on me. Cordially yours in the love of Christ. ~ Moca, Puerto Rico

Dear Andy & Bob,

Enclosed is my pittance! Sure wish I could do more financially but now isn't the time. I'm glad I can help in other ways [by volunteering]; I don't feel quite as guilty. It sure seems like you've come a long way and continue to help so many people find the real God. Sincerely. ~ Mesa, AZ

Concerned Christians,

This is actually from an anonymous donor because I found a \$50 bill in a place where there wasn't likelihood the owner would have any idea where to go back to look for it! So, they

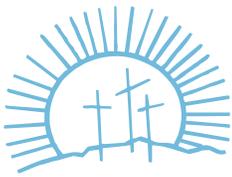
are contributing to the LORD's work through Concerned Christians because your recent newsletter arrived the next day as I was contemplating how it should be used. ~ City/State not given

Concerned Christians,

We will be using your booklets and materials in a two-week outreach to Salt Lake City, giving eight students the chance to see Truth and Love at work. Please lift a prayer on behalf of the LDS they will encounter in a couple of weeks. God bless your ministry. ~ A youth mission group in Idaho

Please send us 2 copies of the DVD, *The Bible vs. Joseph Smith*. The Lord is using this eye-opening presentation to enlighten others to the Truth. Praise the Lord! ~ City/State not given

God bless you! I hope my small contribution helps, but I know God can make it go a long way. You are serving with a supernatural love and the power of truth that only the Holy Spirit of God could give. Thank you for persevering and staying the course to bring the TRUE Gospel to the Mormons. People won't believe they are lost until they have been found, and when presented with TRUTH, many grow aggressive in denial; but when the presenter offers truth in the love of God, miracles happen. You did this for me. Your outreach was a crucial influence in my journey out of Mormonism and I know God is moving in you, for though you brought me the truth, it was the Spirit of God that witnessed to my soul and took the blindness from my eyes. My family in Christ, you are in my prayers. May the LORD our God continue to work in and through you. Once lost, but now found, I am in Christ alone. ~ City/State not given



Concerned Christians of Mesa

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Concerned Christians

Spring Cleaning Work Day
Sat. • March 26th • 9-noon
525 E. Broadway Rd. • Mesa

Inside and Outside
Painters • Plumbers
Electricians • Landscapers
Janitors • Unskilled Laborers
Dusting • Vacuuming
Mopping • Windows

Bring:
Tools • Gloves • Step Stools
Cleaning Rags • Paper Towels

HELP!

Announcing: Concerned Christians' National Conference:
“Should Christians be Concerned about Mormonism?”
 Coming in August, 2011— Mesa Convention Center
 Sandra Tanner, Keynote Speaker / See inside for details

Inside this issue:	Page
◇ Lovers of the Truth?	1
◇ Conscience Cleared ◇ Amazing Quotes from LDS Church Leaders	2
◇ CC National Conference ◇ From the Mailbag	3
◇ Conscience Cleared (continued)	4

Conscience Cleared / continued from page 3

She assured him she would pay CC back for the call. They had a wonderful, helpful conversation. Janice and her husband eventually left Mormonism...together.

When Janice called CC in February, she confessed that she had never paid that phone bill and wanted to finally pay her debt, plus interest. I laughed and told her to forget about it. She insisted. So, the other day, we received a check from her with the following note:

“Dear Bob, I enjoyed talking to you on Tuesday. God bless your organization for making people aware. As I mentioned, I owed CC \$21.21 since April 29, 1987 for a phone call I had to charge to you. I am way over due and I’m so sorry. I am enclosing a check for \$--.--. Please cash it because I want to help your organization. I will call again sometime. Thanks, signed Janice.”

Thank YOU, Janice.

