



# THE CROSS

Concerned Christians

Volume 3, No. 4—2011

## KNOWLEDGE THRU EXPERIENCE?

BY ANDY POLAND—GENERAL MANAGER

This month has been a trying time for me and my wife as we received a letter from my wife's parents. It was difficult to hear their false perceptions about our beliefs. They insisted that our decision to leave the church was one of the worst decisions we have ever made. They implored us to come back to the LDS church and told us how we could know the truth of Mormonism. Lori's father quoted a scripture from John 7:17 "If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own." His interpretation of this verse is that if we were to return to the Mormon Church and live the teachings that we would know that Mormonism was true.

Lori's father is not alone in his interpretation. My own LDS mission president taught that very same idea that how you know Mormonism is true is through application of the teachings. His thinking was that as the investigators began reading the Book of Mormon and attending church, that the consequences of those decisions would lead them to live better lives. They would begin to have stronger families and see the benefits of keeping the commandments. Therefore their better lives would prove that the teachings of Mormonism were true.

Essentially any belief system in the world could be supported by this interpretation. Catholics, Baptists, Muslims, and Jews all live good lives. If I was to leave Christianity and convert to Judaism, I would begin to live by the law and find that it was good for my family. We would reap the benefits of living the commandments, attend good schools, and have a close family relationship; therefore our better lives in Judaism must prove that I do not need Jesus for salvation according to their interpretation.

Another problem this interpretation does not protect anyone against, is personal revelation. If I was to receive a revelation it could only be tested through application of the revelation. I would have to see if my life was better after I applied the revelation to my life. If my life improved, the evidence would prove that I was right.

However, if I apply this logic to the early Christians it begins to fall apart. When the apostles began proclaiming Christ risen from the dead, they were beaten, thrown in jail, barred from the synagogues, became outcasts from their own communities, and ultimately killed for their beliefs. Their lives did not improve. They were faced with great trials for their faith in Christ.

I could even apply this logic to the life of Joseph Smith. As he began to practice polygamy, often by taking the wives of married men, he was hated and despised for his beliefs. His life did not improve; he was chased, jailed, and ultimately killed for his belief that God directed him in all of his affairs.

I think the answer to their interpretation comes from another question. *What comes first, the knowledge of the will of God or doing the will of God?* The way that I know the will of God comes from reading the word of God found in the Bible. Psalm 119:105 says "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." And again "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" Psalm 119:11.

The Bereans were praised for their skepticism of Paul's message. "Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true" (Acts 17:11). The Bereans did not

become believers in Jesus by believing Paul; first they tested the message with the scriptures.

Paul also commended Timothy to study the scriptures to find truth. "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Notice that in order for me to do his will; I must first know his will from studying the scriptures. The scripture provides instruction in righteousness so that I may be equipped to do his will.

My father-in-law failed to notice that Jesus appealed to the law to prove that he was the Christ in John chapter 7:19-24. "Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?' 'You are demon-possessed,' the crowd answered. 'Who is trying to kill you?' Jesus said to them, 'I did one miracle, and you are all astonished. Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision ...though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs..., you circumcise a child on the Sabbath. Now if a child can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing the whole man on the Sabbath? Stop judging by mere appearances, and make

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**REMINDER...**

**!**



**JULY IS THE LAST MONTH FOR DISCOUNT EARLY REGISTRATION FOR CC'S NATIONAL CONFERENCE ! SEE ENCLOSED DETAILS**



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# VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED ON AUGUST 5th & 6th



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Concerned Christians  
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**Should Christians be Concerned about Mormonism?**

- Can you help out on the day of the conference?
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- Could you help us hand out registration cards?  
Please contact Bob—bob@concernedchristians.org



## Letters! From the Mailbag...

**FROM SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO:** This is a major concern – too many good and nice people are really lost. They're working, rather than just accepting the grace of Jesus on the cross. Thank you for your ministry.

**FROM MESA, ARIZONA:** My husband passed away last September. He supported your work and ministry and I would like to give this check in his honor. God bless you.

**FROM NEWPORT, MAINE:** I really appreciate your ministry as it has been very helpful to me in knowing how to be an effective witness to those lost in Mormonism. As God continues to bless me with work, by His grace I hope to be able to send you support. May God bless you as you serve Him faithfully.

**FROM PHOENIX, AZ:** We are no longer able to participate in your ministry and are having to move into an assisted living center. Please remove us from your mailing list. Thanks.

**FROM THE DALLES, OR:** Please mail to me sample Mormon tracts, CDs, video tapes and booklets with price list order sheets (6 copies) and also information about Mormon beliefs and teachings! I have a son who is a baptized Mormon! I am NOT a Mormon – I am a baptized Christian! Thank you!

**VIA The INTERNET:** Dear friends in Christ, we are so impressed with the powerful testimonies on your radio program. We want to help you with the radio outlets in Salt Lake City and elsewhere to reach Mormons for Christ, and educate Christians concerning what Mormons really believe. May Jesus continue to richly bless your lives and ministry.

**FROM SURPRISE, AZ:** Thank you for your ministry and faithfulness to the Word, who is Jesus Christ. Please send me 4 copies of your very helpful booklet, "No Comparison." I have found them to be very helpful when giving them to

others who know little of Mormonism. Enclosed is a contribution to cover costs. Please use the excess for your ministry needs. Grace, hope and peace!

**FROM SNOWFLAKE/TAYLOR, AZ:** I am inquiring about a DVD that "CC" had distributed all over Taylor and Snowflake, AZ around 2006 or so. I was one of the people who got one. It opened my eyes and helped me to find my way out of Mormonism. But you can see by the address on the envelope, where I reside. What I'm wondering is, are you still printing a monthly newsletter and do you have any of those DVD's left? I asked my family to mail me your newsletter dated "Summer, 2009." But if you are still mailing them out, could I get you to mail it to me? I would also like to tell you what I've learned through your letters, and about having found some wonderful Christian teachers that [text omitted for anonymity] teach the truth about our Lord and Savior, I can tell you today I am right with God. For the first time in my life I can say that with confidence. I am so blessed for what I've been shown through scripture and studying the Word, that words cannot begin to express the joy and peace I finally have. Praise God.

I come from a very large and very active Mormon family and hopefully with what I'm learning through your newsletters and that DVD, I can stand with confidence and help show them the falsehood of the Mormon religion. I would like to show my Christian sisters that DVD so they, too, can see how the Mormon religion teaches false doctrine.

I can hardly wait to hear back from you. Thank you for being brave enough to stand up for the truth and sharing it with those of us who have been sadly led astray for so long. I thank God for you all and the blessed day you hit Taylor with that DVD. Thank you. Signed, a sister in Christ.

# THE BUSINESS OF MORMONISM

BY BOB BETTS

Though I've never been LDS, and as well-read and well-versed in Mormonism as I am, none of my research has previously shown what I recently learned about the "Mormon church."

Sure, I've known from my earliest research, which began in the mid-90s, that Mormonism is big business. But, what I recently learned caused yet another light bulb to go on in my head, which gave me a different outlook on the business of Mormonism.

The full, legal name of the Mormon religion is actually "The Corporation of the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." According to the cynical LDS author of *The Book of Mammon*, Daymon M. Smith, who formerly worked in the Salt Lake City headquarters of the Church Office Building, "This particular corporation, the religious one mentioned above, in fact, exists as a *corporation sole*." A corporation sole "consists of a man also designated Prophet, Seer, and Revelator, and exists forever. He, I mean, it was chartered in the state of Utah in 1923." (Thomas S. Monson is the current President.)

Even before that charter, there was another charter drawn up in 1916 making the Mormon prophet the "Corporation of the Presiding Bishop." At that time, Joseph F. Smith, nephew of Joseph Smith Jr., was the "living prophet" in Mormonism, and the Trustee-in-Trust of the corporation. Today, both the Corporation of the Presiding Bishop and the Corporation of the President "jointly reside in the corporeal entity called the COB, the Church Office Building," as Daymon Smith puts it.

What does this all mean? It means that Thomas S. Monson, as a man, is a legal corporation, and the only legal member of the Mormon church. He IS the Mormon church. And, when he dies, the next "Prophet, Seer, Revelator" will be a corporation, and the sole legal member. It is this President of the Corporation (the Presiding Bishop), and those paid by him, who can vote, oversee the use of funds, and make or change policies.

And the rest of those in Mormonism who are called members, and are certainly enrolled in Mormon church records, are not legal members of the corporation at all. According to Daymon Smith, "Mormons are a social fiction, not a legal category...If, as Mormons say, we believe in being subject to the laws of the land, then by legal definition there is no such thing as Mormons to say it."

Additionally, "*Mormon Church* is currently a trademark owned by a corporation," said Daymon Smith. "There is no LDS Church, no Mormon Church, no church to which we belong, nor has there been such a thing for a century."

Here's where the light bulb went on: The Corporation of the

President has its millions of not-legally members who function as unpaid employees (volunteers). They are all "given" callings (duties). They are also expected to recruit for the corporation, i.e. "Every Mormon, a missionary." On top of that, they must pay 10% of gross personal income (tithe) to the corporation for the privilege of serving the corporation, with the threat that non-compliance precludes them from returning to "heavenly Father" (god of the corporation). At least 52,000 boys and girls are also "called" by the corporation to raise support for the privilege of recruiting (going on a mission). With each new recruit (convert) comes another guaranteed 10% of personal gross income into the insatiable belly of the corporation.

Matthew 6:24 says, "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." †

## AMAZING QUOTES

FROM LDS CHURCH LEADERS



"It is not unusual to have a missionary say, 'How can I bear testimony until I get one? How can I testify that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ, and that the gospel is true? If I do not have such a testimony, would that not be dishonest?' Oh, if I could teach you this one principle. A testimony is to be found in the bearing of it!"

Elder Boyd K. Packer, *Ensign*,  
January 1983, *The Candle of the Lord*

### BIBLICAL RESPONSE:

Here we see that young Mormon men and women are encouraged to "fake it till you make it" when bearing their testimony about their personal reason for believing in Mormonism. God has given us many reasons to believe in His Son, but He never expected us to lie about our faith. The apostle's testimonies give us strong reason to believe because they were eye-witnesses to His resurrection and gave their lives defending their beliefs.

**2 Peter 16:18** "We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain."



# Concerned Christians of Mesa

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**Last chance to register early for August 5th & 6th convention enclosed!**

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## KNOWLEDGE THRU EXPERIENCE?

a right judgment."

Jesus knew that they were trying to kill him and showed them that they were not following the law and therefore they were not following the will of God. If they were truly trying to follow the law they would have known that Jesus' working of miracles was evidence that supported his claim to be the Messiah.

Although my in-laws have decided to follow the way that "seems right to them" (see Proverbs 14:12), they have neglected to use the Bible as the test for truth. I pray that God will change their hearts to follow the truth of God's word rather than following what is good in their lives. In the end, it will not be the good we do that will save us, but rather the truth found in Jesus. Jesus said "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth" (John 17:17).

*Notes from our web site...*



Learn how to effectively witness to Mormons:

***The Mormon Scrapbook***

Study lessons will be recorded and posted online at [www.outofmormonism.com](http://www.outofmormonism.com)

*July is the last month for Discount Registration for the National Conference:*

**"Should Christians be Concerned about Mormonism?"**

*Mesa Convention Center / August 5 & 6, 2011*  
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 See Details on the enclosed Registration Form

