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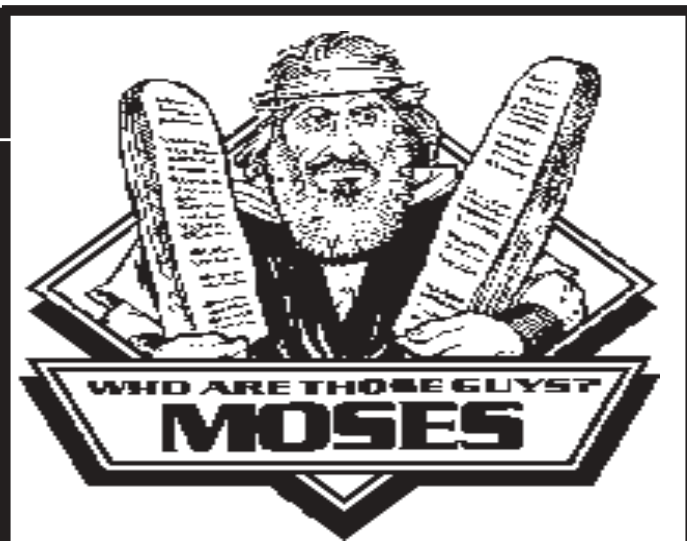
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BeaconOU

Oct/Nov 2002 issue 2



Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world, a city on a hill cannot be hidden."



"The Gospel according to Moses."

Want to learn how the book of Exodus is a shadow of the Messiah and things to come? From studying the Book of Exodus, you will receive a clearer understanding of the New Testament. Understand the book of Revelations through studying Exodus and Jewish Traditions.

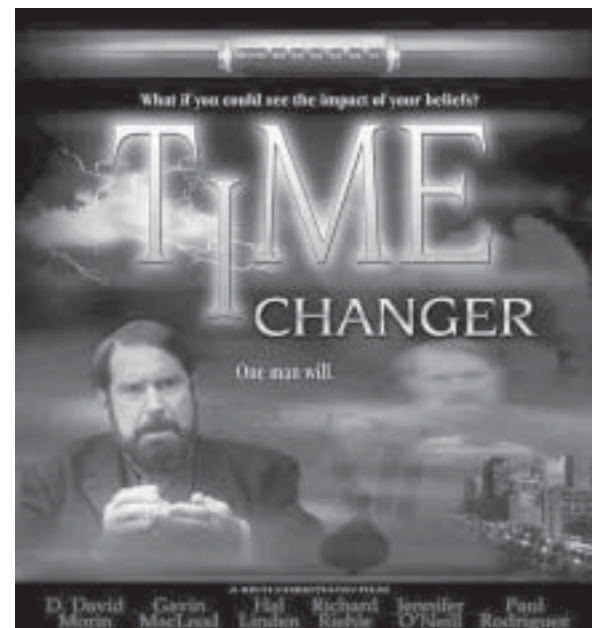
Jacob's Ladder Bible Study meet on Thursday nights at Christ on Campus from 7:30 to 8:30. 824 Elm Ave.

Who failed?

In 1949, college and university Student Affairs Personnel from across the nation joined together and published a very interesting piece of literature. Titled, "The Student Personnel Point of View, 1949, they asserted their opinion that it is the university's job to guide students toward proper spiritual understanding and ethical standards once exposure to objective truth reveals the inadequacy of organized religion.

Fifty-three years later we have high school shootings, incredible gang warfare, vacant churches and empty hearts. We are building prisons faster then ever before and trying desperately to appease a generation of humans who think they are no more sophisticated than animals, created by chance and lost in a universe of meaninglessness. When objective truth was put to the test, who failed? Somehow, we all did.

By Grace



■ Please see...Time changer movie on p8

EVEN



ODD

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

I am not a student but an employee here and was glad to see the paper that was put out. I am a member of the Church of Christ in Wayne and have been in different countries with the military. I have seen weak and strong, from a small church of 10 in Japan which we all had to take part to large churches of many religions that are weak or have added to the Lord's word in the Bible for there purpose. I think this is a wonderful idea and we need more of it on campus and in today's society.

Thanks

Larry

Thank You, Larry Praise God! We know that God will have us to be a light to OU.

Dear Editor,

Though asked many times to subscribe to a newspaper, I've resisted the temptation to read and implant information in my thinking, that is questionable(at best). I have similar trust for other media: magazines, TV, radio, and in this information age-internet information. I found I can read an article in a newspaper, trusting the information, and more times than not, assimilate information that is false. The information may not be malice. Most times is incomplete, taken out of context or just simply not checked out before printing. It would appear the writer is selling, with false information, a distribution or product.

Yes, Yes you say so what's your point? In the spirit of trust, I picked up your rag at OU student union on Saturday. I was intrigued by your writing "What makes a Christian?" I too have been confounded by so called Christians whose actions didn't fit the example

being taught in the scriptures: charity, forgiveness, loving, gentleness, meekness, giving way to others proudfullness, the sanctity of marriage, family and church are the attributes I associate with a "Christian". When I see traits of impatience, belittling, proudfull disregard for others, being Christian does not appear. One Christian trait that probably is more weighty than others is "bearing false witness"i.e.. Writing words, saying words or implying by action -false information or knowledge. the most grueling of death is spiritual death and physical death from someone's tongue and/or pen.

On page 6 of your article are charts and figures gathered by who knows and printed in your article. Following the chart is a sentence that made the rhetoric preceding, at best, questionable. Yep, a writer had given more proof newsprint is not to be trusted. The sentence: "These people who made these charts included Mormons, Jehovah's witnesses, and other cults"- up to and including cults the information could be completely believable. To complete the sentence you digressed from truth to ignorance and blew the force of the whole article. The remainder of the sentence: "that preach another Jesus as protestants." steps over the line of truth or knowledge of truth. I'm not familiar with Jehovah's witnesses. I've read some of the printed literature distributed by witnesses and that is the limit of my knowledge. Not enough to put a degrading comment in the newsprint.

I do have a string testimony, knowledge and verification of the "Mormons". We "Mormons" Latter Day Saints" celebrate the Jesus Christ. Not just any Jesus, for there are many, Jesus Christ the only begotten son of our Heavenly Father, born in mortal life ministered to Jews and Gentiles, established a church for approximately three years, sacrificed his life atoning for our sins that we may have eternal life after mortal life. Based on your article, this Jesus Christ is the same.

I would ask and forgive you to check out your knowledge before you allow it

to hang out in print.. I challenge you to read the Book Of Mormon with a spirit or prayer and inquiry, a contrite heart of faith and praying for revelation of the truth of the writing. From the book of in the New Testament, we are promised praying in faith our answers will be given. Joseph Smith, following the scriptures, prayed for guidance to the church. He was answered and began restoration of Christ true church on this planet today.

In reading your article, your hearts in the right place,-just short of complete information.

A Christian by word and action
Burlynn Conner

Response from Editor

Thank you for your letter. It was a little difficult to see where you were going, but once I realized all of the things that you were saying were being applied to me, I had a good laugh. Then, I realized the severity of the matter. When a person is deceived they do not know it, otherwise they would not be deceived. When researching Mormonism and the "so-called" witnesses of the golden plates, check out their demise. Just from their moral character, are these men that you would trust today? As you stated yourself, "One Christian trait that probably is more weighty than others is "bearing false witness"i.e.. Writing words, saying words or implying by action -false information or knowledge. The most grueling of death is spiritual death and physical death from someone's tongue and/or pen." Countless people have been deceived by the lies of Joseph Smith and these men with the help of satan. I do not doubt the burning in the bosom confirmation that one receives in Mormonism. The devil is a counterfeit of everything the Holy Spirit does. 1 John 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. As for the comment of mormons preaching another jesus who is not Jesus at all, I speak of the deity of Jesus Christ. If Jesus had not been God in the flesh, (John 1:1-5) He would have been a liar and His sacrifice would have been in vain. Mormons equate Jesus as a cre-

ated being with satan and many godchildren. I present you with a like plea, that you read the New Testament and compare mormon doctrine with the Scriptures. Acts 17:11 "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. We were planning to have some articles about mormonism in this issue, so it is cool that you wrote us.



Do you like or dislike an article? Have any ideas for future articles? Send us an e-mail at rick777ok@ou.edu

The Spotted Dog

Coffee House
inside the Firehouse
Art Center located
across from Coach's on
Main & Flood.

Hours of operation:
Mon-Thur 7AM-11PM
Fri & Sat 7AM-12 AM
Sun 5PM-12 AM
This looks like a pretty
cool new hangout.

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Is Mormonism Christian?

We see them everywhere: learning in our classes, walking across the campus, and living across the street. But just who are the people referred to as “Mormons?” What is it that they believe? And of course, we must ask the question that has been asked for the past 170 years, “Is Mormonism Christian?”

Many of the Mormons that I know are some of the nicest people to get to know. They try to live good, moral lifestyles. They are a people of conviction. Each Mormon missionary that you see on this campus has dedicated 2 years of his/her life to telling other people about their faith, and they do this with their own money. I have had the privilege of meeting and discussing with 20 different missionaries right here on OU’s campus! Several times I have asked them if they considered themselves to be Christians. Every time I received an affirmative answer. However, to understand the actual theological beliefs of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS), one must look much deeper than just the surface.

The founder of the LDS religion was man named Joseph Smith, Jr. As a teenager around 1820 he had a vision—He saw God, the Father, and Jesus Christ, both in their own physical body. This Jesus

revealed to Smith that all “Christian” churches at the time were an abomination. He further revealed that Smith would be his prophet on earth to restore the church to what it was in the days of the apostles.

Smith received several other revelations from God in his lifetime. The Doctrine and Covenants (D&C) is another book of scripture containing revelations to Smith. Other LDS scripture include the Book of Mormon (BoM), the Pearl of Great Price (PGP), and the KJV of the Bible (although they believe it to have been corrupted). However, I find a problem with Smith’s claim to be a prophet of the God of the Bible. Some of the revelations received by Smith are direct contradictions to what the Bible says. For instance, Smith received revelation from God that there is more than just one God and that men may become gods themselves if they progress eternally until they achieve godhood (D&C 132:19-20). The 5th prophet of the LDS church summed it up like this: “As man is, God once was. As God is, man may become.” Throughout the Bible God claims that He is the *only* true God. Apart from Him, there is no other (Deuteronomy 4:35)! How is it possible for someone to *become* God? The Biblical teaching of the nature of God is that He had no beginning; He has *always* been, and He has *always* been God! The Mormon concept of God is that He

was like you and me before this world was assembled. If this God had a starting point, is it not logical to believe that God has a God to whom He is accountable? And what about the next God? And the next? And the next? No one can be sure just how far this string of Gods goes back. What we can be sure of is that the God of Mormonism is not the Absolute, the unchanging God of the Bible. This can be evident even in Smith’s First Vision (described above) when he saw the Father and the Son, each

having his own physical body. Jesus was clear when He spoke in John 4:24 that God is spirit. Was Jesus lying when He said this? If so, you can throw out the validity of Christianity right now because one little lie, one sin, is all it takes to become a sinner. Jesus is able to be a sacrifice for our sins



All truth is from God, for God is truth. Despite any evidence for traditional Christianity or against Mormonism, most LDS believe because they *feel* that they have the truth. This is not a very valid test of truth because it is subjective and not measurable. And I could say the

opposite: that I *feel* it is not Christianity as defined in the Bible. Feelings do not determine truth. Truth is independent of what anyone thinks or feels.

The God of the Bible is a knowable God. He is personal. He has demonstrated this by coming to us as the man Jesus Christ. He died for our sins in order that we may know Him. He has made Himself known. This is the conclusion that I have reached: Mormonism is not Christian. The above statements just scratch the surface of the differences. But these differences in beliefs have eternal consequences. We understand logic. The law of non-contradiction states that if two ideas are in direct contradiction, they cannot both be right. It is possible that they could both be wrong, but definitely they cannot both be right. I know I face criticism from my LDS friends for writing these things without ever “knowing firsthand their truth” as they might say. But I have talked with 20 different Mormon missionaries on this campus within the past 24 months, and I have learned the basics of their beliefs. I too am a man of conviction, and after being exposed to these teachings I am convicted that I need to inform others of the non-Christian beliefs of Mormons. A rose by any other name would still smell just as sweet. And a different religion by the same name is still a different religion.

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Beacon OU is an official student organization on the campus of OU. Our main purpose is to share the genuine love of God to the campus while providing news from a Christian perspective. Our personal relationship with Jesus compels us to share this treasure and the “Truth” with the world. Our source of funding is God. His Holy Spirit moves on His people’s hearts to give financially in order to support printing. We need funding now!!! If you would like to sponsor an issue of the BeaconOU or part of an issue, send an e-mail to beaconou@ou.edu with your intentions. If you have an upcoming event that you think we might be interested in, send us some details. If you have any questions, suggestions, letters to the editor, or opinions about any of the articles, you can contact us at beaconou@ou.edu or rick777ok@ou.edu. We have a web-site at www.ou.edu/beaconou which includes past issues online. Praise God. We have the right to print or not to print any article submitted. President: Rick Thomas. Vice- President: Darci Montgomery. Secretary: Asia Smith. Treasurer: Ketiesha Brown. All articles and content Copyright 2003 held by individual authors or otherwise the BeaconOU.

Page 4 **Why I am no longer a Mormon**

I wrote this paper as a Latter-day Saint and for a Latter-day Saint friend. “The Church” referred to is the “Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints” or the “Mormon Church.” She had been told she was going to hell and so, having explored the subject extensively myself, I tried to explain why a Christian might have the audacity to tell her that. A lot has happened since that time. I no longer believe the LDS Church is true or that Joseph Smith is a prophet. Instead, I believe that the teachings of this group are heretical and sent from hell. I care so much for the Mormon people that I cannot simply stay silent while they believe a complete and utter lie. These words were originally penned in love and they are published with the same motive.

Most of all, I hope that the following article shows Mormons the differences in what they believe and true Christianity. It is also my prayer that Christians will read it and understand those same differences while reading about them from an honest but clearly Mormon perspective. If you have any questions concerning Mormonism, feel free to write the editor and I’ll do my best to answer them.

A Few Reasons Protestants Think We Are Non-Christians and Bound for Everlasting Hell [April 2001.]

[written for a missionary in the Oklahoma, Oklahoma City Mission]

Different Christs

Protestants and Latter-Day Saints agree on who Christ is historically and on His ministry among the Jews around Jerusalem and the surrounding areas (obviously this does not apply to Christ’s time in America). Both faiths also agree that Christ is the Son of God BUT not in the same way. Protestants mean that Christ’s ROLE is as a Son BUT not that He is “offspring” in any real sense of the word [with the exception that the Holy Spirit caused the conception of Christ’s temporary interaction with man on a physical level]. According to Protestants, Jesus is one with the Father and Holy Spirit in EVERY WAY (not just in purpose). No one has any explanation for what happened with Christ’s body after his ascension BUT Protestants do not believe that either He or the Father are physical beings. Christ only chose to be bound by physical matter while residing on this physical plane called earth.

Members of The Church and Protestants view Christ’s mission on earth differently. Both faiths talk about forgiveness of sins and eternal life but, as far as the disagreement is concerned, these are almost

surface issues. For Latter-Day Saints, Christ’s mission was to allow for our progress and eventual exaltation to Godhood. Protestants, however, believe that Christ’s purpose and goal was simply God’s glory. Everything in all of history (including Christ’s life, ministry, death, and resurrection) is simply a by-product of this one specific goal. God is a very “self-centered” being and this is considered incredibly Holy and Just on God’s part (for Him to be centered on anything else would be to deny His own supremacy and glory—which would be a compromise of His Godhood). John Piper’s book, Desiring God is a wonderful example of this mindset. It is a popular publication and has had a very dynamic impact on the spread and popularity of this idea over the last few years.

By Protestants, it is considered blasphemous to say that Christ and Satan are brothers. Associating Christ with such evil is considered a mockery of who He is and it is QUITE OFFENSIVE.

Protestants look at these things and see different Christs rather than different beliefs about the same historical figure who suffered for our sins, died in our place, and was resurrected on the third day. Because, they reason, we are followers of a different Christ, we are not followers of the TRUE Christ and are, therefore, not Christians. The TRUE Christ is the only way, the only

truth and the only (eternal) life and so we are “lost” and have no part in the Kingdom of God. We will, therefore, spend eternity in hell where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. Obviously, the Protestants are wrong.

Good Works (“the law” versus grace)

“Good works” is another big issue. The idea that we have to live a certain way in order to return to our Heavenly Father is appalling to most main-stream Christians. They point to verses like Galatians 2:21 which says, “I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.” [Galatians 2:16 is similar] Galatians 5:4 says, “Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.” There are tons of other verses and, over the course of your mission, you’ll undoubtedly be shown several more.

Protestants mistake our emphasis on good works as a total dependence on them. According to them, we stress good works to the extent that “Christ is become of no effect” and we are trying to climb the ladder to heaven in our own strength and in our own might. Pointing to Galatians 3:10 (and recognizing human inability to be perfect), Protestants

■ Please see... Cont. p6

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City On A Hill – It’s Christmas Time

It’s that time of year again, well almost anyways. Essential records has put out another City On a Hill album and this time it features Christmas tunes. These songs feature some of our favorite artists and some new artists that may soon become our favorites. The album begins with a track called

“It’s Christmas Time” which combines some great artists including Caedmon’s Call, Jars of Clay, Third Day, and Sixpence None The Richer. The song combines a joyful Christmas tune and beautiful harmonious voices. City On A Hill is sure to get you in that Christmas mood with original and traditional

Christmas tunes. A few amazing original songs

are sung by Caedmon’s Call “Babe in the Straw” and Jars of Clay “Bethlehem Town” which is a mellow song with strong vocals. The song is sure to be the next big hit in the Christian music community. As you sit in front of your fireplace this winter be sure and plug in City On A Hill – It’s Christmas Time. By Kim Perkins

“Do You Hear What I Hear” sung by Out Of Eden, “Silent Night” sung by Sixpence None the Richer and “In The Bleak Midwinter” which is sung by a new band called Paul Colman Trio that is sure to be the next big hit in the Christian music community. As you sit in front of your fireplace this winter be sure and plug in City On A Hill – It’s Christmas Time. By Kim Perkins



Review: The Visual Bible

The *Visual Bible's Matthew and Acts* are excellent. These films really bring the Scripture to life. The films are taken word for word from the text of the New International Version translation of the Bible. I have to admit that when I first heard of these projects, I thought that they were going to be cheesy. I guess that I have seen too many Christian films from the Eighties. They really impressed me big time with the production of Matthew and Acts. They are both multimillion-dollar productions filmed on location in Tunisia, Morocco, and South Africa, with a cast of thousands. I purchased Acts Brand New on **4 VHS** from ebay for \$20 plus \$6 shipping. I purchased Matthew on **2 DVD** because I have the option to watch it in Spanish. Matthew is also available on VHS. I saw it at Mardel's the other day. The cool thing that I really liked about Matthew was the actor, (Bruce Marchiano) who plays Jesus. Usually, the actor who plays Jesus in most movies is some somber, no smiling looking dude. This Jesus actor smiles and laughs a lot. I know that Jesus is definitely like that, because I am like that. When you have the joy of God, it is just going to show. The Joy of the Lord is your strength (Neh. 8:10) and in His presence is fullness of Joy (Ps. 16:11). Satan will always try to distract us in order to get us out of the presence of God, at that time we will be weak, lose our Joy, and he will attack. Stay in God's presence. Through His Word, prayer, and praise, we have the Victory of Life. I hope that this information will be a blessing to you.

Rick Thomas

Proverbs 1:7 “The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.”



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■ Cont. Why I am No Longer a Mormon from pg.4

say we chose (by stressing good works) to be subject to the law rather than grace. When we do this we are putting ourselves under it's curse and bringing condemnation upon our own heads. With only one sin we fail to live up to the law, and as the Apostle Paul points out, we are therefore responsible for the violation of the entire law. Since we are unable to keep the law perfectly and, in the eyes of Protestant Christianity, are not depending on or accepting God's grace; we must pay for our sins ourselves. The penalty for infinite rebellion against an infinitely Holy God (as every sin is) is an infinitely long period in an infinitely painful place (otherwise known as hell). But, of course, we don't believe in hell so this logic doesn't need to be considered.

"Salvation," as defined by mainstream Christianity is a free gift (this is the proper translation of the Greek "gift" in Romans 6:23) and is not dependant on ANYTHING that we do. It takes place in a moment of time and is NOT a continuing process. It's like a ticket to heaven—not an effort to get there. All that is required is that we open our hearts, believe (in the proper Christ) and depend on our Savior to pay the debt for our sin that the law requires. [In other words baptism*, temple work, endowments, ect are in vain and an attempt to earn what God would gladly give us if we would only accept it with the realization that we could never merit it and entirely deserve an eternity in hell.] Although they call themselves "Christians," these people haven't realized that salvation is actually the process by which we are exalted.

Protestants do recognize a need for "good works" and do not believe that God's instructions for our lives, as written in the Bible, were given in vain. Nevertheless, good works are considered the result or evidence of faith and NOT the expression of it. If we kill a million people or mastermind another holocaust, but pray to Christ with our dying breath (assuming

death eliminates further progression), we will spend eternity with Christ. Furthermore, our best deeds and are most noble efforts to draw near to our Heavenly Father are



considered nothing more than filthy rags before God. This concept is from Isaiah 64:6 and many Bible Scholars believe that a truly correct translation of that phrase would actually be "menstrual cloth." (Yuck!) In contrast to deathbed conversions, people who spend their whole lives in service to others and even work to further God's kingdom may not make it to heaven. There is a common story about a Baptist missionary who spent 20 years abroad and converted thousands of people. He came home on a furlough and finally made Christ the Lord of His life. Despite all his good deeds, if he had died before that furlough it is believed that his soul would have eternally perished. Christ would have looked him squarely in the eye and said, "Depart, for I never knew you (Matt 7:23, among others)." [This is commonly coined, "Missing heaven by 18 inches," which is the distance between your mind and your heart. The missionary had Christ in his head but not in his heart.]

On an intellectual level, the verse in the Book of Mormon (2 Nephi 25:23) that states how grace gets us the rest of the way after "all we can do" is not very effective with many theologically literate Protestants. It still states

or implies that works do get us somewhere (even if not all the way back to our Heavenly Father). As I've already mentioned, this is contrary to Protestant belief. Protestants do not believe that good works will get us even an inch down the figuratively million-mile road to heaven.

With all of this said, the basic point is that mainstream Christians believe that we live under the law and, under the law, we shall perish.

* A few denominations DO believe that baptism is actually necessary for salvation.

Blasphemy of Belief in Our Own Exaltation

Protestants consider it the height of blasphemy to think that we could ever achieve God-hood. The idea seems to belittle God's position as something attainable rather than something infinitely great and infinitely beyond our potential. Even though God will always be our Father, this belief strikes a serious blow at the Protestant concept of a Supreme Being who is eternally (always has been, is currently, and always will be) far beyond our own state or potential state. In other words, it is considered just as blasphemous to say that God was ever less knowledgeable or less powerful or less anything than He is at this very moment. To say that He was once a man or that we will become what He is would have gotten Latter-Day Saints burned at the stake only a few centuries ago.

Main-stream Protestants cannot imagine that any true follower of Christ or of Heavenly Father would



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“blaspheme” in this manner and so, as logic dictates, they conclude that we are not Christians. Non-Christians burn in hell, and therefore, so must we.

Other reasons why this belief is not accepted among Protestants:

Also because we are imperfect and it is Protestant belief that God has always been the epitome of perfection, we are already “too fallen” to ever make it to God’s level. Furthermore, why would we worship something that was once as faulty as we are? This belief is senseless to Protestants (and I must admit that I understand this mindset). Why should we worship what we can attain? People do not worship earthly parents (they look up to them but worship is quite different).

This is also a “different gods” issue because Protestants will all agree that their God was NEVER a man.

Focus of Religions

The LDS faith seems to be focused on our exaltation and God’s glory is one result. Protestant Christianity is focused on God’s glory with some people being able to enjoy the God’s presence forever as a result. This is an important difference and many would say that these two

faiths cannot both fit under the umbrella of Christianity. We are deemed the “non-Christians” and, like all other non-Christians, are consigned to an eternity in hell.

Revelations 22:18

“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add



unto him the plagues that are written in this book:”

As you know, many Protestants mistakenly believe that this verse applies to the Bible rather than just to the Book of Revelation. Furthermore, they mistake the Book of Mormon as an addition to the Bible instead of another book to go along side it. [They consider it a continuation of the record of the Jews rather than realizing that it is a separate record of one of the lost tribes of Israel.] Even so, the verse warns that the plagues written in Revelation will be applied to anyone who adds to those prophecies. These terrible occurrences were not meant for followers of Christ and so, since we are perceived as guilty of adding

to the Bible, and, therefore, worthy of punishment, we must not be Christians. Eternity in Hell is the natural result of our apostasy.

Those Christians who do understand the nature of this verse can also point to the similar passages in Deuteronomy and say that Latter-Day Saints add to

the letter of the law and are, therefore under condemnation (endowments, temple marriage, . . .).

Lastly (this has been thrown in my face a lot) Matthew 7:21-23

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

By Rose Creswick

EVEN



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My Dilemma

I admit it—I’m close-minded, foolish and weak. Furthermore, I have strong, God-given, views concerning what is morally right and wrong. I confess that I absolutely believe in absolute truth and “tolerance” seems over-rated. Of course people can believe whatever they want, but I’m not going to “tolerantly” pretend that they’re right. Life is a serious game and the stakes are much too high. I’ll not make the road to hell slightly more pleasant through a polite nod and an empty smile. I’d rather be close-minded by lovingly telling non-believers the truth about a God who preferred death for them rather than life without them.

Unfortunately, my mindset leaves me with a rather interesting paradox. Recently I’ve been seeing a sharp contrast between what the world considers “wise” and the life of reckless abandon and devotion to Christ that I am called to live. I’ve

been told that wise people are rather relativistic. Furthermore, according to the theories I’ve been taught in class, those who believe in absolute truth make terrible leaders. Oh well, I’m not running for office and my King will never lose His position. In fact, He is the final authority on all these matters. In 1 Corinthians 1:26-29, I am reminded that God uses such amazing contrasts to glorify Himself.

“For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised. God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may

nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God.”

Reading this passage, it is self-evident that we are NOT called to fit in or to conform to what our society considers proper, wise or “tolerant.” Without a doubt, we are called to love others . . . but not by blending in. Instead, we are to be lights in darkness (notice the contrast?) because, as we have all heard so many times, we are in the world but we are not OF the world.

Check out Hebrews 11:13-16. By Grace

WONDERFUL • COUNSELOR • THE MIGHTY GOD • KING OF KINGS • MESSIAH



THE GREAT I AM • EVERLASTING FATHER • LORD OF LORDS • PRINCE OF PEACE

CYAN YELLOW MAGENTA BLACK

Can it all be fabricated?

Can it all be fabricated?

Can Christianity be simply fabricated? Are there “posers” in the body of Christ? If so, then mustn't we address this issue by starting with ourselves? Only by first taking an inward look towards our heart may we see what is happening in the hearts of others. To illustrate my point I will take two examples and expound.

1. A young man constantly shares Christ with others not because it is his duty, joy, or passion, but simply for the recognition in his youth group. When a person comes to know Christ he is always the first to take credit. Humility is simply not

known in this young man's



heart and he loves to tell others about all the people that he has led to the Lord. The youth group loves him and he constantly receives verbal praise and recognition by the leaders. How long will this continue? Can a person pretend to have the joy of Christ? What will happen when there is no one around to

pat him on the back; will he die a martyr for Christ if needed? What about you?

2. A middle-aged woman grew up in church and she has simply told people that she believed in Christ to “get them off her back.” She truly has no interest in knowing God because she believes that clothes, money, and a nice house are her only needs. Has she been allowed to sit amongst the church “simply for social benefits?” Do you do the same?

Both of these examples are real people that I know and I have changed their identity for their sake. In our first example we may not have a true poser, but only a person who once experienced the

joy of Christ and then has tried to fabricate it daily without talking to God. This is a dangerous and serious issue in Christianity today. I always ask two questions: 1. Does this bring glory to Christ or to men (me and others)? 2. In this issue am I truly being humble? In our second example we find a true poser in the body of Christ. This person is the reason we need to let people know that being a Christian does not mean that you sit in a pew each week, but it means that you will constantly seek to follow Christ.

I have a simple solution for both of these people. Honestly

examine your life and see what Christ would have you do.

- A Mere Christian



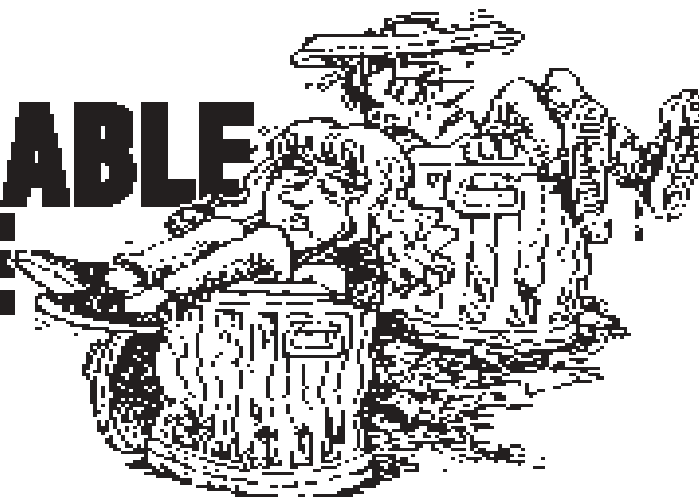
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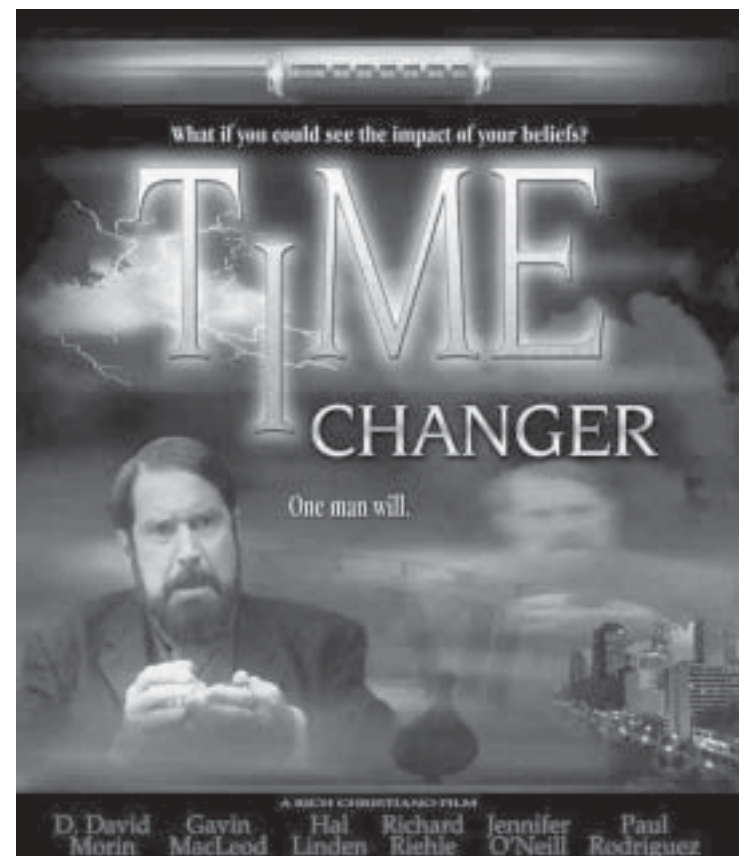


DISPOSABLE PEOPLE



John 3:16

We see this on signs being held up at different sporting events all of the time. What does it mean though? “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 1:1 Why would God become man to die on a cross for our sin and be risen alive on the third day? Jesus did this and more so that we would be able to have a relationship with the Holy God of the Universe, creator of all things. There are no people that are disposable, 2 Peter 3:9 God is not willing that any should perish, but all should come to repentance. We are all His creation and all of the opportunity to accept Jesus as their Lord. Romans 10:9 “That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Jesus is the only way to have a relationship with God. Jesus said, John 14:6 “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” The BeaconOU would encourage you to read the book of Romans in the New Testament of the Bible. If you have any questions, feel free to send us an e-mail at rick777ok@ou.edu.



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