



prophet and that he was speaking for God in these last days. However, this cannot be reconciled with Hebrews 1:1-2 (which Smith did not revise) which states that **“God, who at various times and in various manners spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom He made the worlds.”** Here, God clearly states that Jesus is His prophet “in these last days.” And, when you look

at the rest of the book of Hebrews, it is clear that Jesus is the only prophet ever needed again. So, if the Book of Mormon is true, we see yet another situation where God just doesn’t know what He’s talking about. However, instead of believing that God is ignorant of His own Creation and His own words, the more reasonable conclusion is that Smith is just simply unreliable when discussing the things of God.

In next week’s article we will examine a final question to ask Mormons when we study with them. Now, even though we have only examined two of these three very important questions, it should be more evident to us that the Book of Mormon is not a message from God or inspired of Him. Instead, we must recognize that it contradicts the Bible, God’s true Word, in too many places to be considered trustworthy. So, let us use this information to help us help those Mormons whom God has allowed to be in our path as we “go out into all the world.” May God always bless us in this endeavor and in every aspect of our service to Him.

**The Book of Mormon, the Doctrines and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price are all books Mormons believe to be inspired of God holding the same weight and authority as the Bible.*



Faithful Sayings Issue 12.21 May 23, 2010

Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

● **Let us know if you have any questions.**

ISSUE

12.21

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

May 23
2010

Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Pat Goguen
Neil Ledbetter
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Curtis Carwile



Three Questions to Ask Every Mormon (Part One) By Curtis Carwile

We’ve all been there. We’re sitting around the house and there’s a knock on the door. Because we are in the age of cell phones and no longer in the age of door-to-door salesmen, we are already apprehensive of whoever is at the door. And, then, we open the door to find two young people in black pants and white shirts asking you if you know about the “other testament of Jesus Christ.” Many of us don’t know how to handle this situation because we just don’t know what to say. So, we look at them rather awkwardly and rather silently until they leave or we rather forcefully run them off because they had the audacity to interrupt our breakfast, lunch, dinner, or whatever we might have been doing. It is because so many of us don’t know what to say or how to say it that I would like to suggest three simple questions we can all ask in those situations. These questions are very simple, easy to remember, and are designed to plant the seeds of Truth that will, hopefully, lead to their acceptance of the real Truth of God. So, what are these three questions?

1. Would you like to come inside?

Many of us constantly pray for “open doors” through which we may bring the Gospel into a lost world (Colossians 4:3). Sometimes, God opens literal doors for us so we can preach the word to one (or two, as the case may be) who so

4700 Andrews Ave.
Amarillo TX 79106
806-352-2809
www.olsenpark.com

desperately needs to hear it. When those opportunities come along, we must accept them with thanksgiving and be good stewards of them (1 Peter 4:10). Because of that, we must be hospitable and kind for this is the way of love (1 Corinthians 13:4) and love is the way of Jesus (John 13:34-35). One of the easiest ways to do that is by inviting the young Mormon “elders” to come in and talk for a little while. Offer them a place to sit. Offer them something non-caffeinated to drink or eat (*Doctrines and Covenants* 89*). Also, if you have children still living at home,



Olsen Park church of Christ

invite them to sit in on your discussion and let them experience what will be a great learning experience; I guarantee that your guests will not mind. Something else I encourage you all to do at the beginning of these situations, look upon them as Jesus did, lost sheep without a Shepherd and be moved with compassion (Mark 6:34). View them with compassion and be patient during this special occasion (2 Timothy 2:24). This will definitely help with the next two questions.

2. What do you believe about the Bible?

Mormonism claims to be the real Christian religion. They do this because they honestly believe that the Bible is the word of God “as far as it has been translated correctly.” This is actually stated and accepted as Scripture in their *Articles of Faith* #8. Often times, when you are speaking with a Mormon about something about the Bible, it is not uncommon to hear them say something along the lines of “Well, that passage has been mistranslated.” Basically, that is an attempt to dismiss your point. Fortunately, there is a text to which Mormons must approve, which (in some cases) even non-Mormons can use to test what is taught—the Joseph Smith “translation” of the Bible. Now, don’t get me wrong, I believe that the JST is Smith’s revision of the King James Version of the Bible instead of an actual translation. In all actuality, it can’t even technically be considered a “translation” because Smith did not use any ancient texts in the process, but rather revised the KJV as he claimed, as the Lord guided him. Smith originally took on this project because he claimed God commissioned him to do so (*Doctrines and Covenants* 45:60-61). So, since Smith finished his “translation” of the New Testament (*History of the Church*, vol.1 , pgs 324 and 368) and most of the Old Testament, it is effective to use and encourage others to use passages as they appear in Smith’s “translation.” With that said, there are several passages which Smith purposely left unchanged. Four of these passages are especially good to respectfully and lovingly discuss.

The first passage to bring up is Deuteronomy 18:20-22. In this passage, Moses gives the Israelites the test to determine whether or not a prophet is from God or not; if what they say comes true, they are

from God and if what they say doesn’t come true, they aren’t. We can bring this up because Smith is considered by the Mormon Church to be God’s latter-day prophet, in fact, the greatest prophet to ever live. Now, if Smith truly was a prophet of God, then what he prophesied about should come true. However, there are places like *Doctrines and Covenants* 87 in which Smith claims that he is moved by God to “prophesy” that the northern and southern states would enter into a civil war which would turn into a world war. He even went as far as to say that Great Britain would help the southern states in this war. Anyone who knows American history knows that this never happened. So, considering these things, either God is not omniscient or Smith does not pass the test of being a true prophet of God. Since God is omniscient (1 John 3:19-20; Job 37:16; Psalm 147:5), Smith must not be a true prophet of God. There is a reason why I bring this up first: because it sets in their mind that, by Smith’s own admission (since he didn’t revise this passage while revising others in Deuteronomy), his word cannot be trusted. And, if his word cannot be trusted on one thing, how can it be trusted regarding anything else?

The other three passages are also ones that Smith left unchanged and they all pose a huge problem to Smith and his religion. The second passage is **Matthew 2:1**. This passage simply states that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. This is exactly where it had been prophesied that the Messiah would be born for hundreds of years (Micah 5:2). In the Book of Mormon, the book of Alma 7:10, Jesus is prophesied to be born in Jerusalem. If the same God wrote both the Book of Mormon and the Bible, then that “God” is wrong about one of them because it can’t be both. Jesus cannot have been born in both places and God cannot have written both books. Another passage to bring up is **Galatians 1:6-9** where Paul says that if he or “an angel from heaven preach any other Gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.” In what is known by Mormons as “The First Vision” where Smith

claims to have been visited by God and charged with the task of restoring the true Church of God by bringing the Book of Mormon to the world, Smith is later approached by the Mormon angel Moroni. Moroni tells Smith where the golden plates on which the Book of Mormon are and eventually gives them to him (*The Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith-History*, 2). The Book of Mormon contains a very different Gospel than that found in the Bible; in fact, it proclaims to be “another testament of Jesus Christ” right there on the cover. It is a testimony of Jesus’ appearance to the Nephite and Lamanite people who were supposedly living in the Americas in 34AD. Now, even though the doctrines of the Book of Mormon and the Bible are somewhat similar in a few regards, Mormonism teaches a very different gospel than what is found in the Bible. So, again, if God is the One who supposedly wrote both the Pearl of Great Price and the Bible, God must be wrong about one of them or one of them is not from God. One final passage to bring up when speaking with Mormons is **Hebrews 1:1-2**. Smith taught that he was God’s latter-day