



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Volume 43

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Number 3

Forest Hill Church of Christ

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Harold D. Mangrum
Keith B. McAlister

Ministers:

Barry M. Grider, Pulpit
Matthew Jones, Associate
Haston Handley, Youth
Jonah Wood, Youth

VISIT US SOON!

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 A.M.
Afternoon Worship.... 1:30 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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The God of Mormonism (Conclusion)

B. J. Clarke

Now, we say to our Mormon friends that they cannot have it both ways. Apparently, some Mormons realized this too, and they began to express concern as to whether the Holy Spirit would receive a body at some time in the future. The Mormon leaders did everything that they could to squelch any controversy that might arise from these questions. On April 6, 1843, Joseph Smith said, "The Holy Ghost is yet a spiritual body and waiting to take to himself a body as the Saviour did or as the gods before them took bodies."⁴⁰ Other Mormon leaders pleaded ignorance on the matter. For instance, Joseph Fielding Smith said, "I have never troubled myself about the Holy Ghost whether he will sometime have a body or not because it is not in any way essential to my salvation."⁴¹ (*Doctrines of Salvation*, vol. 1, p.39). Mormon "Apostle" Bruce McConkie referred to the Holy Spirit as "a Spirit Man" and then went on to say: "In this dispensation, at least, nothing has been revealed as to his origin or destiny; expressions on these matters are both speculative and fruitless."⁴²

Incidentally, Mormonism also makes a distinction between the Holy Ghost and Holy Spirit. LDS "Apostle" John A. Widtsoe said, "The Holy Ghost, sometimes called the comforter, is the third member of the Godhead, and is a personage distinct from the Holy Spirit. As a personage, the Holy Ghost cannot any more than the Father and Son be everywhere present in person."⁴³ Of course, Mr. Widtsoe does not offer any proof of his convictions. He offers only assertion. Where is the book, chapter and verse that teaches the Holy Spirit is different from the Holy Ghost?

Be that as it may, to try and prove that God has a physical body, Mormons often point to passages like Exodus 33:11 as evidence. After all, the passage affirms that "the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend." The Mormon argument is that God has a face; therefore, He has a physical body. However, this verse is nothing more than an anthropomorphic description of God, i.e., the assignment of physical characteristics to a Divine being. God has never been seen in His pure and majestic essence. It is interesting to note that Mormons never seem to concentrate on what the Scriptures teach just nine verses after Exodus 33:11. In Exodus 33:20, God told Moses, "Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live." The apostle John reiterated this truth when he wrote that "no man hath seen God at any time" (John 1:18).

Moreover, the Divine Record is decisive against the claim that God is composed of flesh and blood. God is Spirit (John 4:24) and "a spirit hath not flesh and bones" (Luke 24:39). Therefore, when the Bible speaks of "the arm of the Lord," "the ears of the Lord," "the hand of the Lord," etc., it is simply God's way of describing Himself in terms with which we can identify. For example, the psalmist said unto God, "yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge" (Psa. 57:1). Speaking of God's protective concern for His people, the psalmist promised "He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust" (Psa. 91:4). Should we conclude then from these passages that God is a bird? Obviously not. To take every Biblical description of God as absolutely literal would create some bizarre interpretations indeed (Deut. 4:24; Jer. 2:13; Heb. 12:29).

But does not the Bible teach that man was made in the image of God? Indeed, Genesis 1:26 so affirms, but the assumption that being made in the image of God necessitates

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The God of Mormonism (continued from page 1)

the conclusion that man is of the same nature as God is unwarranted. As Marvin Cowan points out in his book *Mormon Claims Answered*, “The statue, or image, of Abraham Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial is 19 feet tall and made of white Georgia marble, but was President Lincoln 19 feet tall with a body of white marble? Obviously, “image” does not mean “made of the same material” or “made the same size.”⁴⁴ The concept of being made in the image of God is closely connected to personhood, and the difference between man and beast. God created beasts, but they are never ascribed the status of personhood. On the other hand, human beings are categorized as persons, with the ability to exercise volition and rational thought, and, of course, human beings possess eternal souls, a privilege not afforded to plants and animals.

There is no need for debate on the nature of God. The Bible is extremely clear on whether God is a man. Numbers 23:19 declares, “God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind.” God told Israel, “I am God, and not man” (Hos. 11:9). The Psalmist said, “From everlasting to everlasting, thou art God” (Psa. 90:2). What can the Mormons do with passages such as these? Essentially, they do with them what they do with any other verse of Scripture that happens to contradict their doctrine. They ignore it.

A classic example of this attitude is seen in an episode involving one of the most renowned of Mormon “Apostles,” Le Grand Richards. Many years ago, he was speaking to a semiannual conference of Mormons via satellite broadcast. His aim was to prove that God was a man in heaven, possessing a body of flesh and bone. In the context of his speech, he began to speak about the identity of Jesus Christ. He read Matthew 16:13, wherein Jesus asked His disciples about whom men thought that He was. Mr. Richards continued reading the passage from Matthew 16, but as he kept reading his voice suddenly tapered off when it must have dawned on him that he should not be reading verse 17 after what he had just finished trying to prove. What was so devastating about Matthew 16:17 to this Mormon doctrine? After Peter confessed that Jesus was the Christ (Matt. 16:16), Jesus responded, “Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 16:17). How could language be any plainer? Jesus clearly repudiated the Mormon claim that God has a body of flesh and blood. Note the following unassailable argument: (1) Flesh and blood did not reveal to Peter the identity of Jesus Christ; (2) God the Father did reveal to Peter the identity of Jesus Christ; (3) Therefore, God the Father is not composed of flesh and blood.

CONCLUSION

We have skimmed the surface of LDS error concerning the nature of God. They claim that God was once a man, and that we as men may become gods by virtue of an eternal progression into such a state. They believe in a multiplicity of gods, and they believe that Adam, the first man, is also God. They believe that God has a material body, made of flesh and bones.

As we have sufficiently demonstrated, the Mormon concept of God is contrary to inspired Scripture, and is even contrary to much of their own uninspired literature. What is true is that the Word, Who was God and was with God, became flesh (i.e., a man) and dwelt among us (John 1:1, 14; Philip. 2:5-11). More importantly, He died among men as a perfect sacrifice, and is the only way from earth to glory (John 14:6). As the Second Adam, He did what the first Adam could never do—by virtue of His perfect life and perfect sacrifice, He has been given the power to reign over His kingdom until the last enemy, death, shall be destroyed, and then he will resurrect the dead, making sure to separate the sheep from the goats (1 Cor. 15:21-26; John 5:28-29; Matt. 25:31-46). God has never promised us that we could become gods, but He has promised us that we can go and live with God if we faithfully follow His Word. Let us live in such fashion that we may progress into the eternal realm of pleasure when our time has come.

Endnotes

¹ Mormons prefer Latter day Saints, but there is ample evidence to warrant using the terms interchangeably.

² Ron Carlson & Ed Decker, **Fast Facts On False Teachings**. (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1994), p. 170.

³ As quoted by Cowan, <http://www.utlm.org/onlinebooks/mclaims2.htm>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ As quoted by Tanner, p. 175.

⁷ McConkie, p. 577.

⁸ As cited by Ron Rhodes & Marian Bodine, **Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Mormons**. (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1995), pp. 221-222.

⁹ As cited by Tanner, p. 187.

¹⁰ As cited by Tanner, p. 188.

¹¹ Talmage, p. 430.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ As quoted by Cowan, <http://www.utlm.org/onlinebooks/mclaims2.htm>

¹⁵ As cited by Tanner, p. 175.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ As quoted by Walter Martin, **The Kingdom of the Cults**. (Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 1985), p. 182.

¹⁸ As cited by Tanner, p. 193.

¹⁹ Tanner, p. 198.

LORD'S TABLE

PRESIDE: Lawayne House Greg Mangrum
ASSIST: Paul Davenport Kevin Knipple
 Jordan Pugh Wayne Sanders
 Jason White Colten Wilson

PRAYERS

A.M. OPENING: Francis Fairley
A.M. CLOSING: John Connell
P.M. OPENING: Isaac McLaurin
P.M. CLOSING: John Manning

If you are unable to lead prayer or serve at the Lord's table, please contact Cedric Huff or Paul Connell.

RECORD, WEEK OF January 17, 2016

BIBLE STUDY: 220
 A.M. WORSHIP: 320
 P.M. WORSHIP: 225
 CONTRIBUTION: \$15,079.00

OUR SICK

Evie Sandlin, young daughter of Jonathan Beard's cousin, suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns over much of her body in a kitchen accident. She is at LeBonheur Children's Hospital.

ILL AT HOME: Sherry Brown, Shaunna Hanel, Linda McCullar and Helen Sharp.

HOMEBOUND

Bessie Berry Anita Hopper
 Ann Caughron Albert & Ruth House
 Irby Cole Clarine Justice
 Hazel Eskew Ryan McCullar
 Tommy & Nell Herndon Helen Palazola
 Anita Hopper

INFORMATION LINE: 531-8849

BAPTIZED: Taylor Tribble.

REQUESTED PRAYERS: Margie Holliday and Jordan Pugh.



KIRBY PINES Retirement Community worship service each fourth Sunday 8:00-8:45a.m. conducted by Forest Hill. Our next service will be Sunday, January 24.

LEGACY ESTATES worship service each Sunday afternoon 3:00 p.m. conducted by Forest Hill.



FOOD PANTRY

Some items needed are: rice, dried peas, dried beans, soup, stew and canned fruit. Donated items may be placed in the ladies classroom.

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Dear Forest Hill,
 Thank you so much for all the calls, cards and prayers on my behalf during my recent illness.
 Allan Hart

HEARTS & HANDS

TEAM "C" (Danny Braddock) will meet Sunday, January 24 at 5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall for a covered dish dinner.

TEAM "E" (Jim Woody) will meet Saturday, January 30 at 12:00 noon at the home of Harold & Carol Mangrum for a chili luncheon. Chili will be provided. Please contact Carol for what to bring.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES' CLASS and MEN'S CLASS meet each Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m.

LADIES EVENING BIBLE STUDY Tuesday, January 19 at 6:30 p.m.

ELDERS & DEACONS PLANNING SESSION Saturday, January 23 at 8:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

BABY SHOWER honoring Sarah Ulrich, Sunday, January 24 after the morning service. It's a boy! They are registered at Target and Babies R Us.

JCs ASSEMBLE Sunday, January 31 after the morning service.

BRIDAL SHOWER honoring Kia Lopez, bride of David Lopez, Sunday, February 7, after the morning service. They are registered at Walmart and Bed, Bath & Beyond.

SILVER HEARTS BANQUET Saturday, February 20 at 5:30 p.m. for our senior adult members, hosted by Forest Hill Youth.

YOUTH DAY Saturday, March 26. Theme: *Faithful Love*.

50th MSOP LECTURESHIP March 27-March 31. Theme: *Preach the Word*.

VBS June 6-8.

FOUNDATIONS June 25-July 1.

Last week's solution :

And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Matthew 28:5-6

CORNERSTONE

Replace each letter of the alphabet with a different letter to reveal the passage of scripture.

EFsrCH WKfPEJBAJE HmJPJUKPJ HK ZKX. PJECEH HmJ XJACB, TQX MJ DCBB UBJJ UPKR WKf. XPTD QCZM HK ZKX, TQX MJ DCBB XPTD QCZM HK WKf. YBJTQEJ WKfP MTQXE, WJ ECQQJE; TQX VFPCUW WKfP MJTPHE, WJ XKfSBJRCQXJX.

Clue: X = D

Solution next week

Clue: U = F

The God of Mormonism (continued from page 2)

²⁰ Ibid, p. 192.

²¹ Tanner, p. 199.

²² Tanner, p. 196.

²³ Tanner, p. 195.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid, p. 199.

²⁷ Ibid, p. 200.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid, p. 201.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid, p. 202.

³² Ibid, p. 203.

³³ James E. Talmage, **A Study of the Articles of Faith: Being a Consideration of the Principal Doctrines of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Company, 1984), p. 44.

³⁴ Bruce R. McConkie, **Mormon Doctrine - A Compendium of the Gospel.** Revised and enlarged edition. (Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1966), p. 250.

³⁵ **Uniform System for Teaching Families.** (Salt Lake City: Deseret, 1973), p. C-31. Copyright by Corp. of the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

³⁶ The original quotation, from the 1835 edition of Doctrine & Covenants, is photographically reproduced by Gerald (from "*Mormanism*", *Spring Bible Institute Lectureship, 2001*)

³⁷ William E. Berrett, **The Restored Church.** (Salt Lake City: Deseret, 1956), p. 540.

³⁸ Joseph Fielding Smith, **Doctrines of Salvation.** 3 vols. (Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1959), Vol. 1, p. 65.

³⁹ As cited by Tanner, p. 190.

⁴⁰ Marvin Cowan, **Mormon Claims Answered.** The Online Edition can be found at the following web address <http://www.utlm.org/onlinebooks/mclaims2.htm>

⁴¹ Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 1, p. 39.

⁴² McConkie, p. 329.

⁴³ As quoted by Cowan, <http://www.utlm.org/onlinebooks/mclaims2.htm>

⁴⁴ Ibid.

(from "*Mormanism*", *Spring Bible Institute Lectureship, 2001*)

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