

PALMYRA VISITOR'S GUIDE

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Welcome to Palmyra

Every year hundreds of people who are unfamiliar with the teachings of The Church of Jesus



Christ of Latter-day Saints (also known as the LDS or Mormon Church) will come to the Hill Cumorah Pageant with the hope of better understanding the history and theology of Mormonism.

When you step onto the site, you may be greeted by LDS missionaries who will be eager to share their church's beliefs with you. There is a good chance that you may assume (or be given the impression) that the LDS Church is just another Christian denomination. In fact, as you tour the visitor center and watch the performance, you will often hear words and phrases similar to those used by Bible-believing Christians. What you may not know is that the Mormon religion has redefined many historic Christian terms, thus clouding their meaning.

Evangelical Christians who have spent years studying the LDS faith are providing this "brochure" to you with the hope that it will enhance your

understanding of the differences between Mormonism and biblical Christianity. Some may question the motives of those who want to share this information with others. Yet it was second

LDS President Brigham Young who stated, "If I should hear a man advocate erroneous principles he had

imbibed through education, and oppose those principles, some might imagine that I was opposed to that man, when, in fact, I am only opposed to every evil and erroneous principle he advances." (Discourses of Brigham Young, p. 251).

We are Bible-believing Christians desiring to share our faith with members of the

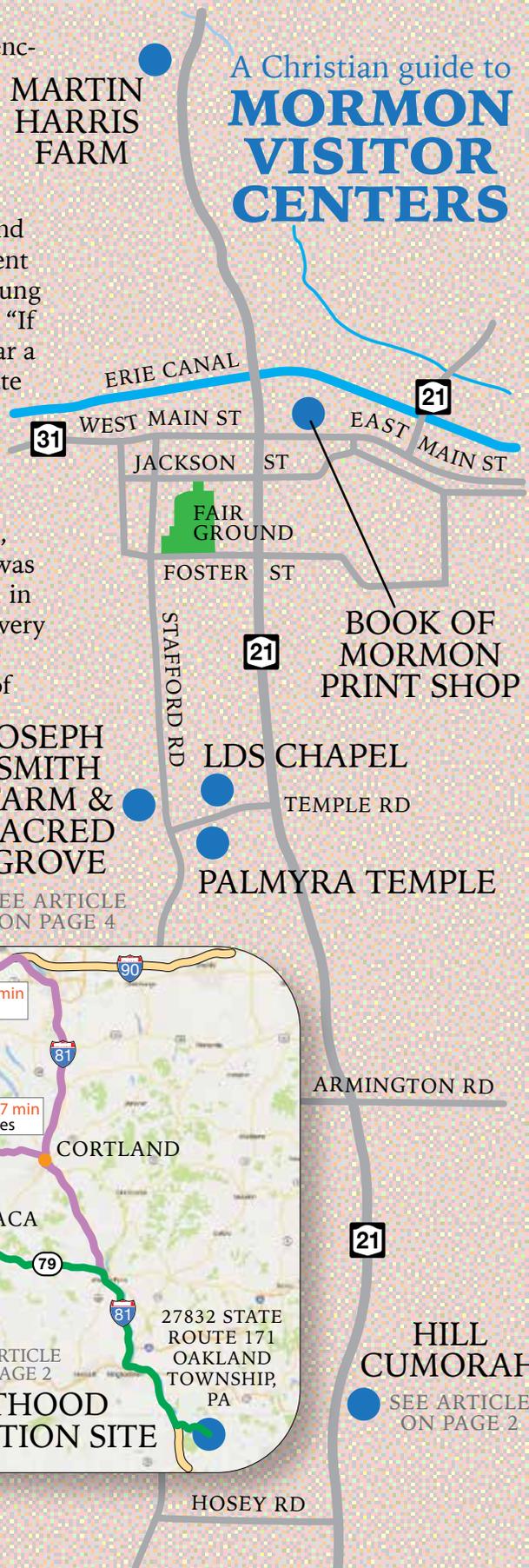
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MARTIN HARRIS FARM

JOSEPH SMITH FARM & SACRED GROVE

SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 4

A Christian guide to **MORMON VISITOR CENTERS**



SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 2

HILL CUMORAH

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LDS Church and those of the general public. As you read this paper, notice that many of our quotations are taken word for

word from LDS sources. We invite you to check these sources for contextual accuracy. If you have further questions, please feel free

to speak with the person who handed this publication to you or write us at info@crcmin.org. Thank you!

PRIESTHOOD RESTORATION SITE *A Place of Heavenly Encounters?*



On May 15, 1829, on the banks of the Susquehanna River, Joseph Smith, Jr and Oliver Cowdery went to the river to pray. It was

there where John the Baptist allegedly conferred the Aaronic Priesthood on both Joseph and Oliver. Shortly thereafter Peter, James and John appeared on the same banks and both men were given the Melchizedek Priesthood as well.

The significance of the priesthood cannot be underestimated in LDS theology. The priesthood is the POWER and AUTHORITY of God given to man. Without

the authority of the priesthood no ordinances can be performed. The priesthood is also necessary to hold any office in the LDS Church. According to LDS doctrine, God gave the priesthood authority so that worthy males of the church can act in his name for the salvation of his children. Mormons allege that following the ascension of Jesus Christ and the death of his apostles a total and complete apostasy took place and the priesthood authority was taken from the earth.

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Hill Cumorah Monument to the Angel Moroni

According to the Mormon Church, Moroni was an angel who showed Joseph Smith where to find the “golden plates” which he would later translate, “by the power of God”, into the Book of Mormon.

Interestingly, in the Book of Mormon, Moroni wrote a passage that reveals, in no uncertain terms, that Mormonism is a false gospel with a false christ.

Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you....(Moroni 10:32)

Notice that “if you deny yourselves of all ungodliness,” only then will his grace be sufficient for you. This is a major departure from the good news (gospel) of the Christian faith. This is bad news in that no

one has ever been able to deny themselves of all ungodliness, and no one will in the future.

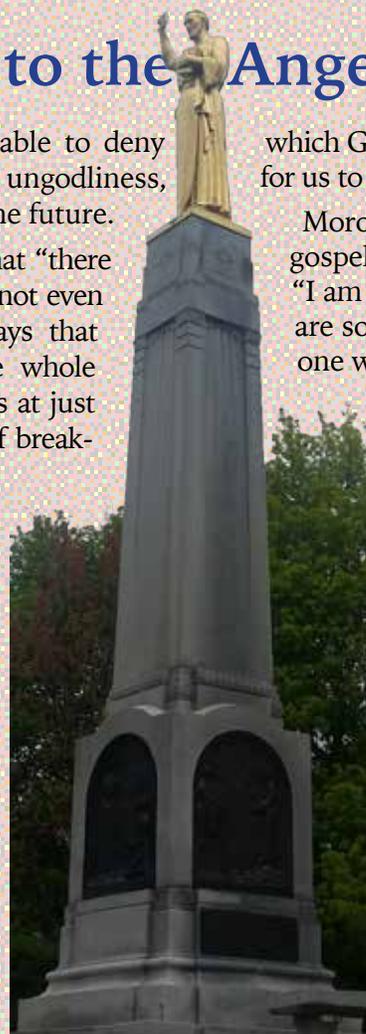
Romans 3:10 says that “there is no one righteous, not even one.” James 2:10 says that “whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.”

The biblical good news is that “It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,

which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Eph 2:8-10)

Moroni 10:32 is a different gospel. Galatians 1:6-8 says, “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in

the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse!”



Which one is right?

Mormonism

Based on LDS teachings*

Christianity

Based on the Bible

GOD THE FATHER:

1. He was once a man like us. He has a father. (GP p.305)
2. He is one of many Gods. (TPJS p.370; STC p.152-153)
3. He has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's. (D&C 130:22)

GOD THE FATHER:

1. He has always been God (Psalm 90:2; Deuteronomy 33:27)
2. He is the only God that has ever existed. (Isaiah 43:10)
3. He is a spirit. A spirit does not have flesh and bones. (John 4:24, Col 1:15, Luke 24:39)

JESUS CHRIST:

1. He is God's first spirit child, thus, was not always God. (MD p.129; GP p.11)
2. He is the spirit brother of Lucifer, Satan, the devil. (GP p.17-18; GTTA p.15)

JESUS CHRIST:

1. He has always been God; the beginning and the end; the Almighty. (John 1:1 with Psalm 90:2; Revelation 1:8)
2. He is Lucifer's Creator, not his brother. (Col 1:16-17; Jn 1:3)

MAN:

1. Men can become Gods, with all the powers of Godhood. (GP p.302; ACM p.129-132; D&C 132:19-20)

MAN:

1. Men cannot become Gods. There is only one true God. (Isaiah 43:10; 44:6, 8; 48:11-12)

SALVATION:

1. Almost everyone, even those who don't believe in Jesus Christ, will end up in some level of heaven. Only ex-Mormons spend eternity in hell. (D&C 76:31-44)
2. The blood of Christ does not atone for some grievous sins. A murderer, for example, must have his own blood shed. (MD p.92-93; DS 1:133-138)

SALVATION:

1. Although eternal life is available to all, Jesus prophesied that only a few will enter the narrow gate that leads to life—and that many will choose the wide gate that leads to destruction (hell). (Matthew 7:13-14)
2. The blood of Christ cleanses us (those who repent) of all sin. (1 John 1:7-9)

It can't be both!

If your Mormon friend denies that the LDS Church teaches the above, ask him/her to help you check out our references. Gospel Principles, the most quoted resource above, can be read online at www.lds.org/library/display/0,4945,11-1-13-1,00.html. Be sure to read the first two paragraphs of chapter 2 and all of chapter 47.

* MORMON REFERENCE CODES:

ACM = Achieving A Celestial Marriage, 1992; AF = Articles of Faith; D&C = Doctrine and Covenants; DS = Doctrines of Salvation; GP = Gospel Principles, 1997; GTTA = Gospel Through The Ages; JD = Journal of Discourses; MD = Mormon Doctrine, 2nd Ed.; STC = Search These Commandments (a priesthood study guide), 1985; TPJS = Teachings of The Prophet Joseph Smith.

Common Questions Answered

You may wonder why we have gone to the trouble and expense of producing and handing out this paper. Here are two of the most common questions we get and how we answer them:

Why do you pick on Mormons?

Answer

1. From the beginning of the Mormon Church, they have misrepresented and attacked the true Christian faith. See the LDS tract The testimony of Joseph Smith, p.3 for a famous example. As Christians, we are commanded to “defend the faith that was once for all given to the saints”. So we endeavour to respond to those attacks with the truth from God's Word, the Bible.
2. Our fellow Christians are invited to LDS events and hear what sounds like a Christian message but they don't understand what they are hearing as the LDS use Christian language without full disclosure of what they mean (see the chart of definitions to the left for clear examples). We believe those folks deserve to know how they are being deceived before they can be drawn in unaware.
3. Many Mormons are not yet aware of the doctrines which were hidden from them while they were being taught by LDS Missionaries. We believe they have a right to hear the whole truth about the church they are supporting.

Do you get paid for doing this?

Answer

On the contrary, we are all volunteer missionaries who pay to do what we are doing. These mission trips cost money for transportation, food, loss of wages, etc. But we believe providing knowledge that leads to rescue and salvation is more important than our personal welfare.

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However, this account poses some problems because all the Apostles did not die following the ascension of Jesus. According to D&C 7, John the beloved asked Jesus if he could remain on earth for the purpose of bringing souls to the Lord. These accounts might raise some questions: How did John the Apostle lose the authority

of the priesthood that he had as an apostle? How is it possible to bring souls to the Lord without this authority? Why would Jesus allow John to remain on earth with no authority to act?

Joseph Smith, Jr. according to his testimony saw God the Father and Jesus Christ his son in the fall of 1820. Yet D&C 84:21 says that no man can see

God without the priesthood. How did Joseph see the Father and the Son in 1820 without the priesthood that he did not receive until 1829?

The visitor center located in Oakland, PA, which used to be Harmony, PA, marks the place where Joseph and his wife Emma began to translate the Book of Mormon as well.

The First Vision

Joseph Smith claimed that he saw God the Father and his son Jesus Christ in 1820 and that they told him not to join any of the churches, that they were all wrong and all those who profess the Christian faith were corrupt.

Unfortunately, for all those who are entrusting their eternal destiny to Joseph, his story just doesn't fit the actual recorded history of his own church.

There is not a single mention of this "First Vision" in any of the historical records of the church before 1838. In 1833, the Book of Commandments (forerunner of the Doctrine & Covenants or D&C) did not contain even a hint of this event. Neither does the original D&C in 1835. There, in the Lectures on Faith (still available in LDS book stores), which were the Doctrine of the Doctrine & Covenants, Joseph taught that there is only one God, from eternity to eternity. He also taught that God the Father has always been God (was never a man) and that he is a personage of spirit as contrasted with the Son who is a personage of



tabernacle (body of flesh and bone).

If Joseph had seen God the Father and God the Son

together in physical form, why did he begin his church, nine years later, by teaching just the

opposite?

Another astounding fact of LDS history is that, in over twenty-five years of preaching, Brigham Young never once mentioned a vision of the Father and the Son. How could he not speak often about the founding event of his own church. That would be like never hearing a Christian preacher speak of the resurrection of Christ

What's with that "Cheese Truck"?

The Mormon Church has spared no expense to limit opportunities for their members and visitors to receive the powerful evidence which exposes the deceptive nature of Mormonism and presents the truth which will set them free from false religion.

For example, they rerouted the road that used to go through the Smith Farm where we were able to hand out the truth to anyone

who crossed the public right-of-way.

This sign truck is our best shot at giving everyone an opportunity to get the same same information which will help them understand the vast differences between true Christianity and Mormonism.



stand the vast differences between true Christianity and Mormonism.

On our web site you can read and/or

print any of our brochures free of charge. They all contain evidence which demands a verdict.

We welcome positive and negative feedback.