

Mormon “Elders” and “Jehovah’s Witnesses”

by Bill Crews

In “the parable of the sower” (**Matthew 13:18**) Jesus commends people who have hearts that are “honest and good” (**Luke 8:15**) because these are people who want to do right and to be right, people who want to please God. These will be receptive to the word of God (**Luke 8:11**), ready to surrender any error they have mistakenly embraced, willing to change when they find they are wrong. In them God’s truth will be able to accomplish all that God designed it to accomplish.

Our Lord does not want us to close our minds and to be filled with prejudice. Such is the case if our hearts have become “gross” (*literally, “thick, heavy,”* and here meaning calloused and stubborn), our ears have become dull of hearing (unwilling to listen), and our eyes have been closed (refusing to “see” or consider). See **Matthew 13:15**.

God wants us to be “swift to hear” (the truth; **all** of the truth, **BC**), slow to speak (*against* the truth, **BC**), “slow to wrath” (*because* of the truth; like Jehoiakim, king of Judah, in **Jeremiah 36:20-26**). See **James 1:19**. Rather, He would have us to put away sin and receive with meekness His word (**James 1:21**), and to be doers of His word, not hearers only (**James 1:22**).

For good reason – that we might follow their example – the word of God commends to us the example of the Bereans who were willing to listen to Paul and Silas and then “examined the Scriptures” (the Old Testament) daily, whether these things were so” (**Acts 17:11**). We have it all, both the Old Testament and the New Testament (**2 Timothy 3:14-17**), so let us examine the Scriptures to learn what they teach us and to measure all religious teaching by them. Let us be suspicious of any religious teacher who is unwilling for us to do this, or that does not encourage us to do this.

In pairs, young Mormon “elders” and men and women who profess to be “Jehovah’s Witnesses” will come to your doors and seek opportunity or permission to speak to you. They have some distinctive doctrines to teach, which they sincerely believe are “the truth,” but which are unsupported by and in conflict with the Scriptures. They want you to be receptive and open-minded, while they are **not** (they will tell you that they already “know” that they have discovered the truth and that they cannot be wrong!). They want you to be willing to change, while they are **not**! They want you to listen to them; they have **not** come to your houses to listen to you! They have come to teach you, but they do **not** want you to try to teach them! They would like to give you some literature to read and study, but they are unwilling to even accept, let alone read and study, any material you have to give them! I have never refused to listen to them, and I have never declined any material they have presented to me, nor have I refused to read anything they offered me to read. But I cannot tell you how many times over past years that they have absolutely refused to even accept literature that I have begged them to examine. It is a waste of precious time to talk to such people.

The Mormons believe that their founder, Joseph Smith, was a prophet of God who was divinely led to discover and divinely guided to translate certain “plates of gold” which you may read in their “*Book of Mormon*” – a “revelation” which they believe is younger than and superior to the Bible. Furthermore, they believe that they have living apostles and prophets who continue to receive revelations from God. “Jehovah’s Witnesses,” *which they are not*, believe that for more than a hundred years now their “organization” alone, now a group of unidentified editorial writers headquartered in Brooklyn, New York, has been used by God to interpret and explain

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