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MODERN-DAY APOSTLES

MORMON ECCLESIOLOGY (PART 2)

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TRUTH TO MORMONS MINISTRY



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INTRODUCTION

Mormon Apostle, Bruce R. McConkie, wrote:

Apostles and prophets are the foundation upon which the organization of the true church rests. (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 2:20) Where there are no apostles and prophets there is no divine Church, but where these officers are found, there is the Church of Christ in all its glory, beauty, and perfection. The inspired promise is that these officers will remain in the Church 'Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.' (Eph. 4:13)¹

Mormonism makes the claim that it alone is the true church of Christ since it claims for itself modern-day apostles and prophets. In the Mormon Church, one man presides as president over the entire church. While he is himself an apostle, his functional office is that of Prophet. He alone receives new revelation for the entire Mormon Church. Underneath this president and prophet are two Mormon Apostles who serve as first and second counselors. This group of three is referred to as the "First Presidency." Beneath them is an additional quorum of Twelve Apostles. There are therefore a total of 15 apostles serving in the Mormon Church.

We'll address prophets in another article, but for this treatment, is Mormonism's claim to modern-day apostles justified? Let's take a look.

BIBLICAL RESPONSE

Isolated from the totality of the biblical record, McConkie's use of Ephesians 4 may seem on the surface to support ongoing apostles in the church. After all, who would claim that we've all arrived at a "unity of the faith"? Who can say that the New Testament body of Christ has reached "the stature of the fulness of Christ"?

Practicing the discipline of consulting the broader context of biblical teaching, we can discern that there is *no* legitimate office of apostle operating in the Christian church today. Consider the following:

I. The Role of Apostles Was Not Intended as a Perpetual Office

Ephesians 2:20

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

¹ Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 606-607

The Bible says that the work of the first century apostles was foundational in nature, that is to say, they played a key role as God's designated spokesmen, initially planting New Testament churches, teaching, and carrying out the Great Commission (Matt. 28:16-20). Once the foundational work of the apostles was done, their work continues in perpetuity thru the work of New Testament churches.

A survey of the whole counsel of the Bible brings the temporary nature of apostles into clear relief. Let's look at why LDS claims to modern-day apostles are unfounded.

A. Specific Apostles and Prophets

The word "the" in Ephesians 2:20 is a definite article which infers a context specific to the apostles then living—not a continuing, unbroken line of apostles for every generation.

B. The Foundation is the Apostle's Work, Not the Apostles Themselves

LDS might say, well, if apostles and prophets are the foundation of the church, how then can we have a church without these modern-day offices? Can a building remain without a foundation?

But that presumes that the foundation is comprised of these offices. To the contrary, the foundation that has been built is the work of the apostles...not the apostles themselves.

1 Corinthians 3:9-1

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have [past tense] laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul indicated that his foundational work was done, or coming to a close. Now, we—bible-believing New Testament believers—are continuing the ongoing work of constructing the building of Christ, one saved soul at a time.

Mormon friend, do you still want to hear from apostles? You can. Their found on the pages of the Bible. Do you want to hear apostles speak in our day? Then read the Bible out loud! It's in their words recorded in the Bible that find God speaking to us today and the Bible's message is just as relevant and sufficient today as when the transcripts were penned!

Let's consider another point as we read of the New Jerusalem that will someday come down from Heaven:

Revelation 21:14

And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Note that the “names” of the apostles will be in the twelve—count it, twelve—foundations of the physical, literal city of New Jerusalem as it descends to earth one day for us to dwell within. The persons or presence of the apostles *themselves* are not the foundations, but their names reflect their *foundational work* in establishing and instructing first century churches. Their names upon the city foundations are like the names of architects or builders that are etched in modern-day cornerstones of our buildings today. The builder or person is not *himself* cemented within the foundation walls, although that would be an intriguing sight. Rather, the builder's *work* is clearly seen and memorialized on the cornerstone itself. The specific biblical number of twelve foundations eliminates any idea that additional Mormon Apostles hold a legitimate New Testament office.

Another key scripture from the Apostle Paul sheds light on this matter:

1 Corinthians, Chapter 3:9-11

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Note once again that the foundation of which Paul speaks is not himself or the other apostles, but it is the work and message that he gave in the establishment of fledgling New Testament churches. Paul didn't say in verse ten that “I am the foundation.” He said “I have laid the foundation.” That means the foundation exists apart from the apostles themselves. The collective churches of Christ are to this very day being built upon the foundation of the first century apostle's work, and not the men themselves.

C. The Foundation is Finished

Looking again at 1 Corinthians 3:10, Paul said that he had “laid” the foundation. “Laid” is in the aorist tense, referring to an action which has been completed in the past, once and for all,

not needing to be repeated.² When a foundation is built, there is no more need for foundation work. As the apostle mentioned in verse ten, we—not apostles—are now the “every man” that function as careful builders, as we share the gospel. God’s “building” grows, as every lost sinner accepted the gospel, escapes eternal punishment in Hell, and joins the redeemed family of God. We need no modern-day apostles for this work, as we are all missionaries for Christ.

We see elsewhere within the New Testament itself that apostolic teachings were considered final and authoritative, even though the apostles are no longer physically present with us today. Jude is a good example, where we read:

Jude 1:3

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

This word “once” is the Greek word *hapax*, meaning “once for all.” This refers to something that has been done once for all time and never needs repeating or amending. Then, after warning the saints about false teachers, Jude continues:

Jude 1:17

But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We see then that our responsibility today is not to be following new words, but to be remembering and following the words “before,” which have already been taught and delivered once for all time by the first century apostles.

While this fact may not empower Mormon apostles, the Bible truth is that though not physically present with us anymore, the first century apostles continue to serve foundationally in the church today through their inspired and preserved teachings. Just as Christ continues to be the cornerstone and Head of the church today, though not bodily present, His apostles continue to be Christ’s authoritative teachers today as well, though long since departed.

D. The Foundation of Christ is Unrivaled

Yet again, 1 Corinthians 3:11 shows that the foundational work and message of Paul and the apostles was not that of their own, but it was the unrivaled work of Christ, “*For other*

² Strong’s Concordance, Number G5778

foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” If Christ is our foundation, then who else do we need to safely build our lives upon? Clearly, the foundation of Christ is a firm foundation and sufficient for our day. He is now the only apostle of our faith:

Hebrews 3:1

Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

II. Mormon Apostles Fail Apostolic Qualifications

The unchanging God of Christianity would never change the qualifications He had for first century apostles. As such, consider how LDS apostles come short:

A. Apostles Had to Be Eye Witnesses of Christ and His Resurrection

To highlight a few examples, note that the Apostle Peter insisted upon this eyewitness requirement when considering the replacement of Judas:

Acts, Chapter 1:21-22

Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

Listen to the Apostle John emphasize the eyewitness credentials of the disciples:

1 John, Chapter 1:1-3

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us...

1 John 4:14

And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

The Apostle Paul defended his eyewitness apostleship, even though he wasn't an apostle during the earthly ministry of Christ:

1 Corinthians 9:1

Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord?...

Then, after reciting the 500 witnesses to Christ's resurrection, Paul says:

1 Corinthians, Chapter 15:7-8

After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as one born out of due time.

Paul was "untimely born" in the sense that he was not among the apostles that saw and witnessed the physical, earthly ministry of Jesus. Paul came too late for that. However, Paul still met apostolic eyewitness criteria since he saw the glory of the Lord and heard His voice during a post-ascension appearance of the resurrected Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 22:6-15).

Ananias, who gave back Paul's vision after being blinded by the light of the Lord's glory, told Paul:

Acts, Chapter 22:14-15

...The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.

Clearly then, the Bible has been careful to document the eyewitness credentials of the apostles. It is for this eyewitness criterion of apostleship that the continuance of this office would have been discontinued soon after the end of the first century, when all qualified eye witnesses to Christ would have been deceased.

B. Infallible Proofs

After the resurrection of the biblical Christ, we read that He presented Himself alive, providing incontrovertible proof of his return:

Acts 1:2-3

Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Once again LDS reader, are you going to follow the feelings and statements of Mormon Apostles, that they "know He lives", two centuries removed from the apostles who walked with Christ and sat under His teaching; or will you repent and believe the biblical record from apostles who saw the risen Christ with their very eyes? One testimony is a trustworthy record; the other, a counterfeit.

Moreover, Christ's infallible proofs were supported by the fact that He didn't just appear in isolated cases to individuals. He appeared to multiple witnesses who could corroborate the experience they witnessed with their own eyes. Christ appeared simultaneously to all even disciples, minus Thomas (Lk. 24:36-43; Jn. 20:19-25). He appeared to seven disciples at the Sea of Tiberias (Jn. 21:1-23). He appeared to the disciples at a mountain in Galilee (Matt. 28:16-17). He appeared to over 500 people at one time (1 Cor. 15:6).

This is *not* the experience of Mormon Apostles, many of whom have never hinted that they have seen him, and for those who have, why didn't Christ appear to every apostle at once, especially given His biblical warnings that we are *not* to believe reports of Christ's appearing before the second coming? (Matt. 24:23—27).

C. Apostles Exhibited Apostolic Gifts Not Seen by LDS Apostles

Second Corinthians 12:12 says that *"Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds."*³ These important signs were given to demonstrate that first century apostles had the authoritative credentials of a prophet, and that their message was commissioned of God. These were no isolated instances. Signs were a pattern. Lame men stood, leaped, and walked. The dead were raised. Demons were cast out. Laws of nature were suspended or overruled!

Have any LDS Apostles struck fear in their membership from their "many wonders and signs" (Acts 2:43)? Not once, and this is a big problem! Mormonism posits that it is the restored, true Church. Then why do we not see the same pattern of the first century apostles?

Of course, Mormonism has some faith-promoting claims, but they are not equivalent. For example, here is what the 15th President and Prophet of the Mormon Church claimed when in a far-away place:

I recall once when I arrived in Hong Kong I was asked if I would visit a woman in the hospital whose doctors had told her she was going blind and would lose her sight within a week. She asked if we would administer to her and we did so, and she states that she was miraculously healed....⁴

LDS Apostles evidently heal those in a far country that were "going blind," whereas biblical apostles heal those who *were* blind and there's a big difference. This woman's experience is

3 See also Acts 2:43; 3:2-9; 5:12,16; 6:8; 8:6-7,13; 9:34-35, 40-42; 14:3, 8-10; 15:12, 19; 16:16-18; 19:11; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:3-4

4 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, *Teachings of Gordon B. Hinckley* (1997), p. 343

subjective. Doctors could have been wrong in their prognosis. Has anyone else outside the Mormon Church substantiated this? Mormon friend, don't fall for subjective substitutes.

Mormon Apostle Neil Andersen has given a dubious miracle standard that works every time for every apostle:

Miracles are not always so immediate. At times we thoughtfully wonder why the miracle we have so earnestly prayed for does not happen here and now. But as we trust in the Savior, promised miracles will occur. Whether in this life or the next, all will be made right.⁵

But miracles of the first century apostle *were* immediate. They *were* unmistakable...irrefutable. But for LDS apostles, if nothing happens now, just wait until the afterlife. LDS reader, this is an escape clause. This is subjective. This is *not* the same power held by authentic apostles recorded in the Bible. Mormonism has other stories, such as the dead being raised in little villages in 1914 New Zealand and other foreign places that cannot be objectively verified. Mormon reader, do you have any modern-day North American miracle stories of the same unqualified nature as the first century apostles? I'm waiting.

D. Apostles Were Selected by Christ

Today, Mormon Apostles are chosen through "inspiration" by the President and Prophet of the Mormon Church, and then sustained by general membership.

Christian apostles, however, were either handpicked by Christ (including the Apostle Paul), or in the case of Judas's replacement, the eleven disciples cast lots, ensuring that the decision was made once again by God—not man.

Casting lots was common practice in the Old Testament.⁶ This process was anything but random chance. It was, at times, how God revealed His will in decisions that were to be free from the fallible and biased choices of mankind. Solomon said, "*The lot is cast into the lap, but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD*" (Prov. 16:33).

Weasel Words

As we have seen, biblical apostles literally saw Christ and were literal eyewitnesses of Him and His ministry. This is a critical safeguard against false prophets. Mormons enjoys no such

5 Neil L. Anderson, What Things Christ of Me?, General Conference talk, April 2012

6 Leviticus 16:8; Numbers 26:55; 33:54; 34:13; Joshua 14:2; 18:6,10; 19:51; 1 Samuel 14:42; Nehemiah 10:34; Psalm 16:5; Acts 13:19

safeguard. While some contemporary accounts exist where Mormon apostles and prophets claimed to have seen Christ, most were in dreams...a far different standard from the physical presence that biblical apostles enjoyed with Christ.

While no official affirmations have been made by the Mormon Church that their apostles have literally seen Christ, Mormon leadership uses substitute language, intended to convey their authority. Here's how the Mormon Church characterizes their apostles:

Members of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles are moder-day prophets, seers, and revelators who stand as "special witnesses of the name of Christ in all the world" (D&C 107:23). As such, they have the responsibility to testify of the divinity of Jesus Christ and of His mission as the Savior and Redeemer of the world.⁷

My friend, I am witness of the *name* of Christ. I testify of the divinity of Jesus Christ and his salvific mission. My authority comes from the inspired Word of God. I don't need a Mormon Apostle to tell me that, and their witness is no more "special" than mine. However, there's a huge difference between Mormon Apostles claiming to be witnesses of the *name* of Christ, and biblical apostles, who were literal witnesses of the ontological presence and ministry of Christ. They lived with Him, labored with Him, and could testify as eyewitnesses of His vicarious death and victorious resurrection. They saw His miracles. They sat under His teaching, much of which is not recorded in scripture. This gave them insight into the thinking of Christ that no Mormon Apostle has similarly experienced. And again, they were personally selected and set apart by Christ for their apostolic roles.

Incredibly, listen to the testimony of an LDS Apostle, who would have you believe that his "witness" is equivalent to eye-witness apostles. Apostle Henry B. Eyring testified:

I am a witness of the Resurrection of the Lord as surely as if I had been there in the evening with the two disciples in the house on Emmaus road....I so testify as a witness of the risen Savior and our Redeemer.⁸

Absolutely incredible! Friend, this might be soul-stirring for true-blue Mormons, but this is *not* the same authority standard as with biblical apostles and it is a false equivalency. This is a good example of just how certain LDS can be about "knowing" something, as long as they have a firm testimony about it. LDS reader, are you going to trust your eternal soul to real, literal eyewitnesses of Christ, or to counterfeit apostles, testifying "as if" they have been with Christ?

⁷ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, *Ensign*, 2014, Special Witnesses Testify of the Living Christ.

⁸ Henry B. Eyring, Apostle and First Counselor in the First Presidency, "Come Unto Me," *Ensign*, May 2013, p. 25.

Incredibly, other Mormon Apostles attempt to shut down inquiry, as to whether they have literally seen Christ, by claiming that their experiences are too special to tell others about. Here's an example from LDS Apostle Marion G. Romney:

I don't know just how to answer people when they ask the question, "Have you seen the Lord?" I think that the witness that I have and the witness that each of us has, and the details of how it came, are too sacred to tell. I have never told anybody some of the experiences I have had, not even my wife. I know that God lives. I not only know that he lives, but I know him.⁹

Christ appearing to you and validating you as a legitimate apostle is too sacred to tell anybody about! Really? Or could it be that Romney is just uncomfortable misleading people and telling them that he's an actual eyewitness of Christ? LDS Reader, can you with a clear mind justify how it would ever be wrong to share your ontological witness of Christ to a dying world that needs to know that Jesus lives? What's more powerful...a testimony of faith from a burning bosom, or a literal eyewitness testimony? This is obfuscation from LDS leadership, plain and simple. Let me definitively answer for Romney. He most assuredly *has not* seen the Lord! For those then living, the next time anyone see's Christ will be when he comes again "*...in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works*" (Matt. 16:27). Of this, Bill Young testifies. It's sacred, and it's too good *not* to tell!

Mormon reader, your apostles not only *have not* witnessed to the same Christ in the same way that biblical apostles did, but they're not teaching the same *message* that the biblical Christ and apostles did. Be warned! The creative language for Mormon witnesses is a false and misleading substitute that will lead you astray. I urge you, trust the literal eyewitnesses.

Ultimately, while LDS place the words of their prophet and apostles above the Bible, this puts man over the authority of God's settled Word. But Christians use a different standard, one which doesn't ask "does it agree with the Mormon Apostles?", but rather, "Does it agree with the Bible?"¹⁰ Let's look at just two scriptures and let's also let God's Word speak shall we?

Isaiah 8:20

To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Acts 17:11

9 Marion G. Romney, cited in F. Burton Howard, Marion G. Romney: His Life and Faith, Salt Lake City, UT, Bookcraft, 1988. P. 222.

10 Isaiah 8:20; Acts 17:11; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 14:29

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

CONCLUSION

If we were to succinctly define what an apostle was in the first-century church, it was someone who was called to give eye-witness testimony of the ministry of Christ. Not a single Mormon Apostle can meet this definition.

With the biblical eyewitness limitation for apostleship well established in scripture, how do LDS get around this limiting criterion for their own apostles? Mormonism has simply changed the standard. One Mormon Church student manual says that *"The witness of Jesus Christ which is given to the [Mormon] Apostles is more powerful than that which can be obtained by sight:"*¹¹ Tenth Mormon President, Joseph Fielding Smith, changed the standard with this dangerous precedent:

The question frequently arises: "Is it necessary for a member of the Council of the Twelve to see the Savior in order to be an apostle?" It is their privilege to see him if occasion requires, but the Lord has taught that there is a stronger witness than seeing a personage, even of seeing the Son of God in a vision. Impressions on the soul that come from the Holy Ghost are far more significant than a vision. When Spirit speaks to spirit, the imprint upon the soul is far more difficult to erase. Every member of the Church should have impressions that Jesus is the Son of God indelibly pictured on his soul through the witness of the Holy Ghost.¹²

So, there you have it. Another subjective standard that steers you away from the biblical, eyewitness safeguard held by first century apostles. The "burning bosom" or sincere feelings held by a Mormon Apostle are more important to the Mormon Christ than anything an eyewitness to Christ's earthly ministry could vouch for! **Mormon friend, this is *not* the same standard of the Bible and it provides *nowhere near* the same level of safety and protection from charlatans and false apostles.** With this false standard established, even a cursory comparison of the teachings between Mormon apostles those of the biblical apostles shows that someone isn't telling the truth.

¹¹ *Teachings of the Living Prophets*, Student Manual Religion 333, p. 29

¹² Joseph Fielding Smith, "The First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve," *Improvement Era*, Nov. 1966, p. 979

With the biblical eyewitness safeguard removed, Mormonism teaches that not only did Christ appoint Twelve Apostles during his Jerusalem ministry, but that he visited North America after his resurrection and appointed twelve more apostles to carry out his work there as well. But if this really happened, then the Mormon Christ has set a dangerous precedent by exposing His followers to the danger of false Christ's and false doctrines. Today, as then—from the Reverend Sung Yung Moon to David Koresh of the Branch Davidians—false teachers claim to be the very Christ and Messiah, and they have no lack of followers. Christ warned His eyewitness disciples of this very danger:

Matthew, Chapter 24:23-26

Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

Today, the Mormon Church gives its prospects a post resurrection report of a Christ appearing in North America to Book of Mormon Nephites. Should we believe this story? We read the record in the Book of Mormon, where people in America, apart from the Jerusalem disciples “*saw a Man descending out of heaven*” who said of Himself “*Behold, I am Jesus Christ...And behold, I am the light and the life of the world...Behold, verily, verily, I say unto you, I will declare unto you my doctrine.*”¹³ Should we believe this report? It is said of this Christ in the Book of Mormon that he performed many signs and wonders—from healing the sick, to sending angels and fire from heaven.

Believe this story at your own risk, for the Bible is clear that the antichrist will deceive many, being a near perfect imitation of the real Jesus Christ. In the last days, the false prophet will appear, and all who are not saved will worship him (Rev. 13:8). We read in the Bible that this charlatan will do “*great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do...*” (Rev. 13:13-14). Sound familiar with the Mormon Jesus in North America?

According to the Bible, this impostor will have the power to give life, even unto a manmade graven idol, which will have the ability to speak (Rev. 13:14-15). The Apostle Paul warned of a

¹³ *Book of Mormon*, 3 Nephi 11:8, 10-11, 31

day when *"Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness..."* (2 Thess. 2:9-10). We read in the Book of Mormon that the Christ of Mormonism proved His crucifixion and resurrection to the American people by showing the nail scars on His body; but the Christ of the Bible warned once again that *"false Christ's, and false prophets...shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect"* (Matt. 24:24). Make no mistake, it is not beyond the schemes or power of a demonically controlled, counterfeit Christ to produce crucifixion bruises and scars of his own.

Friend, this is why it was essential for the true apostles of Christ to have far more than "burning bosoms" and sincerely held testimonies. They were to be eyewitnesses of the earthly ministry of Christ! They saw His work from beginning to end—rather than a Christ showing up in America saying, in essence *"Have you heard what I did over in the near east? Now I'd like to bring the true gospel to you too!"*

Reader, don't be fooled. Today, if somebody says *"Behold, Christ is in Rome,"* or *"Lo, Christ is in Missouri,"* believe it not! We have the assurances of eyewitness apostles, who knew the real Christ and His passion on earth from beginning to end. *These same men* have assured us that the next time Christ appears, He's coming for his blood-bought Church—not for a new gospel seminar in a foreign land.

In Christ

Bill Young