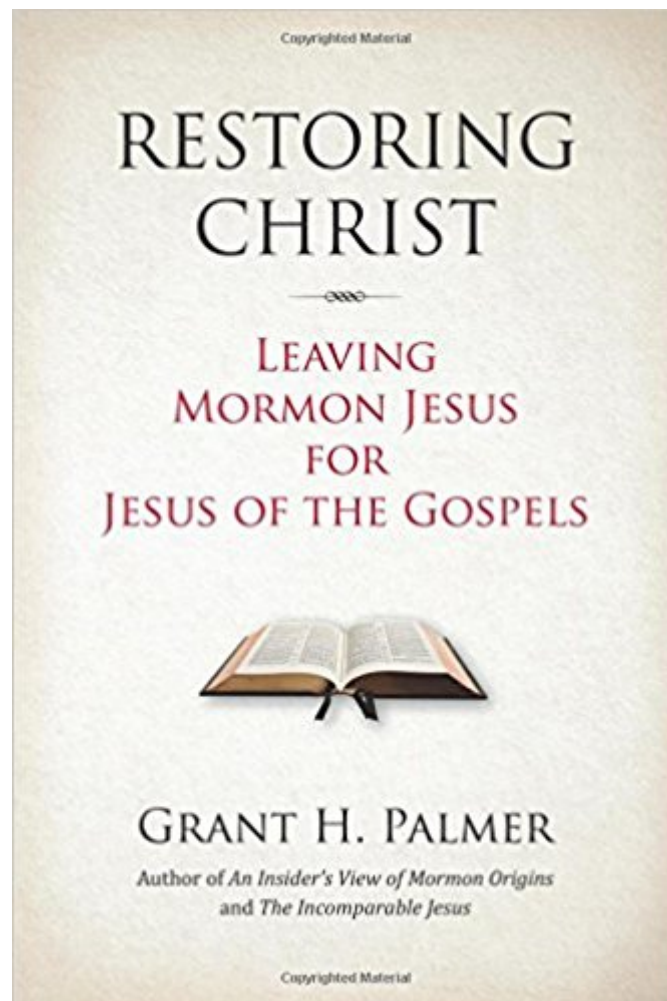




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Restoring Christ: Leaving Mormon Jesus For Jesus Of The Gospels



Synopsis

I have come to greatly prefer the Jesus of the Gospels over the Jesus of Mormonism. This book is an exploration of the foundations of my journey, and what I have chosen to believe, what I hope others might consider. I write on Christianity and I write on Mormonism, with the hope that struggling Latter-day Saints can find a way forward with Christ as their foundation. Looking at both Christianity and Mormonism, my intent is to lift the baby from the bathwater, to restore the Savior, with no desire to save the Jesus of Mormonism. Joseph Smith's Restoration has grave problems. He went astray in my view, because he went beyond the footprint of Jesus' teachings, committing the same mistake he claimed others had made. I suppose this book is a Restoration-type endeavor; an effort to rediscover what is most basic, most important. How ironic to seek to restore the Christ of the Gospels from Mormonism! So what does a Latter-day Saint do when they discover that the church narrative they were taught all their life has fallen apart? For me, the "revelations" of Mormon Jesus and their practice by Joseph Smith is especially seen in chapters 9, 17-19 is radically different from the behavior, character and personality of Jesus of Nazareth. For example, Smith produced "scriptures" which depended on nineteenth-century sources, claiming them to be ancient. He initiated a secret "spiritual wife system" which included concubines and slandered women who resisted his sexual advances. He married young teenagers and other men's wives. He cursed his enemies and set up a secret organization, had himself ordained king and sought to violently overthrow the Nation. Comparing the two portraits has been the single most cathartic event since my crisis of faith. I find the Jesus of the Gospels to better reflect God's nature and love, and thus how to clearly respond to others as a disciple.

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Customer Reviews

Grant Palmer is one of the most important voices of 21st century Mormonism. When he writes, I pay attention. To me, Restoring Christ is important because so many post-Mormons abandon God and Christ when they abandon Mormonism. With Restoring Christ, Grant thoughtfully challenges post-Mormons to give God and Christ a second chance. If you value Grant Palmer's contributions to Mormonism, you will definitely value this book. Palmer's genius lies in his ability to: 1) figure out what stories and issues are most important regarding Mormon/Christian origins, and 2) convey and explore these issues in a concise, thoughtful, and respectful manner. Restoring Christ is a very worthy companion to his groundbreaking book, An Insider's View of Mormon Origins. You will not be disappointed. John Dehlin, Ph.D. -- Host of Mormon Stories Podcast

It was the prophetic impulse that drove Jeremiah, Hosea, and Jesus to teach, call and focus others to return to the covenant, to honor God's sacred community and the most vulnerable among us. As such, I assert that Grant Palmer is in good company, a prophetic voice calling to make crooked paths straight and build a highway out of the wilderness of doubt and poverty straight into the peace and justice of the City of God. Prophetic voices can be harsh to hear. Hosea compared Israel--God's people--to a prostitute. Even if it's hard to read Palmer's critique at times, this book ought to be read and considered by every believing Mormon--as a way of focusing on Christ and Christ's mission, on what matters most for the journey ahead. Anonymous General Church Official -- Community of Christ

Grant Palmer has always maintained, "Only the truth is good enough for the Latter-day Saints." So he has stubbornly pursued the truth in all his writings. But truth based on tradition or authority takes a back seat to relying instead on logic and textual analysis both biblical and historical. He believes that whenever religion claims to have a truth, logic must apply with as much force as anywhere else where we talk about truth. To claim, as some religions do, that logic is irrelevant to spiritual truth is to claim for those things a status other than truth. His discovered truth is not always pleasant though some of us still decide what is true by how good we feel when we believe it. Palmer has given us 20 true takes on the Mormon movement's view of Jesus and the restoration. Richard Russell -- Retired LDS Institute Instructor

I'm still reading the book but really enjoying it a lot more than I thought I would. I was a Mormon and

pretty much abandoned Christianity when I left Mormonism. I have been open-minded on Jesus, generally being more skeptical but not entirely shutting the door. Once bitten, twice shy basically. I like how Grant doesn't sugarcoat the strong arguments against Christianity but rather also provides his take on the evidence for Jesus but isn't presented in an overwhelming apologist type of way. By reading this book, I have learned many things about Jesus and the Bible that I never learned attending the Mormon church. I just started attending another christian church with my family. I enjoy it much more and can accept the real possibility that Jesus is not merely myth and worth consideration as it can make me feel more at peace and be beneficial for my family. This was not possible before reading Grant's book. Thank you Grant.

I had a hard time believing in God and Jesus again after I've found out some nasty truths of the church. Reading this gave me comfort and opened new doors to my faith. I'm so grateful for people like Grant Palmer taking his time to research and put together a book like this. I recommend this book to anyone struggling with their faith after leaving the Mormon church.

I can't say enough good things about Grant's insights and treatment of important issues. His discussions on the violent God and the two Jesus' were very well done. I learned many new things in the 2nd half of the book dealing with historical issues. I recommend this book to any Christian or Mormon who wants a better understanding of Jesus and Mormon history.

In the Product Description above Grant H. Palmer states the following: He (meaning Joseph Smith) initiated a secret spiritual wife system. This is a proven falsehood often put forward by anti-mormons who hope that their hearers do not know Mormon History. You do not have to take my word for it, a quick internet search on spiritual wives will reveal the following. The concept of spiritual wives was in fact not originated by Joseph Smith. You will also find that John C. Bennett (who was Mayer of Nauvoo) introduced spiritual wives teaching to some Mormons in Nauvoo. You will also learn that Mr. Bennett was excommunicated from Mormonism for his practices of spiritual wives. John told a number of the woman he seduce that the practice was approved by Joseph and would be preached openly once the other followers of Joseph were strong enough to abide by it. Mr. Bennett is also on record stating that Joseph Smith never taught or practiced the concept of spiritual wives. He was also kicked out of a Mormon splinter group (after the death of Joseph) for secretly teaching and practicing spiritual wives and claiming that the leader of the splitter groups was approving it. Mr. Palmer like most anti-mormons seems more concerned with damaging Mormonism than in

presenting accurate information.

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