



Messenger Project Newsletter

The Messenger

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A NONPROFIT CORPORATION PROMOTING THE BIBLE THROUGH THE ARTS

Messenger Project Members

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Messenger Notes



Bart and Raymond

Bart Broadnax and **Raymond Genovese** started recording bass and drum tracks on March 16th for the upcoming **Messenger Project CD**.

Skip Hahn recorded keyboard tracks and **Lionel De Leon** recorded rhythm guitars and vocals.

Cults that Mimic Christianity

Mormans add the *Book of Mormon*, the *Doctrine and Covenants* and the *Pearl of Great Price* as sacred text (along with the Bible). The *Book of Mormon* claims to be a history of a partial tribe of Joseph that traveled to America in 600 BC and contains another testament of Jesus Christ, along with prophecies and commandments. The *Doctrine and Covenants* claim to contain revelations of God to Joseph Smith. The *Pearl of Great Price* claims to have two lost books of the Bible, a translation of Matthew and *The 13 Articles of Faith*. Mormons teach that there are 3 degrees of glory that are ultimate dwelling places for eternity. The *celestial kingdom* is for those who keep the law of Christ and is likened to the light of the sun. The *terrestrial kingdom* is for good people who could not know Jesus or were deceived into not following Him and is likened to the light of the moon. The *testial kingdom* is for the vast majority of people who live according to the guidelines of the world, called the *testitial law* and is likened to the light of the stars. The *outer darkness* is reserved for those deemed the *sons of perdition*, or those who live in open rebellion against God, breaking even the *testitial law*. Mormons practice baptism for the dead (a living person acts as a dead person's proxy) and believe in *celestial marriage*, where a husband and wife are married for eternity. They also practice *rebaptism*, the re-dedication of a life for Christ.

Jehovah's Witness claim the Bible as their final authority, but have their own translation

and interpretation of Scripture. They believe only in "Jehovah God" and do not believe in the Trinity nor that Jesus is God in the flesh. They do not celebrate Christmas or birthdays because they are deemed to have pagan origins. Their only annual day for special observance is the Memorial of Christ's death. Other Jehovah's Witness beliefs are: using God's name (Jehovah) is vital for true worship, the Holy Spirit is God's means of acting (not the third person of the Trinity), Jesus is God's first creation, Jesus was used by God to create every other creation, Jesus was also known as the Archangel Michael in his pre-human existence, the cross is rejected as a symbol for Christ's death (seen as a pagan addition), the soul is believed to be mortal, death is a state of non-existence, hell is the common grave of mankind and a place of unconsciousness (not fiery torment), those not saved are annihilated (ceasing to exist) as opposed to damned (eternally in hell).

Christian Science celebrates Baptism as a purification from all error and Communion as a spiritual communion with the one God (bread represents truth, the cup represents the cross, wine represents the inspiration of love). The only ritual in the Christian Science church is voluntary kneeling at the Sacrament service twice a year, while repeating the Lord's prayer. Marriage is not a sacrament, but holds a special place in Christian Science as the moral and legal institution within which a man and woman can partner to help one another grow into a fuller completeness as expressions of the Father-Mother God. Christian Scientists are trinitarian, but in an unorthodox way. Life, Truth, and Love constitute the triune Person called God. They represent a trinity: God the Father-Mother; Christ the spiritual idea of sonship, and Divine Science or the Holy Comforter. These three express the threefold, essential nature of the infinite. They have the following beliefs: the reality of being and of all existence is spiritual, not material; Spiritual reality is the only reality and all else is an illusion or error (this is why and how healing through prayer is possible); prayer does not ask God to intervene, but is a process of learning more of God's spiritual reality and "awakening mortal thought," by degrees, to spiritual truth; there is no life, truth, intelligence, nor substance in matter; sickness is the result of fear,

ignorance, or sin, and that when the erroneous belief is corrected, the sickness will disappear.

The **Unification Church** follows these teachings: Reverend Moon is the messiah of the Second Coming and his wife is the Holy Spirit. He and his wife are called *The True Parents* where he is the *True Father* and his wife the *True Mother*. They are the first couple to be able to bring forth children with no "original sin." The cross is the symbol of the defeat of Christianity. The Bible is considered scripture along with Moon's work, *Divine Principles*. Sin is genetically based and is not a moral issue. The thieves on the cross represent political movements. The thief on the right side of Jesus represents democracy. The thief on the left of Jesus is communism. Adam and Eve fell because of sexual sin. Eve had sexual relations with Satan. Jesus is a 'true person' though not God in flesh. The Holy Spirit is the True Mother, or *Second Eve*. The church denies the doctrine of the Trinity. Nature is dualistic: male and female, positive and negative, external and internal. God has an external and internal aspect called the *Universal Prime Energy*. It creates, develops, and sustains the cosmos. God's internal aspect is personhood - motivation, purpose and identity. People determine their own future place in the spirit world after death through what they do here on earth.

These religions call themselves Christian but stray from traditional teachings of the Bible. They all were created after the 19th century (Mormonism 1805, Jehovah's Witness 1872, Christian Science 1879, Unification Church 1954) and were initiated by one person (Mormonism: Joseph Smith, Jehovah's Witness: Charles Taze Russell, Christian Science: Mary Baker Eddy, Unification Church: Sun Myung Moon).

With so many religious sects and conflicting doctrines, it is important to stay grounded in Scripture. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians: *Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test? (2 Cor 13:5)* Do we live a life that is pleasing to God? Our denomination doesn't save us, rather it is our faith in Christ (and obedience to him).