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# Contending FOR THE Faith™

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE THE TRUTH AND HATE ERROR

## HAS GOD CHANGED HIS MIND (AGAIN)?

Roelf L. Ruffner

“For I am the Lord, I change not...” (Mal. 3:6).

Human or man-made organizations often change their policy due to changes in the economy, management, and public opinion. But God has not changed His mind on spiritual matters in 2,000 years. He has not updated, revised or changed His word, the Holy Bible, since it was given to men in written form (Rev. 22:18,19). His divine revelation will be used to judge humanity at the Judgment Day whether they lived in 2019 B.C. or 2019 A.D. (John 12:48; Rev. 20:12).

Recently, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (the Mormons) dramatically changed its policy regarding homosexual or same sex marriage. In 2015, the church policy was changed so that same sex couples were considered “apostate” and their children could not be baptized in the church. The change was announced to be by a “divine” revelation of the President of this theological cult who is considered a “prophet, seer and revelator” by its members. In other words, for them he speaks for God. On April 4, 2019, the church had God changing His mind. Now same sex couples are not considered apostate and their children can be baptized in the church. Yet homosexual behavior, including same sex marriage, is still considered immoral, according to the President.

Changes in policy or doctrine are not unknown in this man-made organization because they believe in continuing revelation from God. For example, they were originally known as the Church of Christ in 1830. Later names for this organization included the Church of the Latter-Day Saints (by 1834 resolution), the Church of Jesus Christ, the Church of God, the Church of Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and the

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (by an 1838 revelation). Frequent changes of name by human organizations are common. But it is not the hallmark of the church that Jesus built. Concerning individual members of the Lord’s church, the inspired Luke wrote, “**And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch**” (Acts 11:26).

In 1843, Smith secretly issued a revelation which encouraged polygamy (plural marriage) among its members. He ended up having at least 40 wives. Polygamy was a doctrine of the church and a practice of some of its members for the next sixty years. Yet, in 1890, this “revelation” from God was disavowed in the church by President Wilford Woodruff by a manifesto. The manifesto was a response to mounting anti-polygamy pressure from the United States Congress which forbade Utah from becoming a state. In 1904, President Joseph F. Smith banned plural marriage altogether. So, it took two supposed revelations to get rid of polygamy in this theological cult. Polygamy was never God’s plan for the home and, in the New Covenant, His Son made that clear (cf. Mat. 19:4-6).

In 1852, President Brigham Young proclaimed that no man of black African ancestry could hold the office of the priesthood in the church and would not be allowed to participate in most temple ordinances. Before the Civil War, Young led the effort for the legalization of slavery (black and American Indian) in the Utah Territory over which he was governor. For many years thereafter, officials in the church taught that the black race was spiritually inferior to the white race. Under increasing public pressure, in 1978, President Spencer W. Kimble decreed that men of black African ancestry could become priests and participate in the temple ordinances. In no way does the God of the Bible exclude any race of humanity from being priests or priestesses in Christ’s kingdom—the church.

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**Ira Y. Rice, Jr., Founder**  
**August 3, 1917–October 10, 2001**

**Editorial...**

**N. B. HARDEMAN,  
A RACIST?**

Recently, Oklahoma Christian University changed the name of its auditorium from Hardeman auditorium to Baugh auditorium in honor of Benton and Paula Baugh of Houston, Texas. Reportedly the name change was called for because the late brother N. B. Hardeman was a racist. The same fermented mentality that decided to label brother Hardeman a racist goes hand in glove with the politically correct wrong headedness of those who lament the pitiful state of abused children as they clamor and screech for the right of women to murder their unborn babies.

The passing of time continues to reveal that the schools of higher education operated by weak and apostate brethren are marching to a rapid cadence, “quick stepping” away from primitive, pure New Testament Christianity. Continuing through the wide gate, they gleefully skip down the broad way toward the abyss of denominationalism, ecumenism, and secularism. Amidst “nickels, numbers, and noise,” they have for years lifted high their “ensign fair,” displaying their political correctness and willingness to scratch every itching ear within their reach—for a price.

They are untiring in their efforts to remove themselves from every vestige identifying them with the Lord’s church and the New Testament pattern. They despise those great and good brethren of days gone by who were sound in the faith, faithful proclaimers of the gospel, defenders of the same, and who worked to teach the young people “how to live and how to make a living.” In effect, this is OCU’s slap in the face of those faithful preachers of yesteryear. Many of them and other faithful brethren sacrificed much for such schools at OCU only to be vilified by the spineless powers that be today. Moreover, many of them were the reason such schools began and were able to make it through some very lean years.

The fact of the matter is that OCU, like her sister institutions, are moved ultimately and finally by one thing—money.

The Baughs gave \$1.7 million in 2013 to endow a preaching chair in OC’s College of Biblical Studies and \$1 million in 2014 to serve as startup capital for the College of Engineering and Computer Science. Thousands of dollars funded by the Baugh family are also awarded each year to middle and high school students competing in OC’s annual Baugh Wind Energy Design Competition. Almost \$200,000 in donations also funded the Baugh Motion Capture Studio enjoyed by OC’s Gaming and Animation students. ...

Active members at Memorial Church of Christ in Houston, Texas, the Baughs were introduced to OC by alum and preach-

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For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus (Gal. 3:27, 28).

Figuratively speaking, does God put his finger in the air to see which way the wind is blowing when it comes to determining doctrine? Or, have men tried to make God into their own image—fickle and malleable. No, God is immutable! **“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning”** (Jam. 5:17).

The ever changing doctrine of the Mormons or any other religious group shows us clearly that they are not the church we read about in the New Testament. The church of Christ (as that term is defined and used in the New Testament) does not change because her doctrine is based on the perfect word of God.

**Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away** (1 Cor. 13:8-10).

END NOTES

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homosexuality\\_and\\_The\\_Church\\_of\\_Jesus\\_Christ\\_of\\_Latter-day\\_Saints](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homosexuality_and_The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints) as of April 20, 2019.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mormonism\\_and\\_polygamy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mormonism_and_polygamy) as of April 20, 2019.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church\\_of\\_Christ\\_\(Latter\\_Day\\_Saints\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_Christ_(Latter_Day_Saints)) as of April 20, 2019.

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ing minister David Duncan. Benton’s service to the church include leading unity efforts among Houston churches of diverse backgrounds and helping develop the Spring Branch Iglesia de Cristo. Paula devotes her time and energy to organizations like World Bible School and Impact Houston. They have two grown children (<http://www.oc.edu/blog/oc-names-auditorium-in-honor-of-1-million-donor>).

We noted that the editor of the *Spiritual Sword* (SS) became so disgruntled over OCU’s auditorium name change that he editorialized his disagreement with what was said about brother Hardeman’s alleged racist actions—and he was right to do so. However, not many months ago when Freed-Hardeman’s president defended F-HU’s art department’s policy concerning the viewing of nude art and using disrobed models for art students to paint/draw, SS’s editor remained as silent as an oyster. Furthermore, he gladly spoke on their 2019 lectureship. But, N. B. Hardeman would not have countenanced such nudity in the old Freed-Hardeman College and the SS editor knows it. Would it not be interesting to know what OCU’s policy on nudity in the art department is? And, what is the Baugh’s view of the same? If it was right to speak up concerning the name of brother Hardeman being denigrated by OCU (and it was), why was it not equally important, if not more so, for the *Spiritual Sword*’s Editor (and others of his persuasion) to rebuke the powers that be at F-HU for its erroneous position concerning nudity, when F-HU is in his own back door? The legs of the lame are not equal, but in this case, one of those legs fell off.

Thus, the schools operated by the brethren continue to move to the far left and are encouraged to do so by churches of the same stripe. Further, those brethren who want to be known for their soundness in the faith, but at the same time

strongly desire to sit at head tables, in chief seats, and remain in fellowship with the same are giving aid and comfort to the enemy. They are conservative tokens, or better yet, pawns in the hands of such schools used by them to hoodwink the silly brethren who continue to run to the schools for guidance and leadership in spiritual matters.

If the history of such schools does not tell us that in the long term they are not expedients to helping people serve God faithfully, then what do they tell us? The schools of higher education begun in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries have either completely departed into left wing denominational mentalities (that covers all of those begun in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century), or at present they are at different places on the same road—the one that leads away from pure, primitive, New Testament Christianity in life and doctrine.

—David P. Brown, Editor

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