

Imagine going to pay the check in the restaurant and being told that there was nothing for you to pay because it had already been paid in full by another. What would be your response? Would you insist that you need to contribute? That would be both foolish and an insult to the payer.

My dear LDS friends, are you trying to pay a price that someone has already paid for you? Jesus did all that was needed to bring you back to Heavenly Father. Stop striving and start trusting. Jesus is enough.

Jesus Alone

Even though Micah Wilder was an obedient member of the LDS faith, following to the letter all the laws and ordinances of the LDS gospel, he never had assurance. But now he knows where he is going when he dies.

"Thomas saith unto him, 'Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we

know the way?' Jesus saith unto him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.'" (John 14:5-6)

Back in 2016 I was in Provo, Utah knocking on doors. The LDS people were extremely friendly and interested why a Christian missionary from the UK was knocking on their door. I began by trying to build US/UK relationships by telling them that they drove on the wrong side of the road. I said that it was highly possible that I would be knocked down and killed whilst in Utah, as I kept looking the wrong way when I tried to cross the road. But I assured them, that if I was killed it would be okay because I knew for sure that I would then find myself in the presence of Heavenly Father. So here is the question I asked the householders: "When you die, do you

know for sure that you will be in the presence of Heavenly Father?"

Secure

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." (Acts 16:30-31)

Friends, are you secure? Do you know that when you die you will definitely be with Heavenly Father? Or are you striving to be good enough? Are you trying to pay the check already paid and, by doing so, rejecting the payment Jesus made? Can I challenge you, to choose the right way? In the same way Pastor Benson challenged Elder Wilder, will you read the New Testament like a little child? As you do, will you ask Heavenly Father to speak to you and show you the biblical Jesus? If you ask, seek and knock the

door will be opened to you. (Matthew 7:7-8) and you will discover that Jesus is enough!

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

If you like to know more about trusting in Jesus alone or to receive a free copy of Elder Wilder's book, *Passport to Heaven*, send an email to: tony.brown@aofe.org.uk

1 Micah Wilder, *Passport to Heaven* (Harvest House, 2021), p. 84.

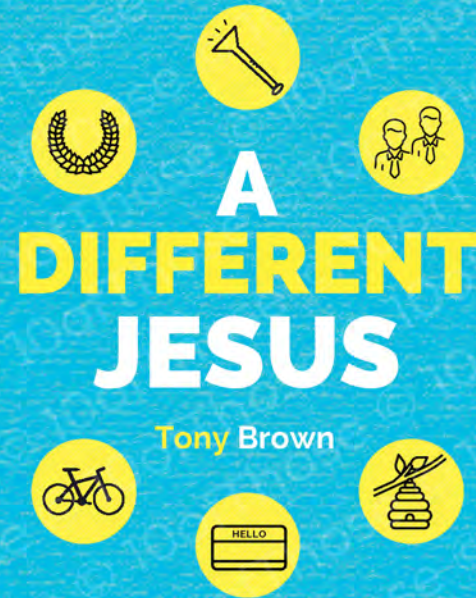
2 *Passport to Heaven*, p. 93.

3 *Passport to Heaven*, p. 98.



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The **LDS Missionary** who discovered the **Jesus he never knew**

Micah Wilder was a zealous young man. He dreamt of the day when he would be called on a Mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He believed that on his mission, Heavenly Father would greatly use him to draw people into the only true church.

Micah's fervour for his church was evident to all. People who knew him believed that he was destined for high leadership within the church. His two older brothers had served a mission, his father was a High Priest and his mother a tenured professor at Brigham Young University in Utah. The time had now come for him to step up and, with a sense of expectation and excitement, he awaited to hear where he would serve the Lord.

Micah arrived in Orlando, Florida full of enthusiasm. Convinced of the calling he had received, and proudly wearing the badge that told the world that he was an Elder for the Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter-day Saints, Micah was raring to go.

He and his mission companion quickly learned that missionary work was a little harder than they had anticipated. Much apathy and verbal abuse came their way, but undeterred Micah, convinced of the truth of the Latter-day Saint faith, carried on regardless. After all, Micah had a testimony that the Book of Mormon was true, he knew that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God, and that the LDS church was the only true church.

Such was Micah's passion for what he knew, that on one occasion he tried to convert a Baptist pastor and his whole congregation.

Pastor Benson

"As I sat stationary in my seat with my heart pumping heavily, I looked up at Pastor Benson, hoping that I would visibly see a miraculous and instantaneous change in his life, that

my punch had met his mark. I half expected to see tears rolling down his face...but no."

As Micah shared the LDS gospel with Pastor Benson, he was hopeful that the scales he believed were on the Pastor's eyes would fall away and that he would receive the powerful message of the restored church. It didn't happen!

Rather the Pastor, acknowledging the zeal and sincerity of the two young missionaries, turned to them and shared the glaring differences between what the Bible taught, and the message believed upon and taught by the LDS church.

"The biggest difference between you and me is that you believe in a different Christ. Your Jesus is not my Jesus...My Jesus died on a cross so that all who believe may be saved through His blood. Did yours?"²

A Different Jesus?

Could it be that the Jesus of the LDS faith was vastly different to the Jesus of biblical Christianity? Shocked by these words, and with his blood boiling, Elder Wilder sought to defend himself, but Pastor Benson hadn't finished yet. It was time to leave, but the Pastor had one more thing to say:

"Elder Wilder, I challenge you to study the Word of God; read it, feast upon it, and prove that what I told you is wrong. I promise that if you read the New Testament as a child – with an open heart seeking for truth – God will open your eyes to His boundless love, and you will see for the very first time the beauty and simplicity of the good news of Jesus Christ."³

Challenged by Pastor Benson's parting shot, Elder Wilder embarked on reading through the New Testament. During the rest of his mission, he read it twelve times. As he did, God began

to open his eyes and his heart to the biblical Jesus. With three weeks remaining of his mission, Elder Wilder came to accept that Jesus was enough.

It is Finished!

After reading the New Testament, Micah began to realise that he didn't need to strive to be perfect, because there was a perfect one who had done all that was necessary on his behalf. He didn't need to 'do' anything because it had already been 'done'.

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost." (John 19:30 KJV)

What did Jesus mean when he said: "It is finished"? The Greek word translated here is tetelestai. This is an accounting term which means "paid in full." By His death on the cross Jesus had paid in full our sin debt.