



*HE IS SAVIOR, ACTS 4:12

March 8, 2025

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Commonality among various Christian groups, whether they are truly saved or not, is doctrine/theology – belief in the Triune God, and that Jesus is God, the Second Person in Godhead who became a man to be mankind's sin-bearer and provider for their salvation. There are many Pseudo-Christian religions, but they only *appear to be Christian, but when looking into their doctrine they are not!* DOCTRINE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE!

THE WORD OF GOD, which is also a title of Jesus Christ (John 1:1, 14; Rev. 19:13), was given to us so that we can know what doctrine is and can instruct and correct those who have been deceived. (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21.)

How did Mormonism begin? There was a young treasure-hunter named Joseph Smith, from the state of New York, who, in the 1820's, claimed to have received some *angelic visitors* who told him about *ancient records written on gold plates*. In 1823 he received a visit from *an angel of light* who revealed him the resting place of these records, buried in a hill near his home. These records were later miraculously translated by Joseph Smith, and published as *the Book of Mormon*. In April of 1830 Joseph Smith organized a Church he named "*The Church of Christ*". In 1835 he changed the name of his church to "*The Church of Latter-day Saints*", and in 1838 he changed it again – *this time to the name his church still has: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*.

The next big change he made came in April of 1844, but now it was a change to a different God. To prepare his congregation for this major change, he began by preaching about the "*religious Freedom*". He said, "*No man is authorized to take away life in consequence of difference of religion, which all laws and governments ought to tolerate and project, right or wrong.*" He continued: "*Every man has a natural, and in our country, a constitutional right to be a false prophet as well as a true prophet. If I show, verily, that I have the truth of God, and show that ninety-nine out of every hundred professing religious ministers are false teachers, having no authority...I will prove that the world is wrong, by showing what God is...I am going to prove it to you by the Bible ...God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man and sits enthroned in yonder heavens! That is the great secret... I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea and take away the veil, so you may see...he was once a man like us,; yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did, and I will show it from the Bible... Here, then is eternal life – to know the only wise and true God; and you got to learn how to be Gods yourselves... same as all Gods have done before*

you... going from grace to grace, from exaltation to exaltation, until you attain the resurrection of the dead, and are able to dwell in everlasting burnings... (...everlasting burnings? Isn't that hell?) (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp. 344-37.) ***On this topic***, Joseph Smith also said, ***"I will preach on the plurality of Gods. I have always and in all congregations when I have preached on the subject of Deity, it has been the plurality of God."*** (Ibid, p. 370.) On this subject Mormon Doctrine proclaimed, (under GOD OF GODS) – ***"... if Jesus had a father, can we not believe that He had a Father also? In this way both the Father and the Son, as also all exalted beings are now or in due course will become Gods of Gods."***

[Mormonism believes in many Gods. They believe in "the chain of gods", ."gods above gods" - that is who Joseph Smith made his God to be – and if Smith's followers are to "learn how to be Gods themselves", that includes temple-marriage, [polygamy (D&C 132)] and eternal pregnancy to women who are "temple-worthy)].

When Mormons talk about God, they say that he is their *"Heavenly Father"*, and when they pray, they address their prayers to their ***Father in Heaven***. They are to think of him as a ***resurrected former mortal man, who once was just like we are now***. They are taught he was married and had many wives. After he died, he, and also his wives were resurrected. During *"eons of time"* he had progressed into a god, and had lived on a ***planet near a Star named Kolob***. Then there, called ***the pre-existence***, all mankind was born to him and his many wives. Mormons believe that we all are ***children of this god***. They are taught that not only do they have a father in heaven, but they have mothers there also...

[Gospel Through Ages, written and published under the direction of the General Authorities (the First Presidency and the Twelve) and was designed for the Melchizedek Priesthood Quorums of the Church by Dr. Milton R. Hunter (also a General authority of the Church). This book contains "the basic truths revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith by the Eternal Father." It teaches about ***Work and Glory of God; Men can become Gods; Eternal Progression of Man; Pagan influences, etc.*** Heavenly Father said that after his spirit-children have ***filled the measure of their existence there in the spirit world***, they could begin to attain the same degree of glory that he now has, and that he will place them on the mortal world, and reveal his plan for them.

"At the great council of heaven, the Father in Heaven appointed noble and great ones to the many important positions of leadership after they should become mortal, among them was Michael the archangel (commonly known as Adam)... also Abraham, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Joseph Smith and others of the holy prophets. He proposed that one of his sons, Jesus, the eldest one of them, would be chosen to become the Savior of the world... then Lucifer, a covetous spirit-brother of Jesus, contested his appointment and presented his own plan of salvation... but it was not approved by the heavenly council." ***JESUS OF MORMONISM BECAME "THE CHOSEN"***, pictured in VIDANGEL STUDIOS' videos.

JESUS OF MORMONISM IS NOT A VIRGIN BORN SON OF ETERNAL GOD WHO BECAME A MAN FOR OUR SALVATION. (Matt. 1:18, 23.)

JESUS OF THE BIBLE IS GOD AND IN HIM DWELLS ALL FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD BODILY.

(John 1:1, 14; Col, 2:9.)

THE WORD OF GOD, which is also a title of Jesus Christ (John 1:1, 14; Rev. 19:13), was given to us so that we can know what doctrine is and can instruct and correct those who have been deceived.

(2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21.)

As we have often mentioned, ***Mormonism has redefined Christian-terms and words and given them different meanings which applies to their personal faith and interpretation of their doctrine.*** If we do not understand what they say and actually mean by *their words*, it confuses some to assume that *“they are on the same page with Mormons”*, and that *they are talking about the same issues with the same definitions*, or they simply do not understand *“Mormon-ese”*, (*the language Mormons use in explaining Christian-terms in their way*). That could be why so many nominal Christians (by name only) who associate with Mormons (and may even have them as their close friends) end up thinking that *Mormons are Christians too*, and join the LDS Church, never even questioning what Mormons really think and believe about life and especially *“life after death”*. (Asking Mormon friends about their faith could clarify that potential problem.) Therefore when we, true believers in Christ Jesus and the biblical gospel, talk with a Mormon about God and Jesus Christ, and notice that their words do not mean what we know and believe, then we are obligated to correct and inform them what the true biblical doctrine concerning these matters are. However, before we are able to do that effectively, we need to be prepared to have a meaningful discussion with those whom we know that perhaps have only a *twisted knowledge* of God or of Jesus and of biblical salvation. If we recognize that, then we are able to correct and inform them what the biblical doctrine that leads to eternal salvation with Christ Jesus is. **To receive eternal life, requires that we know God and also who Jesus is.**

“And this is eternal life, that thy may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.” (John 17:3.)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”(John 1:1-3, 14.) **Jesus is God and the Creator.**

Chapter 17, in John’s gospel, is Jesus’ prayer to God the Father ***for Himself and for all His disciples and for those who through His disciples words have come to faith in Him.*** (17:3-9.)

When Mormons talk about Jesus, they mean their eldest *“spirit brother from the pre-existence”*, and that it was their Heavenly Father who came to the Virgin Mary and physically begot Jesus’ mortal body.

Past President and a Prophet of the Mormon Church, Ezra Taft Benson, in his book, ***“Come Unto Christ”***, p. 4, wrote: ***“The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints proclaims that Jesus Christ is the Son of God in the most literal sense. The body in which He performed His mission in the flesh was sired by the same Holy Being we worship as God, our Eternal Father. Jesus was not the son of Joseph, nor was He begotten by the Holy Ghost. He is the Son of the Eternal Father!”***

(Mormon “prophet’s” Denial of Matthew 1:18, 23.)

Mormon Doctrine, an encyclopedic volume of LDS doctrine, on pages 546-7, verifies this and under ***“ONLY BEGOTTEN SON”***, says, ***“Each of these words is to be understood literally. Only means only, Begotten means begotten; and son mean son. Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by their mortal fathers.”***

An LDS pamphlet, titled, ***“What Mormons think of Christ”*** was for many years distributed by the LDS Church from the Visitors Center on Temple Square in Salt Lake City, states, ***“Christians often speak of the blood of Christ and its cleansing power. Much that is believed and taught on this subject, however, is such utter nonsense and so palpably false that to believe it is to lose one’s salvation. For instance, many believe or pretend to believe that if we confess Christ with our lips and avow that***

accept him as our personal Savior, we are thereby saved. They say that his blood, without any other act than mere belief, makes us clean. What is the true doctrine of the blood of Christ? Salvation comes because of the atonement and the atonement was wrought through shedding of the blood of Christ. In Gethsemane Christ sweat great drops of blood from every pore when he conditionally took upon himself the sins of the world, and then shedding of his blood was completed on the cross.

(From pages 19-20 – a copy of this pamphlet is in our possession. Emphasis added.)

Notice that the Mormon Church teaches that the atonement for salvation took place in Gethsemane, instead on the cross. [The LDS Church does not use the cross as a symbol of faith in what took place on that cross: “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus”, (Rom. 6:23) nor do they acknowledge that **atonement** (His payment for our sins) **took place on the cross.**] **That is God’s Gift of Salvation.** (Ephesians 2:8-9.) Paul also said, “**For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.**” (1 Cor. 1:18.) Paul also reminds us that “**rulers of this world**” and all those under the influence of these powers, **did not know the saving power of the cross of Christ beforehand, “for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”** (1 Cor. 2:8.)

The word “**salvation**” itself has various meanings in Mormonism:

(1) “Unconditional or general salvation comes by **grace alone without obedience the gospel law** – it consists in mere fact of being resurrected. Immortality comes by grace alone, but those who gain it may find themselves damned in eternity...

(2) “Conditional or individual salvation comes by grace coupled with gospel obedience...and live continued righteousness to the end of one’s mortal probation... (but without a temple marriage) they will live separately and singly in an unmarried state without exaltation in their saved condition all eternity. All others are damned.

3) “Salvation in its true and full meaning is synonymous with exaltation or eternal life, gaining inheritance in the highest of the three heavens within the celestial kingdom. *This full salvation is obtained in and through the continuation of family unit in eternity, and those who obtain it are gods!* (D&C 131:1-3.)

“Full salvation is obtained by virtue of knowledge, truth, righteousness and all true principles. Many conditions must exist in order to make such a salvation available to men. Without the atonement, the gospel, the priesthood and the sealing power, there would be no salvation... *If it had not been for Joseph Smith and the restoration, there would be no salvation. There is no salvation outside The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.*” (Mormon Doctrine, pp. 669-670.)

“President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints holds the keys of salvation for all men now living.” (Mormon Doctrine, p. 411.)

Brigham Young, the second president of the LDS Church, elevated Joseph Smith into a position of “**President of Resurrection**”, and said, “**How are you going to get your resurrection? You will get it from Joseph Smith, Jun. ... if you ever get into the kingdom of God, it is because Joseph Smith let you get there...no man or woman in this generation will get a resurrection and be crowned without Joseph Smith saying so. The man martyred in Carthage Jail, State of Illinois, holds the keys of life and death to this dispensation.**” (From “Essentials of Brigham Young”, p. 99.)

BUY religion professor, Robert Millet (June 1994) had an article in *Church's Magazine, Ensign*, and in it he quoted Brigham Young (JoD, vol. 7:289), reminding Mormons that **without Joseph Smith no one can get to where God and Christ are!** He wrote: *"From the day that the priesthood was taken from the earth to the winding up of things of things, every man and woman must have the certificate of Joseph Smith, junior, as a passport to their entrance into the mansion where God and Christ are – I with you and you with me. I cannot go there without his consent."* This teaching was also repeated on p. 133 in the LDS Church's teaching manual, *"Search These Commandments"*.

What is taught about the Gospel by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is not what the biblical Gospel declares. (See: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4!) **The 3rd Article of Faith of the LDS Church says:** ***"We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by the obedience to the laws and ordinance of the (LDS) gospel."***

The Gospel that is declared in the Bible does not contain any laws or ordinances – or anything else that any person could do. Salvation is received by faith alone, in Christ alone. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast." (Eph. 2:8-9.) **Jesus said, "I AM the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me!"** (John 14:6.)

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We pray with you for many opportunities to share the love of the Lord Jesus with your friends and relatives who do not personally know Him yet. He is waiting!

We thank you for your prayers for us and for our ministry. Your help and prayers are needed so much.

And as we follow our Lord God and are willing to serve Him, we could again be blessed as a nation when His righteousness will shine from our lives we commit to Him.

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, may they prosper who love You. " (Ps. 122:6.)

We are again asking you to pray with us for Judy, Marlene, Connie, Harold, Mark & Virve, Al & Sandy, Julie, Jamie, Aira, Heber, Helen,, Elmien, and Leon, Roy, Lois & Phil, Sharon, Robert, Luke, Vladimir, Suzi, Bruce, Paul and Sam and Taylan & his family, for their healing or other needs that only the Lord can meet.

With Joy in the Lord,

Rauni & Dennis

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