

Mormonism and the Truth of the Gospel

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(All scripture quotations are from the ESV)

Introduction

The following reasons are listed as to why there is and should be concern as to the teachings of Mormonism. All mankind is loved by God and needs what Christ has done for us so as to experience the salvation intended for each of us! Jesus only chose 12 apostles and through them (or people influenced by them) all of the New Testament was written. The Bible is the inspired word of God there is no other book with the same inspiration. 2 Timothy 3:16 says: *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,”* But the apostle Peter says that there were false prophets in the Old Testament and that there will be also in the New Testament. *(See 2 Peter 2:1-3)* Jesus said in Math. 24:11 the following: *“And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.”* Listen to 1 John 4:1: *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.”* We must always be vigilant to recognize error by knowing the truth well! A counterfeit dollar is known by knowing what the REAL ONE looks like!

- 1) They have added to the Bible something we are told never to do. (Deut. 4:2, Rev. 22:18-19) This additional book is called “The Book Of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ”. They also have 2 others books they

consider authoritative (“The Doctrine and Covenants” as well as “The Pearl of Great Price”). Even their current leadership is considered authoritative. ¹

- 2) Joseph Smith who wrote the book of Mormon said an angel spoke to him, but Paul said in Galatians that there is no other Gospel and if he or an angel from heaven should proclaim another gospel to let him be accursed.

Galatians 1:6-9 Says: *“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.”*

- 3) Mormon belief says Jesus was a created being and therefore has not always been God and it is taught that even God was once a man. ² Jesus said in John 8:58: *“Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.’”* This I am reference means Jesus has always been God. Even the prophecies about Him said he would be God but in the flesh. (See *Is. 9:6-7*) If Jesus is not fully God then how can we trust Him to save us from our sins? This lesser view of Jesus can keep us from fully trusting the one who can save us from our sin whom scripture says is fully God. Colossians 1:19-20 says: *“For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.”*

4) The Bible's focus is Christ who died for us on the cross, was buried and then rose again on the 3rd day and who also ascended to heaven! Paul the apostle says in Colossians 3:2-3: *"For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."* It is Christ who is our life – in other words He is our focus and not ourselves. But Mormons teach that we will become gods making US the focus.³ It is not what I can gain as Mormons teach, but what Christ has gained for us! Why would the apostle Paul break out in praise to the Lord in Romans 11:36 which says: *"For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen."* The focus of the Old Testament is Jesus. (See Luke 24:25-27, 44-45) May we always follow this pattern! Many places in the New Testament make the Lord the focus and say that Jesus should be our focus to whom the glory should be forever! (Rom. 16:27; Eph. 3:21; Phil. 4:20; Col. 1:17-20; 3:1-4; 1 Tim. 1:17; Heb. 12:1-2; 1 Pet. 4:11; 2 Pet. 3:18; Jude 25; Rev. 1:6; 5:13)

5) We are called to trust Christ and His work for us alone to change us and NOT ourselves, as Mormons teach.⁴ As a matter of fact all religions teach people to trust themselves and their ability to change themselves rather than Christ who came that we might trust Him! Gal. 5:4-6 says this: *"You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love."* Paul is saying that it is not necessary to become a Jew to be eternally saved but only to trust Christ. Gal 2:21 says even more clear this

point: *"I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose."* If we could be changed and become eternally secure any other way than through Christ then He would have never come from heaven for us to die and rise again!

- 6) Anyone who believes on Christ alone can have eternal salvation and security in the Lord's presence forever including those who have been Mormons or from any other cult or religion! John 3:16 says: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

Conclusion

Since only people who Jesus chose as apostles or people influenced by them wrote the whole New Testament then why should we put our future eternal security in the hands of anybody else? The answer is, it would be foolish to trust man rather than God himself who came as a man, who is Jesus Christ forever God and now the Savior of men who trust him. Listen to John 1:1-4,10-14: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men."..." He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. **But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but***

of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

ANYONE who receives Him as fully God from the Father and as the promised Messiah (anointed one) and as the Savior from their sins will become children of God according to verse 12 in bold above.

End Notes

** All scripture underlines and boldface are mine*

- 1 "Comparison Chart — Mormonism and Christianity: The Doctrine of Scriptures and Authority" accessed 7-6-2024 (<https://www.namb.net/apologetics/resource/comparison-chart-mormonism-and-christianity/>)
 - 2 "Comparison Chart — Mormonism and Christianity: The Doctrine of Jesus Christ" and "The Doctrine of God" accessed 7-6-2024 (<https://www.namb.net/apologetics/resource/comparison-chart-mormonism-and-christianity/>)
 - 3 "Comparison Chart — Mormonism and Christianity: The Doctrine of Salvation and The Doctrine of Life After Death" accessed 7-4-2024 (<https://www.namb.net/apologetics/resource/comparison-chart-mormonism-and-christianity/>)
 - 4 "The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ" Copyright 1981 by Corporation of the President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A. 1st printed edition 1830, 2 Nephi 25:23 which says: "For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, **after all we can do.**"
- The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ also teaches of battles fought in the New World that has never been shown in archeology. See the You Tube video of The Expedition Bible for further inquiry by Joel Kramer at https://youtu.be/2AVksae-Frk?si=oWxY6UmKYqC_Coeq
 - Mormonism taught between 1831 and 1890 that Polygamy could be an accepted practice. It ended in 1890 by the church president Wilford Woodruff. "The Mormons | Article - Polygamy and the Church: A History" accessed 8-28-2024 (<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/mormons-polygamy/>)