

The LDS False Gospel

"...they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they, being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes." Romans 10:2-4

Key Questions:

1. How does a person become right before God?
2. What must I do to gain eternal life?
3. If I were to die today, do I have the absolute assurance that I would go to heaven with God?
4. If God were to ask me why He should allow me into heaven, what would I say?
5. Who's righteousness will I present to God when I stand before Him?

Understanding Mormonism:

"I say to the whole world, receive the truth, no matter who presents it to you. Take up the Bible, and compare the religion of the Latter-day Saints with it, and see if it will stand the test. (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, 16:46)

"Convince us of our errors of doctrine, if we have any, by reason, logical argument, or by the Word of God, and we will ever be grateful... that you have been instruments in the hands of God of redeeming your fellow beings." (Orson Pratt, The Seer, p. 15)

False Gospel:

• Different Salvation

- * Grand Council (Plan of Salvation) Lucifer wanted to do everything for mankind, Jesus wanted mankind to prove their worthiness for exaltation through the wise use of their free agency.
- * General: Salvation for all regardless of faith (Christ atonement accomplished resurrection, Immortality, and severance of Adam's sin.) (all people are "saved" by grace)

The Bible says: Matt. 7:13,14,21,22; Phil. 3:18

- * Limited: Exaltation/eternal life/eternal family/godhood - only worthy individuals who do works of righteousness will be exalted and become gods.

(McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, p. 669) *"Unconditional or general salvation, that which comes by grace alone without obedience to gospel law, consists in the mere fact of being resurrected..."*

(Kimball, The Miracle of Forgiveness, p. 206,207,208) *"One of the most fallacious doctrines originated by Satan and propounded by man is that man is saved alone by the grace of God... that belief in Jesus Christ alone is all that is needed for salvation." "If by the word "salvation" is meant the mere salvation or redemption from the grave, then the grace of God is sufficient. But if the term "salvation" means returning to the presence of God with eternal progression, eternal increase, and eventual godhood, for*

this one certainly must have the grace of God... plus personal purity, overcoming of evil, and good works..." "The doers of the law shall be justified." "Immortality has been accomplished by the Savior's sacrifice. Eternal life hangs in the balance awaiting the works of men."

(Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, V.2, P. 4,5,9) *"Immortality and eternal life are two separate things, one distinct from the other. Every man shall receive immortality, whether he be good, bad, or indifferent, for the resurrection of the dead shall come to all. Eternal life is something in addition. None shall receive eternal life save it be those who keep the commandments of the Lord and are entitled thus to enter into his presence... Very gladly would the Lord give to everyone eternal life, but since that blessing can come only on merit – through the faithful performance of duty– only those who are worthy shall receive it... Christ's sacrifice and death did two things for us: it brought unto us unconditional salvation (immortality) and conditional salvation (eternal life)."*

* Requirements for personal exaltation: faith, repentance, baptism, laying on of hands, church membership, Words of Wisdom, tithing, marriage, large family, moral life, temple works/baptism for dead, attendance of sacrament meetings, mission, church service, obedience to all the commandments, etc.

The Bible Says:

Salvation is only to those who believe. (Ephesians 2:8,9; John 3:36; Acts 16:30,31)

Now is the day of salvation! (2 Cor. 6:2)

Faith in Christ alone brings eternal life (John 3:15,16,36; 5:24,39,40; 6:40,47; 1 Jn. 5:11-13)

(Kimball, *The Miracle of Forgiveness*, p. 212) "The human heart can only be opened from the inside. The Spirit is powerless to compel a man to move."

Yet the Bible says: John 6:44,65; Acts 16:14; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Ezekiel 36:26,27

• Different View Of Forgiveness

* "Ye cannot be saved in your sins." (Book of Mormon, Alma 11:37)

(Kimball, *Miracle of Forgiveness*, p. 166, 167,168,170) "The Lord cannot save men in their sins but only from their sins, and that only when they have shown true repentance." "How could he live the lord's commands, attend his meetings, pay his tithing, serve his fellowmen? All these take time."

"...transform yourself and repent." "The mere display of death-bed faith or repentance is not sufficient." "Repentance is inseparable from time. No one can repent on the cross, nor in prison, nor in custody...(nor) the man as he drowns or as he dies." "Until he learns to overcome the flesh... he cannot come into the celestial kingdom... he must overcome either in this life or in the life to come." When one quits, he must quit."

The Bible Says:

Ephesians 2:19 You were dead in your sins...but because of his great love for us, God who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in sins – it is by grace you have been saved..." (Matt. 1:21)

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates his love for us, in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 1 Timothy 1:13-16 "Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief... Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy to that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ

Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.”
Acts 16:14 “...the Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message...” (Jn. 6:44,65)
Titus 3:3-5
Luke 18:13,14

- * God demands full payment of sin (spirit prison)(refinanced loan/new creditor)(Rom. 5:1; 8:1)
- * Forgiveness is conditional on continued obedience. Living all the commandments guarantees forgiveness.
- * One must abandon sin and never repeat it.
 - (Kimball, *The Miracle of Forgiveness*, p. 324, 311) “*Your Heavenly Father has promised forgiveness upon total repentance and meeting all the requirements... it depends upon you whether or not you are forgiven... that depends on your humility, your sincerity, your works...*”
 - (Kimball, *Miracle of Forgiveness*, 164,165,176,,204,206,207) “*Trying is not sufficient. Nor is repentance complete when one merely tries to abandon sin.*” *This connection between effort and the repentance which ‘attracts’ the Lord’s forgiveness is often not understood.*” *“Discontinuance of sin must be permanent.”* *“Doing the commandments includes the many actives required of the faithful.”* *“To by-pass such opportunities is to fail that extent to pile up credits against the accumulated errors and transgressions.”* *“However powerful the saving grace of Christ, it brings exaltation to no man who does not comply with the works of the gospel.”*
 - (*Doctrine and Covenants: 1:31,32*) “*He that repents and does the commandments of the Lord shall be forgiven.*”
 - (“Repentance Brings Forgiveness” pamphlet), “*The forsaking of sin must be a permanent one. True repentance does not permit making the same mistake again.*” *“The repenting person must start on the never-ending task of keeping the commandments.”* *“Each good deed... is like a blanket over one’s own sin.”* *“To obtain the forgiveness from the Lord... one must... forsake the sin and not repeat it... and live all the commandments of the Lord... he may expect that forgiveness will come...”*
 - (*Gospel Principles*, p. 126,253) “*The balance of your lives is to live the commandments of the Lord so he can eventually pardon you.*” *“If they repeat the sin they are held accountable for their former sins.”*
 - The Bible Says: (Col. 2:13,14; Acts 10:43; 13:38,39; Rom. 8:1,33; 5:1; 4:4-8; Heb. 10:17,18; Ps. 32:1,2)
“Forgiving someone of a debt wipes out all obligation to pay the debt.”
- * One must confess it to proper authority. (Bible: Job 9:32-34; 16:19-21; 1 Tim. 2:5; Gal. 3:20; Matt. 27:51)
Jesus is our High Priest (Heb. 4:14-16; 5:1-3; 6:19,20; 7:11-28; 9:6-28; 10:1-18)
- * Christ’s atonement was insufficient to forgive all sin (murder, adultery, etc)(I Jn. 1:7)
(*Doctrines of Salvation*, V. 1, p.135) “*Joseph Smith taught that there were certain sins so grievous that man may commit, that they will place the transgressors beyond the power of the atonement of*

Christ. If these offenses are committed, then the blood of Christ will not cleanse them from their sins even though they repent..." (Mormon Doctrine, p.92,93)
1 John 1:7 "the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."(David: Psalms 32; 51; 16:10,11; 49:15; 73:24,25; Romans 4:4-8; Hebrews 10:18)

* Question: When do you ever have the assurance that you are forgiven? What hope can we have of forgiveness if it is conditional on complete obedience? Doesn't forgiving someone of a debt wipe out all obligation to pay that debt?

The Bible Says:

Colossians 2:13,14 "Having forgiven you your trespasses, having wiped out the requirements that was against us... He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross."
Acts 10:43; 13:38,39 "Whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins, by Him everyone who believes is justified."
Romans 5:1; 8:1 "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."
"Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies."
1 John 2:2 "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."
Colossians 2:13 "God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins."
Psalms 32:1,2 (David – adultery, murder)
Hebrews 10:18
- God's loving and legal verdict declared us 'not guilty' because of the saving work of Jesus Christ."

• Different False Gospel (Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Cor. 11:3,4,13-15)

* Baptism remits sin/saves/bestows Church membership
(Yet the Bible says: Jn. 4:2; 1 Cor. 1:17; Lk. 23:39-43)

* Plan of eternal progression through personal merit
(Yet the Bible says: 1 Cor. 15:46; John 1:12; Gal. 3:26)

* Works Righteousness/Celestial law (D & C 88:22)

Eternal life must be wholly merited or earned.

(JF Smith, Doctrine of Salvation V. 1, p. 134) "that which man merits through his own acts through life and by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel."

(Kimball, Journal of Discourse, V.3, p.269) "*I have the power to save myself...*"

(Doctrine & Covenants 88:22) "*They who are not sanctified through the law which I have given unto you, even the law of Christ...*" "*He who is not able to abide the law of a celestial kingdom cannot abide a celestial glory.*"

- * All blessings are based on obedience to law (No one can come to God except by his laws. Man has the ability to keep the law. God gives the law to provide a way we can become like him.)
(1 Nephi 3:7; D & C 5:22; 130:21)
The Bible says: Rom. 2:23; 8:7,8; 4:15; 1 Tim. 1:9; James 2:10; Jn. 7:19
(Hunter, *Gospel through the Ages*, p. 51) "*there is a law irrevocably decreed in heaven... upon which all blessings are predicated; and when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to the law upon which it is predicated.*"
(*Life & Teachings of Jesus & Apostles*, p. 57) "*Would the Lord give us a commandment that was impossible for us to keep?*"
(*The Miracle Of Forgiveness*, Spencer Kimball, p. 207-209) " *...the saving grace of Christ brings exaltation to no man who does not comply with the works of the gospel.*" *Immortality has been accomplished by the Savior's sacrifice. Eternal life hangs in the balance awaiting the works of men.*" "*Living all the commandments guarantees total forgiveness of sins and assures one of exaltation through that perfection...*" "*He would never require anything from his children which was not for their benefit and which was not attainable. Perfection therefore is an achievable goal.*"
- * Grace is seen as the enabling power to save one's self (Rom. 4:4,5; 9:16; 11:5,6; 2 Tim. 1:9; Eph. 1:6-8)
- * Christ's atonement took place in the garden/not on the cross (he sweat drops of blood for you?)
(There are no crosses on Mormon places of meeting. LDS believe the cross was a bad thing.)
(Breakdown of Old Testament picture of sacrificial system and atonement.)
- * Christ atonement only guarantees resurrection/immortality and freedom from original sin of Adam – nothing more. Which level of heaven you go to depends entirely on you.
 - The majority go to heaven (Yet the Bible says: Matt. 7:13,14,21-23; 22:14; 25:46)
 - Only a few (Devil/Demons/Apostates) go to Outer Darkness (hell). (Yet the Bible says: Heb. 10:26,27; Rev. 20:15; 21:8; 22:15; Matt. 13:41)
- * Only worthy Mormons receive a temple recommend card so to be able to enter Temple.
The Bible Says:
Matthew 19:16,17,21,25,26 What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life? Keep the commandments... If you want to be perfect, sell what you have, come, follow Me... (but he was unwilling)
Disciples asked, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus said, "with men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible..."

Questions: On what basis do you believe you can become perfect? (Matt. 5:48; 1 Pet. 1:15,16)
How does a person become righteous before God?
How can I know for sure I am forgiven of my sins?

The Fallacy Of LDS Works Righteousness: (This is not good news!)

* "I've done my best, God will do the rest..."

Article 3: "We believe that through the atonement of Christ all mankind may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel."

B of M - 2 Nephi 25:23 "It is by grace that we are saved... after all we can do."

B of M - Mosiah 4:30 "This much I can tell you, that if ye do not watch yourselves, and your thoughts, and your words, and your deeds and observe the commandments of God, and continue in the faith... even unto the end of your lives, ye must perish..."

B of M - Mosiah 5:5 "We are willing to enter into a covenant with our God to do his will, and to be obedient to his commandments in all things... all the remainder of our days..."

Milton R. Hunter, Gospel Through the Ages, p. 178 "The atoning blood of the man of Galilee washes away the sins of all mortals who through faith, repentance, and baptism, and through living every other Gospel principle to the best of their ability, have done everything within their power to bring about their own redemption."

Kimball, Life and Teachings of Jesus and his Apostles, V. 2; p. 6 "Progress towards eternal life is a matter of achieving perfection - living all the commandments guarantees total forgiveness of sins and assures one of exaltation in triumph over sin... perfection is an achievable goal..."

McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, p. 641 "All rewards gained in the eternal worlds must be earned... and comes only as a result of full obedience."

The Way To Perfection, 206 "for celestial, it is necessary that **the whole law be kept.**"

J. F. Smith, Doctrine of Salvation V. 1, p. 134) "...that which man merits through his own acts through life and by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel."

Maughan, Talks for Tots, p. 85 "Only those who live the commandments of God will ever see heaven."

<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otaZlm9lUsA&feature=related>>

The Bible Says: (NKJV) (How does a person become right before God?)

Romans 3:20,28 "By the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight..." "We conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law."

Galatians 2:16 "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified."

Galatians 2:21; 3:3,10,11 "I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain... Are you now being more perfect by the flesh? All who rely on observing the law are under a curse... Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the Book of the Law, to do them. No one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for the just shall live by faith."

Romans 4:2-6 "If Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God... Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace, but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness... God imputes righteousness apart from works."

Romans 9:30-32 "The Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law..."

Romans 10:2-4 "they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes."

Galatians 2:16,21; 3:3,10,11 "... if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing. Are you so foolish? ... Are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the book of the Law. Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because *the righteous will live by faith.*"

Ezekiel 33:12,13 "The righteousness of the righteous man shall not deliver him (on judgment day)... If he trusts in his own righteousness and commits sin, none of his righteous works shall be remembered, because of the iniquity that he has committed, he shall die."

John 6:28,29 "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God? Jesus answered... "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent'."

James 2:10 "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all."

Romans 4:15 "The law brings about wrath..."

Romans 2:23 "You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law?"

John 7:19 "Moses (gave) you the law, yet none of you keeps the law..."

Limitations Of The Law: (example of speed limit sign)

Hebrews 10:1-4 "For the law... can never (with these same sacrifices), make those who approach perfect... For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins."

Romans 8:3,4 "For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh on account of sin... He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled..." (Sin demands punishment/justice)

Galatians 5:3-5 "... every man who lets himself be circumcised... is obligated to obey the whole law. You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace..."

Galatians 3:24 "The law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith."

Hebrews 7:19 "For the law made nothing perfect, and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God."
(see also Galatians 3:2-6; 6:12-15; Matthew 19:16-26)

Impossibility of Perfection:

Matthew 5:48 "be perfect - now!" (present tense/not something to accomplish in the eternal future)(Heb. 10:14)

Romans 2:13

James 2:10 "For who ever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all."

Galatians 3:10,11 "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, and do them."

Romans 3:10-12 "There is none righteous, no not one... there is none who does good, not one."

Isaiah 64:6 "But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are like filthy rags."

Proverbs 20:9 "Who can say, 'I have made my heart clean; I am pure from my sin?'"

1 John 1:8,10 "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we claim we have not sinned, we make (God) out to be a liar."

Ecclesiastes 7:20 "There is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin."

Job 25:4; 9:2,14,15,20 "How then can a man be righteous before God? How can one born of woman be pure? How can a mortal be righteous before God? How can I dispute with him... Though I were innocent, I could not answer him; I could only plead with my Judge for mercy. Even if I were innocent, my mouth would condemn me; if I were blameless, it would pronounce me guilty."

We Need Christ's Righteousness: (NKJV)

Do you have Christ's righteousness?

Whose absolute righteousness will you present to God on your Judgment Day?)

Romans 1:16,17 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes... for in it the righteousness of God is revealed... the just shall live by faith."

Philippians 3:9 "and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith."

2 Corinthians 5:21 "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Romans 3:21-4:5,20-24 "But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed... through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe... Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness because in His forbearance God passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No! but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness... God imputes righteousness apart from works. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him... strengthened in faith... it was accounted to him for righteousness... not for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe ..."

Romans 5:17 "...much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ."

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Repent:

God Causes Repentance...

Acts 16:14 "...the Lord opened her heart to respond..."

Acts 11:18 "...God has granted... repentance unto life."

Romans 2:4 "...God's kindness leads you toward repentance..."

2 Timothy 2:25,26 "...in hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth."

Repentance Is Not...

- feeling sorrow for sin (Matthew 27:3 - Judas)
- penance or performing something to pay for one's mistakes.
- conditional upon complete obedience and never repeating the same sin.

Repentance Is...

- **turning from sin... to God.** (complete turn around)
Acts 14:15 "...turn from these worthless things to the living God..."
Acts 3:26 "...turning each of you from your wicked ways..."
- **a change of heart** (inward response)
Acts 28:26,27 "this people's heart has become calloused... otherwise they might see... hear... understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them."
Acts 8:21-23 "...your heart is not right before God. Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord... you are... captive to sin."
- **that which leads to a change in behavior**
Acts 26:20 "...I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds."
Luke 3:8 "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance."

God Calls Sinners To Repentance...

Acts 2:38 "Repent... for the forgiveness of your sins..."
Acts 3:19 "Repent, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."
Acts 5:31 "...Prince and Savior that he (Jesus) might give repentance and forgiveness of sins..."
Acts 17:30 "But now God commands all people everywhere to repent..."
Acts 20:21 "I have declared ...that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus."
Mark 1:15 "...Jesus said... Repent and believe the good news."
Luke 5:32 "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."
Luke 24:47 "Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations."

Repentance Involves...

- **A sense of guilt and personal shame before God because of your lawless deeds.**
Psalms 38:3,4,18; 51:3,4 "Because of my sin...my iniquities are like a heavy burden... I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin." "For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, and You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight."
Daniel 9:7,8 "(we) are covered with shame because we have sinned against you... yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth."
Ezekiel 20:43 "You will remember your conduct... and you will loathe yourself..."
1 Timothy 1:15,16 "I am the worst of sinners..."
Romans 7:24 "Wretched man that I am..."

Isaiah 6:5 "I am a man of unclean lips..."

- **An acknowledgement/confession of personal sinfulness.**

Luke 5:8 "Go away from me Lord, I am a sinful man."

Psalms 51:3,4 "For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight."

Luke 15:21 "I have sinned against heaven and against you... I am not worthy to be called your son..."

Acts 19:18 "Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds."

Psalms 32:5 "Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said... I will confess my transgressions to the Lord, and you forgave the guilt of my sin."

- **A sense of personal sorrow for your sin. A brokenness which gives genuine evidence to a repentant heart.**

2 Corinthians 7:9,10 "... your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended... Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret."

Luke 7:37,38,42,43,47-50 "Weeping, tears..."

Psalms 51:17 "A broken and contrite heart..."

- **A call upon God's mercy from judgment.**

Luke 18:13,14 "God have mercy on me a sinner... I tell you that this man... went home justified before God." (Daniel 9:18)

- **A plea for forgiveness and a clean conscience**

Hebrews 10:22 "draw near to God in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience." (Acts 10:43; 13:38,39)

- **A desire to make things right**

2 Corinthians 7:11 "earnestness, eagerness to clear yourselves, indignation, readiness to see justice done..."

Believe:

John 6:28,29 "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God? Jesus answered... 'This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent'."

John 3:15,16 "That whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

John 5:24 "He who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."

John 6:40,47 "Everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life, and I will raise him up at the last day. He who believes in Me has everlasting life."

John 5:39,40 "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life."

1 John 5:11-13 "And this is the testimony that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son of God has life, and he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe ... that you may know that you have eternal life."

"The Nature Of Faith"

*"Now **faith** is being **sure** of what we hope for and **certain** of what we do not see. And without **faith** it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must **believe** that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."* **Hebrews 11:1,6**

"(saving faith) is the kind of faith by which a sinner is justified in the sight of God... a conviction practically operative on the character and will, and thus opposed to mere intellectual assent to religious truth."

Faith Is...

- a. reliance, confidence, trust in/upon a person/thing
- b. loyalty, faithfulness, or sincerity
- c. belief in a stated promise

* Looking back - looking forward.

* Example of rock climbing (no other option/no plan B)

- Faith is the assurance of things hoped for...

* Present confidence of a future reality (truth of the gospel/reliability of Christ)

* Taking God at His word (promise)

Hebrews 11:11 "By faith Abraham... considered him faithful who had made the promise..."

Romans 4:18-21 "Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed... without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead... yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith... being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why it was credited to him as righteousness... (these words) were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness, for us who believe in him..."

- Faith is only as good as the object of faith. (2 Corinthians 1:9,10; 2 Timothy 1:12)

* The Object of our faith is Jesus (Acts 16:31; 20:21; 24:24; 26:18; Gal. 2:16; Jn. 5:39,40)

- Faith is the conviction of things not seen...

Hebrews 11:27 "He persevered because he saw him who is invisible..." (see also 1 Peter 1:8,9)

- Faith is God's gracious gift.

Ephesians 2:8,9 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast." (see also John 6:44,65; 1 Cor. 1:30; Phil. 1:29)

- Faith is an internal reality with external consequences! True faith never remains passive. From the moment of regeneration, faith goes to work. (Phil. 2:12,13)

What Is Grace And Mercy?

- God's unmerited favor (Romans 4:4,5; 5:1,2; Galatians 2:21)
- God's grace is freely given to undeserving sinners. (Ephesians 1:6-8; 2:8,9; 2 Timothy 1:9,10; Romans 11:5,6)
- Mercy is God not giving sinners what they justly deserve. (Rom. 9:16,18,22,23; Ti. 3:5; Eph. 2:4; 1 Tim. 1:15,16)
- Saving Grace is
 - * the complete sovereign work of God (Rom. 3:10-13)
 - * that which frees man from the penalty and power of sin
 - * that which transforms the heart
 - * that which sanctifies the sinner
 - Acts 11:18 - grants repentance
 - Acts 18:27; Romans 12:3 - grants faith
- Saving Grace is not coercion (forcing people to believe against their will)

We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone!

Receive: The Free Gift Of Christ's Righteousness: (By Personal Invitation)

Romans 5:17 "Those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

John 1:12 "As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."

Colossians 2:6 "Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him."

What About Good Works?

- True saving faith will inevitably produce the fruit of good works.
- Good works is the **byproduct** of genuine faith, not the basis of it.

Two Views:

1. Religious Lost view: faith + works = justification (righteousness before God)
2. Protestant view: faith = justification + works (good works always follows faith)

Acts 26:20 "(Paul) declared that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance."

Hebrews 6:9 "things that accompany salvation"

2 Corinthians 9:13 "obedience that accompanies your confession"

Romans 1:5 "obedience that comes from faith"

1 Thessalonians 1:3 "Work produced by faith, labor prompted by love..."

Luke 3:8 "Bear fruits worthy of repentance..."

Luke 6:46 "Why do you call Me Lord, Lord, and not do the things I say?"

John 15:5 "He who abides in Me and I in him, bears much fruit. Without me you can do nothing.."

James 2:14,17,19,22,24,26 "What does it profit... if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead...even the demons believe... Do you see that faith was

working together with his works and by works faith was made perfect? You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. Faith without works is dead.”

(Notice Abraham. When was he justified? Genesis 15:6; Romans 4, James 2)

Romans 1:5,15 “Through him... we received grace... to call people... to the obedience that comes from faith.” “That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel to you...”

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Mormon’s Who Have Turned To Christ:

http://www.sacredgrovesonline.org/videos/adamsroad_art.htm

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YACLpMv8&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prJsC7vVttM&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=St6G8tzqFGs>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftuCvTFjQYM&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2Gmkva4gr4&feature=related>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iNfAWp_cOKE&feature=related

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xsWoX-kuFKg&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbYe6G9eLVo&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yV1C6UdOUbc&feature=related>