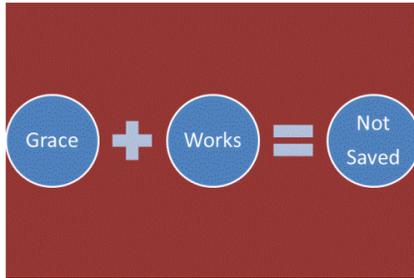


Lesson 35: Mormons

Lesson Introduction



In this lesson we will take a brief look at the history and teachings of the Mormon church, otherwise known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. As we do, we will see that no matter who we are witnessing to, the issue will always come down to grace vs. works.

Lesson Outline

Introduction

Topic 1 History of Mormonism

Early Days to Present Time

Topic 2: Mormon Doctrine

Always the Main Issue

Topic 3 Witnessing to Mormons

Introduction

We have been looking at what we call the cults. What is a cult? Why would someone, you know today that is a word that is generic. What is a cult? Well then someone will say, well that church over there, they're a cult, or this church. They will say those words and it is just kind of a generic word for something you don't like. But a cult is really a group of people that don't really believe that Jesus was God, that he was not God, and that he was a made being. Now we are going to look tonight on Mormonism. Headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah, I have been out to a Bible church right in Salt Lake City, and it is a very interesting thing to be in Salt Lake City where it is all Mormons, and to be visiting a Bible church. And I'm going to give you a little bit history of Mormonism. What is Mormonism? I remember many years ago, we went out there with our family. We had our famous camping trip, as we had a little Volkswagen and we camped out each night in a tent and went all the way to California, and we wanted to stop by and we went through Utah, of course Nevada, and Utah on the way back. I wanted my children to see the temple, of course they won't let you in the temple, but we went and went through all their things, and I remember them talking about the gold plates. And I was trying to be nice about it, but I raised my hand and asked, what happened to them? And they said, they lost them. And I said how could you lose gold plates, with claiming that they had all the history of Scripture on them? Anyway we're going to look at where this came about.

QUESTION 1

A cult believes that: *(Select all that apply.)* Answer: _____

- A. Jesus was God
- B. Jesus was not God
- C. Jesus was eternal
- D. Jesus was a created being

QUESTION 2

To this day, the Mormon church still has the gold plates from which Joseph Smith wrote the Book of Mormon. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Topic 1: The History of Mormonism

Mormonism is called the Church of Jesus Christ of latter-day Saints. Now personally, I think that we are latter-day Saints, don't you? We are Saints. The Bible says we are all Saints, and we're in the latter days. But we're not Mormons. It was organized in 1830 in Fayette New York. Now this is what they claim, I don't believe it, but they claim an angel named Moroni, he appeared to Joseph Smith Junior, revealing to him a place where golden plates were buried which contain the history of ancient America. The Mormon doctrine is that Jesus Christ came over here to America, and he preached to the American Indians. I don't believe that, but I believe Jesus did send his disciples, and all this had an opportunity of being reached. You say how? I don't know. Anyways they found these plates. The Mormons believe that Smith received a special pair of eyeglasses, Urim and Thummin, which turned the reformed Egyptian characters of the plates into English. Now the amazing thing about Joseph Smith's writing the book of Mormon, is that it was written in exact King James English. Now personally I believe that he copied the Old Testament and changed it around, but he wrote in perfect King James English. Now I just don't believe that they are going to find these plates and translate them into King James English. I just don't believe it. Smith had a friend copy down the writing on the plates as he read it to him. They later became the book of Mormon which the Mormons claim to be additional revelation for the latter days. They say it is the authoritative and inspired word of God. Now we know the Bible says that no man is to add or take away from this book, this is it. This is the inspired word of God. But they believe that this was in the addition.

QUESTION 3

The official title of the Mormon faith is Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 4

The Mormon doctrine teaches that Jesus Christ came over to America and preached to the American Indians. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 5

The Book of Mormon reads just like today's modern translations of the Bible. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 6

The Mormons claim that the Book of Mormon is: (*Select all that apply.*) Answer: _____

- A. Additional revelation for the latter days.
- B. Authoritative
- C. Inspired Word of God
- D. Superior to the Bible

Early Days to Present Time

Now in the early days of its history, the members of the group were forced to migrate from one part of the country to another. We know that they had a town right down here in Illinois. Their pagan teachings of polygamy were not very well received in America, as it wouldn't be, and they believed that they could have many wives. Many Mormons today still practice it, although the churches main teachings say that they do not, but we know that there is polygamy out in Utah. And then there was many criminal natured charges against its leaders. They were pushed from pillar to post, and Joseph and his brother Hiram were finally shot to death by an angry mob law they were waiting trial in jail. Now this is always wrong; they should have a right to have their own religion, but they should not have the right to have polygamy, that is against the laws of the United States, and that would not be a right, but they had it and of course they still do have it. And there are many stories right now of the Mormons who do have many, many wives. Today the Mormons are divided into two groups, the Church of Jesus Christ of latter-day Saints, who followed Brigham Young after Smith's death, and the reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of latter-day Saints, composed of those who gave their support to Smith's two sons instead of Brigham Young. Those who followed Young are the larger part of the group. Now the Mormons are the fastest growing sect in America today, as you will see. You will see nice looking young men going door to door all across this country, all across South America and Central America, and they are doing what many Christians should be doing, going door to door. They are always very impressive looking. The Mormons have claimed to be extremely big on the family, although the highest divorce rate in the nation is Salt Lake City. That is kind of an interesting statistic. And there is a very extremely high suicide rate. You know when you don't have Jesus Christ, they teach that if you live on this earth right you will get your own planet when you die, kind of an interesting thing, your own planet. They teach that Jesus Christ and Satan were brothers. That is a pretty strong statement isn't it? And it is kind of appealing though, if you live right God will give you your own planet. But it's not in the Bible, and kind of a dangerous thing.

QUESTION 7

Because their teachings always fit in with society, the Mormons were welcomed as a group wherever they went. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 8

The Mormon church had a very strong stance on "one husband, one wife." *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 9

Mormons are usually nice and impressive looking. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 10

Mormon doctrine includes: *(Select all that apply.)* Answer: _____

- A. Assurance of salvation
- B. You will get your own planet as a reward for good works
- C. Jesus and Satan were brothers
- D. Works for salvation

Topic 2: Mormon Doctrine

Now let's look at a little bit of their doctrine. This is not going to be a long message tonight, but a little bit of their doctrine. They have added to the word of God, they claim other equally inspired books to the Bible. They claim the Book of Mormon is equal to the Bible in inspiration. They claim the Doctrine of Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price are all equal to Scripture. Now Proverbs 30:6 says, "Add thou not to his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." And then in Revelation 22:18, it says, "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book. If any man...", that's including Joseph Smith, "...shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this Book of Life." I believe the Bible is the total revelation that God has given us. You say, Now how do you know, and how can you say, that you believe this Bible is the revelation that God has given us? Because it tells us history before it happens. Now listen, the great proof of the Bible, someone says, What's the two reasons you believe the Bible the most? It's the Jew, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. See the Bible is the only book of all religions that dares delve into prophecy. Religions of the world do not get into prophecy, but the Word of God gets into it and it tells us, it says, I'm going to tell you what is going to happen before it happens so that you can know that I am God. Other religions do not delve into prophecy.

Assignment:

Memorize Proverbs 30:6

QUESTION 11

The Mormons claim the Book of Mormon to be equal to the Bible in inspiration. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 12

Reasons why we can trust that the Bible is the Word of God are: *(Select all that apply.)*

Answer: _____

- A. Prophecy
- B. The Jews
- C. The Resurrection of Jesus
- D. The Temple

QUESTION 13

What sets the Bible apart from all the religions of the world?

Always the Main Issue

Let's see what the Mormons, they teach salvation by works. You know, the Bible, and you know what I teach and what the Bible teaches that we're saved by grace through faith, that not of ourselves it is a gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast. You are saved by God's grace. What you don't deserve. But the Mormon, in their sectarian dogma, justification by faith alone, exercises an influence for evil since the days of Christianity. Here's what they say in their book, page 479, "Salvation to the Mormons is received through the following system of rules: Belief in Christ...", which is what we believe, but they believe more than that, "...public confession...", that if you don't publicly confess, "...water baptism, laying on of hands in obedience to the ordinances of the church." Now we believe that salvation depends on Christ, period, without any works whatsoever. What does the Bible say about going to Heaven? In John 1:12 it says, "But as many as received Him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even

to them that believe on His name." It's so simple. It's believe and believe only that gets you to Heaven, it's not what we do or don't do, it's what Jesus did. A manmade system will never get you to Heaven. Now the Mormons believe that Jesus Christ was created. He was not always, but he was created. Christ was not a created being. We believe in the Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus has always been. If Christ is only one of us, what would that make us? Now their book on the doctrines in the Gospel answers the question for us: "God himself was once as we are now, and is exalted man and sits enthroned in yonder Heaven." Page 190. This is of course blasphemy.

QUESTION 14

The Mormon church teaches salvation by grace through faith. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 15

The Mormon doctrine teaches that justification by faith alone causes an influence for evil. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 16

Salvation to the Mormons includes: (*Select all that apply.*) Answer: _____

- A. Belief in Christ alone
- B. Public Confession
- C. Water Baptism
- D. Laying on of Hands
- E. Obedience to the ordinances of the church

QUESTION 17

The Mormons believe that Jesus was once as we are – a created being. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Topic 3: Witnessing to Mormons

Now in witnessing to Mormons, first of all, you should be very kind to them, and understand that they are very nice people. That is not the issue. You need to always keep that in mind. We don't believe we are superior, we just believe that salvation by grace is the only way a person is going to go to heaven. Show them kindness, don't be mean to them as some people would tell you to be. Don't allow the Mormon to leave a passage until he has faced up to it. Don't let a Mormon skip around. When you are dealing with something and you're showing him what the Bible teaches, don't let him leave it until he says, Yes that's what it says. Stay on a passage and don't let him skip around. Remember the issue when dealing with Mormons is always grace versus works, and give them the Gospel. If the Mormon speaks of a strange doctrine that may get your curiosity up, again try to stay on the plan of salvation. When you are witnessing remember to always be praying, and as James 1:5 says, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him." Or 2 Corinthians 2:14, "Now thanks be unto God which always causes us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the Savior of his knowledge by us in every place." So it's very difficult to witness to a Mormon, but it can be done, and it has been done. The reality is that Jesus Christ, you know I mentioned the Jews, what's the other? The empty tomb. Christianity could not have started without the resurrection. Here these disciples wouldnt even stay with Christ when He died, only a couple of them stayed back in the

background, and they all forsook him. And I believe the Bible has predicted everything that it says it will predict, and it's come to pass. That's why I believe the Bible to be the Word of God, and that's why I don't believe the book of Mormon, or The Pearl of Great Price, or the Doctrine of the Covenants, is equal to the Word of God. I don't believe that, I believe that the Word of God is it.

Assignment:

Memorize James 1:5

QUESTION 18

The main issue in witnessing to a Mormon will surround the inspiration of Scripture. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 19

When a Mormon brings up a strange doctrine that is interesting, allow them to talk about it so as to appear respectful. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 20

No matter who you are witnessing to, always be praying; God will give you wisdom. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Lesson 35 Answers to Questions

QUESTION 1

- B. Jesus was not God
- D. Jesus was a created being

QUESTION 2: False [The official claim is that they were lost over the years.]

QUESTION 3: True

QUESTION 4: True

QUESTION 5: False [It is actually written in perfect King James English.]

QUESTION 6

- A. Additional revelation for the latter days.
- B. Authoritative
- C. Inspired Word of God

QUESTION 7: False [They were forced to migrate to several different parts of the country.]

QUESTION 8: False [Although they claim to no longer condone it, polygamy is still practiced by some members.]

QUESTION 9: True

QUESTION 10

- B. You will get your own planet as a reward for good works
- C. Jesus and Satan were brothers
- D. Works for salvation

QUESTION 11: True

QUESTION 12

- A. Prophecy
- B. The Jews
- C. The Resurrection of Jesus

QUESTION 13: Prophecy

QUESTION 14: False [They teach quite the opposite.]

QUESTION 15: True

QUESTION 16

- B. Public Confession
- C. Water Baptism
- D. Laying on of Hands
- E. Obedience to the ordinances of the church

QUESTION 17: True [This blasphemy is a tell-tale sign of a cult.]

QUESTION 18: False [The main issue is always grace vs. works.]

QUESTION 19: False [Be polite, but ALWAYS stay on the Gospel.]

QUESTION 20: True [James 1:5]