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THE230 HERMENEUTICS

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### Hermeneutical Essay #1

The Church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons) believe that they have the potential to be gods. They claim this belief as basing it on the Scripture of John 10:34, "Is it not written in your Law," 'I have said you were gods'". The proof of this being a part of their belief system, is found in the Mormon Book of Doctrine and Covenants 132:20. It reads as follows, "Then they shall be gods, because they have no end. Therefore shall they be from everlasting to everlasting, because they continue; then they shall be above all, because all things are subject unto them. Then shall they be gods, because they have all power, and the angels are subject unto them." Upon true and honest study of Scripture, I am able to prove this belief system to be in error of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

First let us look at the true meaning of the word "gods", as it pertains to this verse. The word "gods" during this time of Biblical history, pertains to judges, magistrates, and rulers. In Psalm 82:6 we see this as referring to the judges that God had raised up to guide and correct the Israelites, to keep them faithful to him in their everyday life. The people who were chosen to act as judges, were faithful children of God who personally lived, to uphold the Jewish Law.

In John 10:24, Jesus is using the word "gods", as quoted from the book of Psalm, in response to an accusation made towards Him by the Pharisees. He was throwing their words back at them, as He often did, in this type of accusatory situation. The Pharisees were accusing Jesus of Blasphemy, during a verbal interchange with Him at the Feast of Dedication. They were inflamed by Jesus' claims to be God, for He said to them, " My Father and I are One". Jesus was also making statements regarding the works they saw Him perform as being works from the "Father". He then goes on to claim " I am the Son of God", "the Father is in Me and I in Him"(Jn 10:30-38). The Pharisees were so angry by His claims to be God that they wanted to stone Jesus. Since they saw Him as merely a man, this whole interchange was an act of Blasphemy, according to Jewish Law, and punishable by death.

There is nothing in this historical act that points towards Jesus telling the Pharisees that they could be as “gods”. Instead it was about Jesus coming forth in His Ministry exposing His true identity as the “Son of God”. This Scripture has been twisted by religious people who want to equal to God rather than submissive to God. In Christianity, we serve a great and mighty God by being humble before Him, and submitting under the obedience of His will. Therefore, Mormons cannot be to Christianity in their belief that they can be as “gods”.