

What is the GOSPEL TRUTH? YOU DECIDE!

This pamphlet is intended to accurately represent the gospel doctrines of both Christianity and the LDS religion.

← BIBLICAL GOSPEL OF GRACE

THE LDS GOSPEL PLAN →

LDS Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith said, “**Immortality** and **eternal life** are two separate things... Every man shall receive **immortality**, whether he be good, bad, or indifferent, for the resurrection from 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... That is **eternal life**, to dwell in the presence of the Father and receive **exaltation** from him... Very gladly would the Lord give to everyone **eternal life**, but since that blessing can come only on merit – through faithful performance of duty –

only those who are worthy shall receive it... to receive the **exaltation** of the righteous, in-other-words **eternal life**, the commandments of the Lord must be kept in all things... Every man is raised in **immortality**, no more death, even unto **eternal life**, if he keeps the commandments of the Lord – not otherwise.”
(Doctrines of Salvation, Vol. 2, p. 4-7)

WHAT IS EXALTATION?

“**Exaltation** is **eternal life**, the kind of life that God lives. He lives in glory... He possesses all knowledge and all wisdom... He is a creator. **We can become Gods** like our Heavenly Father. This is **exaltation**...

REQUIREMENTS FOR EXALTATION

Latter-day Saints are taught that now is the time to fulfill the requirements for exaltation (see Alma 34:32-34). President Joseph Fielding Smith said, ‘In order to obtain the exaltation we **must accept the gospel and all its covenants**... and ‘live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God’ (Doc. of Salv. 2:43).

There are specific ordinances we **must have received** to be exalted:

1. **We must** be baptized and confirmed a member of the Church of Jesus Christ.
2. **We must** receive the Holy Ghost.
3. **We must** receive the temple endowment.
4. **We must** be married for time and all eternity.

In addition to the required ordinances, there are also many laws **we have to obey** to

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qualify for **exaltation**. We must–

1. Love God and worship him.
2. Have faith in Jesus Christ.
3. Live the law of chastity.
4. Repent of our wrong doings.
5. Pay honest tithes and offerings.
6. Be honest in our dealings with others and with the Lord.
7. Speak the truth always.
8. Obey the Word of Wisdom.
9. Search out our kindred dead and perform the saving ordinances of the gospel for them.
10. Keep the Sabbath day holy.
11. Attend our Church meetings as regularly as possible to renew our baptismal covenants. This is done as we partake of the sacrament.
12. Love and strengthen our family members in the ways of the Lord.
13. Have family and individual prayers every day.
14. Honor our parents.
15. Teach the gospel by word and example.
16. Study the scriptures.
17. Listen to and obey the words of the prophets of the Lord.
18. Develop true charity in our lives.

In other words, each person **must endure in faithfulness keeping all the Lord’s commandments** until the end of his life on earth.” (Gospel Principles, LDS Church, 1979, Exaltation, pg. 224-228).

“Some Christians accuse Latter-day Saints ...of denying the grace of God through claiming they can earn their own salvation. We answer this accusation with the words of two Book of Mormon prophets. Nephi taught, ‘For we labor

diligently... to persuade our children... 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**’ (2 Nephi 25:23). And what is ‘all we can do’? ...Moroni pleaded, ‘Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and **deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you**, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ” (Moroni 10:32).

We are not saved in our sins, as by being unconditionally saved through confessing Christ and then, inevitably, committing sins in our remaining lives, (see Alma 11:36–37).” (Ensign, May, 1998, Have You Been Saved? Elder Dallin H. Oaks, Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles)

CAN AN LDS PERSON KNOW FOR SURE THAT THEY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE ?

According to LDS Elder Dallin H. Oaks, “If we use the word salvation to mean ‘exaltation,’ it is premature for any of us to say that we have been ‘saved’ in mortality. That glorious status can only follow the final judgment of Him who is the Great Judge of the living and the dead.” (Ensign, May, 1998).

CONCLUSION

The LDS religion offers a faith plus works salvation which can offer no absolute assurance of eternal life.

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THE GOSPEL OF JESUS IN THE BIBLE

One of the clearest explanations of the Biblical gospel is found in the book of Romans. Written by the Apostle Paul, it outlines the path of man from a hopeless sinner to one who is forgiven and right with God.

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE

Romans 3:10 states, “There is none righteous, no, not one.” Contained within the word righteous is the word right. If you are not righteous, you are not right with God. When God looks at mankind, none of us are right in His sight, we are all unrighteous.

The reason we are all unrighteousness is found in **Romans 3:23**, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” Because we are all sinful, **our sins separate us from a Holy God** – All of us!

Romans 3:19-20 explains the purpose for God’s law which is NOT to make us righteous, “Now we know that whatsoever things the law says, it says to those who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” So you see, the law does not enable mankind to become righteous, instead, it condemns all of mankind because **all men are guilty of breaking God’s law.**

Thank God for **Romans 5:6,8** which says, “When we were without strength, in due time **Christ died for the ungodly.** & God

commended his love toward us, in that **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**” All of Mankind was in a state of unrighteousness with no strength to make ourselves righteous yet God loved us. In our helpless state, Jesus came to help.

Romans 6:23 says, “The wages of sin is death; but, the gift of God is **eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Jesus fully satisfied “the wages of sin” when He offered himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. And, on the cross, He purchased a gift that He offers to all. The gift is Eternal Life! **NOTE: A gift is not a gift if it must be earned. Eternal life was bought and paid for by Jesus.**

In **Galatians 2:21** the Apostle Paul said, “I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness comes by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.” Think about this, **if we could earn eternal life by keeping the law thus making ourselves worthy, then Christ would have died in vain.** But Christ did not die in vain, He died to save us.

The Jews were confused about righteousness and in **Romans 10** Paul described their confusion like this, “I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. **For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believes.**” The Jews mistakenly thought that they could somehow establish their own righteousness by keeping the law. But they were wrong and they missed the righteousness that is freely offered by Jesus,

a righteousness that can never be earned by keeping the law.

The righteousness that God offers is explained in **Romans 10:9-10** “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, **you will be saved.** For with the heart man believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation... For whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Did you see it? Paul says, “With the heart man believes unto righteousness.” Becoming right with God is totally a heart issue.

Consider the teaching of Jesus in **John 6:27-29** on this very same subject, “Labor not for the meat which perishes, but for that meat which endures unto everlasting life, which the Son of man **shall give unto you...** Then they [the Jews] said, ‘What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that you believe on him whom he has sent.’”

In **Ephesians 2:8-9**, the Apostle Paul declares the same exact message, “For by grace are you saved through faith, and that **not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:** Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Grace is not granted “after all we can do” or “if we deny ourselves of all ungodliness.”

Grace is God’s gift to us in spite of our unrighteousness. Grace is not grace if it must be merited. The most important testimonies concerning eternal life come from God himself. I would encourage you to carefully consider the witness of the Father and Son and believe their word.

HEAVENLY FATHER’S PERSONAL TESTIMONY OF ETERNAL LIFE

“This is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son... he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. And this is the testimony, that **God has given to us eternal life**, and this life is in his Son. **He that has the Son has life;** and he that does not have the Son has not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that **you may know that you have eternal life**, and that you may believe on the name of the Son of God.” (1 John 5:11-13)

JESUS CHRIST’S PERSONAL TESTIMONY OF ETERNAL LIFE

“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up [on the cross]: **That whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.** For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believes in him** should not perish, but have everlasting life... He that believes on him is not condemned; but he that believes not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God... **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 3:14-18, 36)

CONCLUSION

The word “gospel” means “good news” – the true gospel of Jesus is **GOOD NEWS** for sinners. The gospel is not about “religious effort” or “self-righteousness”. **Jesus came to save sinners.**