

See [p.s. #10](#), an introduction to this topic

WHAT MORMON MISSIONARIES TEACH (continued)

P.S. #10 cited Mormon church guidance in *Preach My Gospel* to its more-than-80,000 missionaries: five lessons to highlight the essentials of the Mormon religion. The first lesson is about the “restoration” in 1830 of a true Christian church after 15 centuries of universal apostasy.

Translated into plain speech, the Mormon church’s “Message of the Restoration” in **Lesson 1** is:

- Christianity and faith in Christ are not enough. They are nice, but Mormonism, works, laws, and ordinances are required for ultimate salvation.

- The Bible is insufficient. It has been supplemented with three new books of scripture, and revelations to Joseph Smith and his successors.

- You became a child of God, not by receiving or believing in Christ, as you have thought (John 1:12, 13). Your spirit was born and reared in heaven before Creation by the flesh-and-bone Father and Mother.

- The discovery (“restoration”) of these and other long-lost doctrines less than 200 years ago heralded this new and final “gospel dispensation.”

The church modestly explains: “New gospel dispensations,” each independent of others, have been started by, among others, “Adam, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus Christ, [and] Joseph Smith.”

After you understand these things, Mormon missionaries might move on to Lessons 2, 3, and 4:

Lesson 2. “The Plan of Salvation”

To stimulate interest in their religion Mormons often ask three questions for others to ponder: •Where did I come from? •Why am I here? •Where am I going?

Mormons answer with a complex, epic tale spanning •thousands or millions or billions of years of premortal life for all men and women (no one knows how long); •mortal life; •and the happy, endless future awaiting all (yes, all) mortals.

Although called the plan of salvation, the Mormon story is not an answer to the simple question “What must I do to be saved?” to which Paul and Silas answered, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:30, 31).

In Mormon missionary **Lesson 2** the plan begins with God fathering and raising to adulthood billions of spirit children. As spirits the children could not become like the parents (flesh and bone) “without the experience of living in mortality with a physical body.” So—

God created earth where the children could “obtain a body and be tested during a time of probation...out of God’s physical presence.” “We understood and accepted this plan before we came to the earth.” Adam and Eve were to sin and become mortal. Then they could “learn and progress...[and] have children, so the rest of God’s children could come to earth, obtain physical bodies, and be tested.”

Jesus atoned for the necessary and predictable failures of his brothers and sisters after they become mortals, overcoming on their behalf the “obstacles” of sin and physical death—but only on the condition that they exercise faith and repent, are baptized by immersion, receive “the gift of the Holy Ghost, and endure to the end.” Jesus’ siblings from the spirit world would “return to live with God” only if they demonstrated that they “will follow His commandments.”

Mortals die, then live as spirits temporarily “in a state of misery or a state of peace and rest, depending on how we lived in this life.”

God will judge everyone after resurrection, giving eternal life only “to those who fully obey the gospel.”

God will assign each person to a kingdom—God’s presence for the valiant, and lesser kingdoms for those who were “not valiant,” or those who did not repent of their sins. The unrepentant will “suffer and pay for their sins” before entering their kingdom.

Lesson 3. “The Gospel of Jesus Christ”

This lesson is a more detailed story about the Atonement, and what mortals must do—as in the plan of salvation, above—before they will “be judged according to their works and their desires.”

Lesson 4. “The Commandments”

- Pray.** Among other answers, good feelings will confirm that Mormonism is true.
- Study** three books of Mormon scripture and the Bible.
- Attend Mormon church** meetings.
- No shopping or sports** on Sundays.
- Get baptized and confirmed** by Mormon priesthood holders.
- “Follow the Prophet.”**
- “Keep the Ten Commandments.”**
- No alcohol, tobacco, coffee, tea.**
- Chastity.**
- Tithe** to the Mormon church.
- Fast** once a month, as directed.
- Obey civil laws.**

Many Mormons strive for worthwhile, moral family and civil life. But their religion preaches salvation by such living: proving oneself “worthy” to men and God. It’s unbiblical, faux-christian—but attractive; and that’s why Christians are to be careful, and to help Mormons understand God’s gracious gift.