

Mormons often say that those who are not members of their church should learn the teachings and practices of their religion—not from other non-members, and certainly not critics, but from members and authorities. So, let's look at what the church itself has published.

Here we look at brief pamphlets published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, mostly in the 1980s. As far as we can tell, these Mormon teachings remain official today, whether or not individual members are aware.

### THEIR PROPHET

from *The Greatest Message of Our Time*

"The Greatest message of our time is that this account [of the First Vision] given by Joseph Smith is the absolute truth. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob raised up Joseph Smith, Jr., to be a true prophet." (The church's official movie portrayal of the young teen's "first vision" on which the whole religion rests: [HERE](#).)

from *Contributions of Joseph Smith*

"Today we proclaim him Prophet and sing his praise as sincerely, as devoutly, as reverently as they did more than one hundred years ago when they sat in his presence and felt the inspiration of his influence and heard the word of God from his lips." (See children and 20,000 other Mormons singing his praise [HERE](#).)

### THEIR CHRIST

from *Christ in America*

"The Great White God of ancient America still lives! ...He is Jesus the Christ, the Savior of all mankind. ...frequently described as a tall white man, bearded and with blue eyes.

"...He taught the ancients his true religion, raised some of their dead, healed many of their sick, taught new and more productive methods of agriculture, and established a government of equality and peace."

Known by at least eighteen different names "to Indians from Chile to Alaska" and "Polynesians from Hawaii to New Zealand," he appointed "Western prophets" whose records became the basis for "another volume of scripture," the Book of Mormon. (You can read this pamphlet by a "prophet, seer, and revelator," a Mormon apostle, [HERE](#).)

### THEIR GOSPEL/PLAN OF SALVATION

from *The Purpose of Life*

"In the spirit world, before this [mortal] life, you were among the faithful. You earned, there, the right to be on earth today."

"The law God gave Adam, 'In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread' (Genesis 3:19), applies not merely to physical sustenance; it is also a law for the salvation of the soul. You harvest what you sow."

"While on earth you also have an opportunity to live by faith, away from the presence of God, and to thereby prove yourself. You have been given commandments and laws and the freedom to obey or disobey—but justly you are responsible for your choices."

from *The Gospel of Jesus Christ*

"Through the ordinance of baptism, we enter a covenant (or agreement) with God. ...Heavenly Father promises that our sins will be forgiven if we keep our part of the covenant."

from *Apostasy and Restoration*

"We know that the faithful members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are the people of God and that we are going to build Zion, the city of God on earth."

Knowing actual Mormon church teachings can help when you speak with Mormons, whether they know, believe, or excuse them. You have good news.

Truth does not rely on the imaginative visions of a teenager less than 200 years ago, but on the Bible. The pagan gods of early civilizations in the western world were not appearances of Christ. Eternal salvation and forgiveness of sins are gifts, not earned by our labor, and do not depend on us keeping "our part" of an agreement with God.