

## WHO DO THEY SAY THAT HE IS? #3: Who Do the Mormons Say That He Is? July 8-10, 2006

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God... <sup>6</sup>You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup>For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ... <sup>15</sup>But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! <sup>16</sup>Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. <sup>17</sup>For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! <sup>18</sup>Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup>For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

*Romans 5:1-19 TNIV*

Introduction: Examining the beliefs of other religious groups concerning Jesus Christ can help us understand better what we believe about him. Though many Mormons proclaim themselves to be "Christian," there are actually vast differences between their understanding of salvation through Jesus Christ and the traditional, orthodox Christian position.

- I. The Basics of Mormonism
  - A. Founded by Joseph Smith in 1830.
  - B. The canon of Scripture, which is not closed, includes the *Book of Mormon* (1827), *Doctrines and Covenants* (1835), *Pearl of Great Price* (1851), and the *Holy Bible* (if translated correctly).
  - C. Belief in "Eternal Progressivism"

1. The God of the Earth, namely "heavenly father" is an exalted man created by another God, who was begotten of another, etc.
  2. God is one of a "species."
  3. Having attained godhood, the heavenly father went to heaven and joined with a goddess wife (Mother-God) to have millions of spirit children to populate the earth.
  4. Men attain godhood in stages (and their wives through them): "as man is, God once was; as God is, man may be." (Apostle James Talmadge)
- D. Three levels of heaven: telestial, terrestrial, and celestial.
- II. Who Do They Say That He Is?
    - A. Jesus is the firstborn spirit-child of Father God, followed by his younger brother, Lucifer.
    - B. Jesus was chosen to be "Savior" in a heavenly council meeting, after which Lucifer rebelled and lost a battle.
    - C. With the help of other spirit-children, Jesus used eternal matter to create the earth as his planet.
    - D. Jesus came to earth from the "preexistent" spirit world and was born of a physical union between God and Mary.
    - E. Many Mormon theologians have believed that Jesus was a polygamist husband, since "celestial marriage" is required to achieve godhood.
    - F. After death on the cross, Jesus attained godhood (fullness) as a resurrected body, then was exalted to heaven to reign and continue his progression.
    - G. Jesus is now one of many "gods," including the father and the Holy Ghost (who never got a body).
    - H. Jesus' death and resurrection gave telestial heaven to all.
- III. Who Do We Say That He Is?
    - A. The only Son and incarnation of the one true, living God, born of the Holy Spirit through the Virgin Mary.
    - B. Fully God, fully man, who lived a perfect life unmarried.
    - C. He died to pay the price for the sins of believers.
    - D. He was resurrected, then ascended to heaven to reign.
    - E. He is one of three persons in one God (Trinity).
    - F. Relationship with Him is the only way to salvation and eternal life in heaven.

Conclusion: Many have said that Mormonism is the American religion. Even our cursory analysis helps us understand our own Biblical faith better. We believe that Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life," and that only relationship with Him can save us.