

THE ARTICLES OF FAITH

OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

1. We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.
2. We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression.
3. We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.
4. We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: first, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.
5. We believe that a man must be called of God, by prophecy, and by the laying on of hands by those who are in authority, to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof.
6. We believe in the same organization that existed in the Primitive Church, namely, apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, and so forth.
7. We believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, and so forth.
8. We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.
9. We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.
10. We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.
11. We claim the privilege of worshipping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may.
12. We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law.
13. We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul – We believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.

For more information about our basic beliefs,
please visit www.mormon.org.

JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD

“He is the chief cornerstone of the Church that bears His name, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. There is no other name given among men whereby we can be saved (see Acts 4:12). He is the Author of our salvation, the Giver of eternal life (see Hebrews 5:9). There is none to equal Him. There never has been. There never will be. Thanks be to God for the gift of His Beloved Son, who gave His life that we might live and who is the chief, immovable cornerstone of our faith and His Church ... He is the central focus of our worship ... None so great has ever walked the earth. None other has made a comparable sacrifice or granted a comparable blessing. He is the Savior and the Redeemer of the world. I believe in Him. I declare His divinity without equivocation or compromise. I love Him. I speak the name of Jesus Christ in reverence and wonder. He is our King, our Lord, our Master, the living Christ, who stands on the right hand of His Father. He lives! He lives, resplendent and wonderful, the living Son of the living God.” (Gordon B. Hinckley)

“The fundamental principles of our religion are the testimony of the Apostles and Prophets, concerning Jesus Christ, that He died, was buried, and rose again the third day, and ascended into heaven; and all other things which pertain to our religion are only appendages to it.” (Joseph Smith)

“We place [Jesus Christ] on a pedestal as no other group I know of. To us he is not only the Son of God, he is also a God and we are subject to him ... No matter how much we say of him, it is still too little.” (Spencer W. Kimball)

“I have found many in the world who have not known that we believe in the divine mission of our Lord, and I have been led to say upon more than one occasion that there are no people in the world who so well understand the divine mission of Jesus Christ, who so thoroughly believe him to have been the Son of God, who are so sanguine [confident] that at the present time he is enthroned in glory at the right hand of his Father, as the Latter-day Saints.” (George Albert Smith)

“He is our Lord, our Redeemer, the Messiah, the King of Zion, the Rock of Heaven. He ransomed us with His blood.” (Boyd K. Packer)

“After five decades of life, I am more aware than ever before of the suffering of Jesus Christ as He took upon Himself the sins of the world and willingly died that we might live. I constantly contemplate His Courage and submission in the face of opposition and His unwavering love in spite of disappointments. He loves me, even though I am far from perfect. Through the various challenges of my life, I have never felt alone. I am grateful for the knowledge of a personal Savior. In this troubled world, Christ is real, alive, and a bastion of strength to all who come unto Him. God is real. He sent His Son to redeem us and to save the world from sin. For this I am eternally grateful.” (Christine Roberts)

“And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he lives!” (D&C 76:22).

For more information about our faith in Jesus Christ,
please visit jesuschrist.lds.org.

REVERENCE FOR THE BIBLE

The Church reveres the Bible as a sacred volume of scripture. Latter-day Saints cherish its teachings and engage in a lifelong study of its divine wisdom. It stands in the center of the Latter-day Saints' spiritual lives. In a recent sermon, Church apostle Elder M. Russell Ballard characterized the Bible as the "bedrock of all Christianity" and one of the "pillars" of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Furthermore, he described the Bible as a miracle: "It is a miracle that the Bible's 4,000 years of sacred and secular history were recorded and preserved by the prophets, apostles, and inspired churchmen. ... It is a miracle that the Bible literally contains within its pages the converting, healing Spirit of Christ, which has turned men's hearts for centuries, leading them to pray, to choose right paths, and to search to find their Savior." It instills real, tangible power in the lives of Latter-day Saints and offers practical solutions and spiritual guidance that inspire them to overcome challenges and trials.

There is a broad range of approaches within the vast mosaic of biblical interpretation. For example, biblical inerrancy maintains that the Bible is without error and contradiction; biblical infallibility holds that the Bible is free from errors regarding faith and practice but not necessarily science or history; biblical literalism requires a literal interpretation of events and teachings in the Bible and generally discounts allegory and metaphor; and the "Bible as literature" educational approach extols the literary qualities of the Bible but disregards its miraculous elements.

The Church does not strictly subscribe to any of these interpretive approaches. Rather, in the words of Joseph Smith, it regards the Bible to be the word of God, "as far as it is translated correctly" (8th Article of Faith). Accordingly, Church members believe that during the centuries-long process in which fallible human beings compiled, translated and transcribed the Bible, various errors

entered the text. However, this does not override the overwhelming predominance of truth within the Bible. As Elder Ballard noted, "Without the Bible, we would not know of His Church then, nor would we have the fullness of His gospel now." Part of that fullness is the Bible's seminal instruction that God reveals Himself to those who seek Him. The Bible is a living invitation to know personally the sacred revelatory experience that fills its pages.

The scriptures, or "standard works," of the Latter-day Saints comprise the Old Testament and New Testament of the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price. According to Elder Ballard, these scriptures constitute a "great, indivisible whole" of God's revealed word that help humankind understand the past, present and future. The great gospel plan contained in these works does not apply to one generation or one people alone but to all of God's children throughout all time. Thus, in the words of Elder Ballard, "those who think that one part is more important or more true than the other parts are missing some of the beauty and completeness of the canon of ancient scripture."

Of all the standard works, the Bible remains the best source for an intimate understanding of the character and personality of Jesus Christ during His mortal mission. While the Old Testament offers a prophetic foretelling of that mission, the New Testament provides an unmatched account of the events, experiences, teachings and personal interactions of Christ. The Book of Mormon strengthens and reinforces His teachings through additional witnesses and provides moving accounts of the personal experiences many individuals had with Him. According to Elder Ballard, "The Book of Mormon does not dilute nor diminish nor de-emphasize the Bible. On the contrary, it expands, extends, and exalts it."

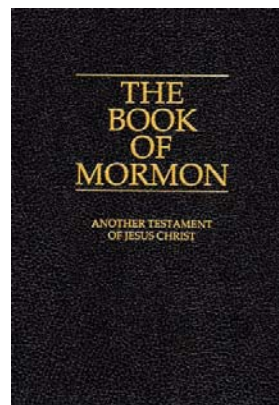
THE BOOK OF MORMON

ANOTHER TESTAMENT OF JESUS CHRIST

Of Jesus Christ, none can fully comprehend the splendor of His life, the majesty of His death, the universality of His gift to humankind. We unequivocally declare with the centurion who said at His death, “Truly this man was the Son of God” (Mark 15:39). Such is the witness of the testament of the Old World, the Holy Bible. And there is another voice, that of the testament of the New World, the Book of Mormon. The Book of Mormon’s message throughout its length is of the divinity of Jesus Christ and of the eternal blessings that can come to all the sons and daughters of God through His redeeming love. In the words of one Book of Mormon prophet: “For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, 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 ... And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins” (2 Nephi 25:23, 26).

Here is a collection of scriptures that will help you briefly familiarize yourself with the teachings of the Book of Mormon. After you read them, we invite you to “ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if [you] ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost” (Moroni 10:4).

- Introduction
- 1 Nephi – Chapters 9, 11
- 2 Nephi – Chapters 2, 4, 25, 29, 31, 32, 33
- Mosiah – Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 13, 15, 16, 18
- Alma – Chapters 5, 7, 32, 34, 36, 37, 41
- Helaman – Chapters 5, 14
- 3 Nephi – Chapters 1, 11, 15, 18, 19, 27
- Ether – Chapters 5, 12
- Moroni – Chapters 8, 10



An online version of the scriptures is available at scriptures.lds.org.

To obtain a free copy of the Book of Mormon,
please call 1-888-537-7111, visit www.mormon.org/bookofmormon,
or simply ask a member of the Church.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Are Mormons Christian?

Yes. Ezra Taft Benson, a former President of the Church, said: “We declare the divinity of Jesus Christ. We look to Him as the only source of our salvation. We strive to live His teachings, and we look forward to the time that He shall come again on this earth to rule and reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. In the words of a Book of Mormon prophet, we say to men today, ‘There [is] no other name given nor any other way nor means whereby salvation can come unto the children of men, only in and through the name of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent’ (Mosiah 3:17).”

Do Mormons believe in the Bible?

Yes. The Church reveres the Bible. The New Testament remains the best source for an intimate understanding of the character and personality of Jesus Christ during His mortal mission. In addition to the Old Testament and New Testament of the Bible, the scriptures, or “standard works,” of the Latter-day Saints also include the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price.

Why does the Church have a prophet?

Modern apostles and prophets are a distinctive characteristic of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Church members view senior Church leaders – Joseph Smith, Brigham Young and the presidents of the Church that followed – as prophets of God in the same way they view Abraham, Moses, Isaiah and the apostles in the day of Jesus Christ. Thomas S. Monson is the current president and prophet of the Church.

Why does the Church have temples?

Latter-day Saint temples are considered houses of God, a place of holiness and peace separate from the preoccupations of the world. They provide a place where Church members make formal promises and commitments to God. They are also the place where the highest sacraments of the faith occur – the marriage of couples and the “sealing” of families for eternity. Temples are quite different from the thousands of regular chapels or meetinghouses all over the world that are used for Sunday services. Anyone, regardless of religion, may enter a Latter-day Saint meetinghouse and attend services. However, because of the purpose and sacredness of temples as “houses of the Lord,” only members of the Church who are in good standing are allowed to enter the temples.

Why don't Mormons drink alcohol or coffee?

A health plan for the Church was first written down in 1833 by Joseph Smith as a revelation from God. Today, Latter-day Saints usually refer to these health guidelines as “the Word of Wisdom” (see D&C 89). The provisions of the health code include no alcoholic drinks, no smoking or chewing of tobacco, and no “hot drinks” – believed to refer specifically to tea and coffee.

Why does the Church have missionaries?

Missionary work is voluntary and is based on the New Testament pattern of missionaries serving in pairs, teaching the gospel and baptizing believers in the name of Jesus Christ (see, for example, the work of Peter and John in the book of Acts).

For more information about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, please visit www.mormon.org or www.lds.org.