

Mormon scripture teaches law-keeping for salvation:

"We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel." – Pearl of Great Price, 3rd Article of Faith

"...if you keep not my commandments you cannot be saved in the kingdom of my Father." –D&C 18:46

In fairness to LDS, Mormonism *does not* teach that man can save himself entirely upon self-righteousness. LDS know they are not perfect. More accurately, LDS believe that salvation can be earned through a cooperative effort with Christ, who gives grace after compliance with church laws.

In his book, LDS author Stephen Robinson illustrated this cooperative approach to salvation through what he called the "Parable of the Bicycle." A daughter emptied her piggy bank to buy a pricy bicycle that she could not afford. After realizing that she could not pay the price, her earthly Father stepped in with the balance of the payment due:

"...You give me everything you've got, the whole sixty-one cents, and a hug and a kiss, and this bike is yours."<sup>1</sup>

The Mormon Christ uses this same "arrangement:"

"So you've done all you can do, but it's not enough. Well, don't despair. I'll tell you what, let's try a different arrangement. How much *do* you have? How much *can* fairly be expected of you? You give me exactly that much (the whole sixty-one cents) and do all you *can* do, and I will provide the rest for now. You give me all you've got and a hug and a kiss...and the kingdom is yours!...Between the two of us, we'll have it all covered. You will be one hundred percent justified."<sup>2</sup>

The LDS Jesus in effect refinances our spiritual sin

debt "for now," making himself creditor, while requiring partial payment of our works in exchange for saving grace.

LDS friend, there are no "laws and ordinances" in the Christian gospel. Why? Because you cannot meet God's standard of righteousness for salvation.

### The Bible Says "Be Perfect," Not "Do Your Best"

Biblically speaking, keeping laws for salvation is an *all or nothing proposition*. God's standard is perfection:

**For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, *cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.* –Gal. 3:10**

**For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. –Jam. 2:10**

Friend, the deadly pill of the LDS gospel is the idea that Christ gives saving grace after your best effort. Be not deceived—Christian salvation *is not* a quid pro quo. There is no cooperative work program to be saved. Adding even 1% good works cancels both our faith, and God's grace:

**Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.....For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect....Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace. –excerpts from Rom. 4:2-16**

**And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work. –Rom. 11:6**

See Galatians 5:1-6 for additional reading. Mormon friend, if you're working for salvation,

then you're on your own, for you've canceled the grace of God. Take note—not based on a cute bicycle story, but on the authority of the Bible—God isn't saying "Let's make a deal." Either you accept the free gift of salvation His way by grace through faith, or you'll have no salvation at all. *Dear Mormon, you're riding a stolen bicycle!*

### LDS Scripture Says "Do All," Not "Do Your Best"

"... [B]e reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do."

–2 Nephi

25:23

LDS, are you doing all you can do? You must answer "No" if you honest with yourself. While LDS leadership commonly "solves" this dilemma by explaining that God only requires that you "do you best," this is not what Mormon scripture teaches, and even LDS general authorities cannot overrule what the Mormon God says in LDS scripture.

That's dilemma is resolved, if you trust the Christian God of the Bible, whereby the grace of God is accessed by faith, not works:

**For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. –Eph. 2:8-9**

**Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand.... –Rom. 5:1-2**

Of course you cannot work for a gift, or it's not a gift. Let's look at another mission impossible scripture:

"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

<sup>1</sup> Robinson, *Believing Christ*, p. 12

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 33

your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you..." –Moroni 10:32

Have you denied yourself of all ungodliness yet?

Keep my commandments continually, and a crown of righteousness thou shalt receive. And except thou do this, where I am you cannot come. –D&C 25:15

Are you keeping God's commandments continually?

And, if you keep my commandments and endure to the end you shall have eternal life, which gift is the greatest of all the gifts of God. –D&C 14:7

Well friend, if you can continually keep all of God's laws for a lifetime, enjoy your "gift". . . you've earned it!

### LDS Leadership Says "No Excuses."

Second Mormon President, Brigham Young, said:

"The Gospel of the Son of God that has been revealed is a plan or system of laws and ordinances, by strict obedience to which the people who inhabit this earth are assured that they may return again into the presence of the Father and the Son."<sup>3</sup>

12<sup>th</sup> Mormon President, Spencer W. Kimball, warned LDS:

"The Lord will not translate one's good hopes and desires and intentions into works. Each of us must do that for himself....Trying is not sufficient. Nor is repentance complete when one merely tries to abandon sin....To 'try' is weak. To 'do the best I can' is not strong. We must always do better than we can....discontinuance of sin must be permanent."<sup>4</sup>

"...[P]rogress toward eternal life is a matter of achieving perfection. Living all the commandments guarantees total forgiveness of sins and assures one of exaltation through that perfection which comes by complying with the

formula the Lord gave us. In his Sermon on the Mount he made the command to all men: 'Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.' (Matt. 5:48.) Being perfect means to triumph over sin. This is a mandate from the Lord....He would never require anything from his children which was not for their benefit and which was not attainable. Perfection therefore is an achievable goal."<sup>5</sup>

Are you perfect yet? The Book of Mormon says that God never gives laws that you cannot keep. (1 Nephi 3:7)

### What Will it Be—Pardon or Probation?

Dear Mormon, your God never forgets your sins, for if you repeat a sin—even one you've long since forgotten about—then all former sins are reinstated to your account:

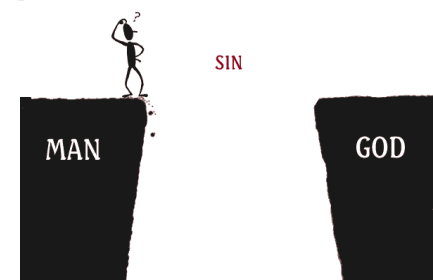
"...I say unto you, I, the Lord, will not lay any sin to your charge; go your ways and sin no more; but unto that soul who sinneth shall the former sins return, saith the Lord your God." – D&C 82:7

But the true God says that He **"...will not remember thy sins"** if you've been forgiven. (**Is. 43:25**) Friend, will it be *probation* from the Mormon God, which you're sure to violate; or will it be a *pardon* from the true Christ of the Bible? Only the later will make you legally "justified" and safe from the wrath of God on judgment day! (**Rom. 5:9**)

*Sincerely, Bill Young (former LDS)*

*LDS Salvation...*

**A  
MISSION  
IMPOSSIBLE**



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<sup>3</sup> Discourses of Brigham Young, p. 1

<sup>4</sup> Kimball, *The Miracle of Forgiveness*, pp. 8, 164-65, 176

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, pp. 208-209