Easter and The Resurrection of Jesus
The Mormon View vs. The Biblical Christian view

Yvon Prehn, Teacher

Christian Overview

* Easter is the most important celebration of the Christian faith
  * I Cor. 15: 3, 4 … of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day .
* Culmination of all Old Testament
  * Penalty for sin in Garden, covering of skins
  * OT testifies of Jesus
  * Lamb of God=Jesus in New Testament
  * Without ***shedding*** of blood, no forgiveness (Heb. 9:22), not sweating of blood

Mormon view

* Modern LDS leaders have emphasized that Jesus' most challenging experience came in **Gethsemane.**. . . .Church President Ezra Taft Benson wrote that "it was in **Gethsemane** that Jesus took on Himself the sins of the world, in **Gethsemane** that His pain was equivalent to the cumulative burden of all men, in **Gethsemane** that He descended below all things so that all could repent and come to Him" (Benson, p. 7). (*Encyclopedia of Mormonism*, edited by Daniel H. Ludlow, New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1992, p. 542)
* Forgiveness is available because of the atoning sacrifice of the Great Jehovah. **Forgiveness is available because Christ the Lord sweat great drops of blood in Gethsemane as he bore the incalculable weight of the sins of all who ever had or ever would repent.** Forgiveness is available because "God suffereth according to the flesh that he might take upon him the sins of his people, that he might blot out their transgressions according to the power of his deliverance." (Alma 7:13.) (LDS Apostle Bruce R. McConkie *The Promised Messiah: The First Coming of Christ*, p. 337, Deseret Book, 1978.)

Not Gethsemane, Clearly the CROSS

* Heb. 12:2—Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him **endured the cross**, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.
* Col. 1:20—And, **having made peace through the blood of his cross**, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.
* Col. 2:13-14—And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, **nailing it to his cross**;

The Bible emphasizes the cross, not Gethsemane

* Romans 5:10 explains that "when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the **death** of his Son."
* Paul also stated: "God forbid that I should glory, save in the **cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." (Gal. 6:14)

Mormon view trivializes the death of Christ

* Not sweating of blood
  * Makes no sense
  * No OT fulfillment
  * Cannot be implied from translation of NT Words
* Only makes sense in that it goes along with Mormon view of Jesus

Not the same resurrection because not the same Jesus

* In bearing testimony of Jesus Christ, President Hinckley spoke of those outside the Church who say Latter-day Saints "do not believe in the **traditional Christ**. **No, I don't**. The **traditional Christ** of whom **they** speak is **not** the Christ of whom **I** speak. For the Christ of whom I speak has been revealed in this the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times.
* He together with His Father, appeared to the boy Joseph smith in the year 1820, and when Joseph left the grove that day, he knew **more** of the nature of God than **all the learned ministers** of the gospel of the ages." (*Deseret News*, Church News section, Salt Lake City, Utah, week ending June 20, 1998, p. 7)

More Mormon explanation—Universalist view of "salvation"

* ***Immortality is a free gift and comes without works or righteousness of any sort; all men will come forth in the resurrection because of the atoning sacrifice of Christ.*** (1 Cor. 15:22.) In and of itself the resurrection is a form of salvation meaning that men are thereby saved from death, hell, the devil, and endless torment. ...Works are not involved, neither the works of the Mosaic law nor the works of righteousness that go with the fulness of the gospel.
* ***Salvation in the celestial kingdom of God, however, is not salvation by grace alone. Rather, it is salvation by grace coupled with obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel***. (Third Article of Faith.) Those who gain it are "raised in immortality unto eternal life." (D. & C. 29:43; 2 Ne. 9:22-24.) Immortality comes by grace alone, but those who gain it may find themselves damned in eternity. (Alma 11:37-45.) ***Eternal life, the kind of life enjoyed by eternal beings in the celestial kingdom, comes by grace plus obedience***. Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, p. 669-671:

Difference between immortality and eternal life for Mormons

* What is **eternal life**? It is to have **"a continuation of the seeds forever and ever**." No one receives eternal life except those who receive the exaltation. Eternal life is the greatest gift of God; immortality is not.
  Joseph Fielding Smith Jr., *Doctrines of Salvation*, Vol.2, p.9:
* Be clear on the distinction between immorality –for everyone and eternal life and exaltation (become a god, populate your world) for obedient Mormons only.
* Ties in with views of eternal families

KaraLyn Louise (from mormon.org)

* Because Christ suffered on the cross, died, and was resurrected on the third day, He overcame death for all of us. All of us will be resurrected, meaning that our bodies and our spirits will once again be united. ***Our resurrected bodies will be perfect, no longer feeling pain, sickness or death. Christ gave this gift to all of us, no matter how we lived our lives on earth. However, if we live righteously and follow all of God's commandments, He will give us an even greater gift.*** If we live righteously we can live with Him and our families forever. The relationships that we formed on earth will continue after this life. I am so grateful to know that ***as long as I follow God's commandments,*** I can be with my family forever.

Universal eternal life….but, what about non-mormons?

* Conditional or individual salvation, that which comes by grace coupled with gospel obedience, consists in receiving an inheritance in the celestial kingdom of God. This kind of salvation follows faith, repentance, baptism, receipt of the Holy Ghost, and ***continued righteousness to the end of one's mortal probation***. (D. & C. 20:29; 2 Ne. 9:23-24.) …
* Even those in the celestial kingdom, however, who do not go on to exaltation, will have immortality only and not eternal life. ***Along with those of the telestial and terrestrial worlds they will be "ministering servants, to minister for those who are worthy of a far more, and an exceeding, and an eternal weight of glory." They will live "separately and singly" in an unmarried state "without exaltation, in their saved condition, to all eternity."*** (D. & C. 132:16-17.)

Even worse: Women in the Resurrection

* **Can you get into the celestial kingdom?. . .No woman will get into the celestial kingdom, except her husband receives her**, if she is worthy to have a husband; and if not, somebody will receive her as a servant. (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 5, p. 291) Apostle Erastus Snow
* If by chance you should drop away, **having no husband to raise you at the last day, you could not be 'resurrected' as a saint**, and would only be raised like any Gentile, as a servant for the Saints, i.e., for the Mormons.' "Apostle Orson Hyde

Limited blood atonement

* But under certain circumstances there are **some serious sins for which the cleansing of Christ does not operate**, and the law of God is that men must then have their **own blood shed to atone for their sins**."—Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine,* p. 92
* "**There are sins that men commit for which they cannot receive forgiveness in this world, or in that which is to come**, and if they had their eyes open to see their true condition, they would be perfectly willing to **have their blood spilt** upon the ground, that the smoke thereof might ascend to heaven **as an offering for their sins**.... It is true that the blood of the Son of God was shed for sins through the fall and those committed by men, **yet men can commit sins which it can never remit**." —Brigham Young, 1856, *Journal of Discourses,* vol. 4, pp. 53-54

Bible view Unlimited Salvation

* **1 PETER 2:24; 3:18**: "Who **his own self bare our sins in his own body** on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.… For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for **the unjust, that he might bring us to God**.…"
* **HEBREWS 7:25**: "**Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost** that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."
* **1 JOHN 1:7, 9**: "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, **and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin**.… If we confess our sins, he is faith and just to forgive us our sins, and to **cleanse us from all unrighteousness**."
* **ROMANS 8:1**: "There is therefore now **no condemnation** to them which are in Christ Jesus.…"

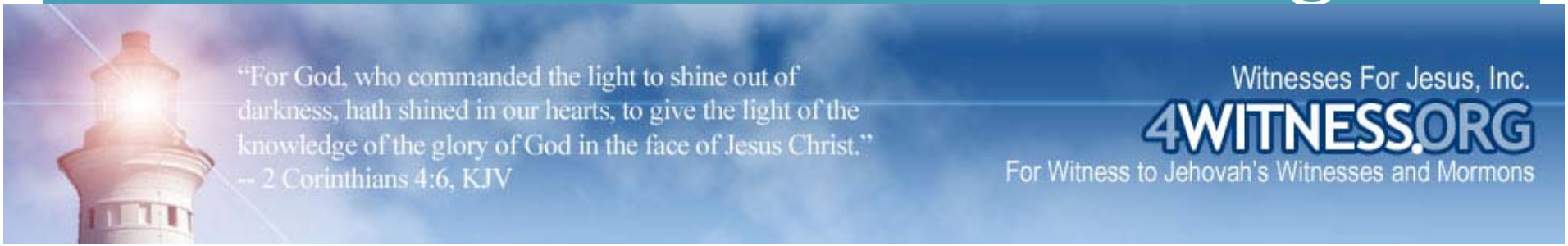
We shouldn't be surprised at the Mormon view because

* Man has always wanted to add to God's free gift
  * For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. Eph. 2:8,9
* To trust God totally, makes no human sense
* 1 Cor. 1:18—For the preaching of **the cross** is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Bible conclusion on Mormon view:

* I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel, which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.
    * Galatians 1:6-8
* But what to do if we care?

Great Resource for Sharing



* Great sections on how to witness to Mormons, from no time to talk, to humble sharing dialog
* Especially good… Questions section
  * http://4witness.org/ldsquestions/qlds-gospel.php
* Are you ever good enough?
* Will your family really be with you?
* Take time to go through it and know what's on it

what's next for

Livelife by the Book

* 426 Class, starting April 18
  * 6pm Class, 7 pm discussion and Q & A
* Class moving to Fellowship Hall, week after Easter

*****More than just facts! to help you LIVE a Healthy, growing Christian LIFE!*******

* Donations for new signs, etc.
* Need: set-up help, tables!
* Greeter confirmation
* Coffee maker, goodie set up
* Goodies early—maybe 2—breakfast goodie and fruit
* INVITE Friends, church members, unchurched friends
* ***Many people in church and outside the church need to come.***
* PRAY for people to Live Life by The Book!