

The Truth about Mormonism

The Gospel of Jesus Christ Part 1

Preach My Gospel – The Gospel of Jesus Christ

The first section in this chapter is the baptismal invitation. The rest of the chapter consists of the following four lessons:

The Message of the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Heavenly Father's Plan of Salvation

The Gospel of Jesus Christ

The Divine Mission of Jesus Christ

Faith in Jesus Christ

Repentance

Baptism: Our First Covenant with God

The Gift of the Holy Ghost

Endure to the End

The Gospel of Jesus Christ Blesses All of God's Children

Becoming Lifelong Disciples of Jesus Christ

Divine Mission of Jesus Christ

Heavenly Father sent His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to make it possible for all of us to experience joy in this world and eternal life in the world to come. “And this is the gospel, the glad tidings, . . . that [Jesus Christ] came into the world . . . to bear the sins of the world, and to sanctify the world, and to cleanse it from all unrighteousness; that through him all might be saved” (Doctrine and Covenants 76:40–42).

As mortals, we all sin, and we all die. Sin and death would prevent us from having eternal life with God unless we had a Redeemer (see 2 Nephi 9). Before the world was created, Heavenly Father chose Jesus Christ to redeem us. In a supreme expression of love, Jesus came to earth and fulfilled this divine mission. He made it possible for us to be redeemed from our sins, and He ensured that we will all be resurrected after we die.

Jesus lived a sinless life. At the end of His mortal ministry, He took upon Himself our sins by His suffering in Gethsemane and when He was crucified (see 1 Nephi 11:33). Jesus’s suffering was so great that it caused Him “to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore” (Doctrine and Covenants 19:18). After His Crucifixion, Jesus was resurrected, gaining victory over death. Together, these events are the Atonement of Jesus Christ.

Divine Mission of Jesus Christ

Our sins make us spiritually unclean, and “no unclean thing can dwell with God” (1 Nephi 10:21). In addition, the law of justice requires a consequence for our sins.

Jesus’s atoning sacrifice provides the way for us to become cleansed of sin and sanctified as we repent. It also provides the way to satisfy the demands of justice (see Alma 42:15, 23–24). The Savior said, “I . . . have suffered these things for all, that they might not suffer if they would repent; but if they would not repent they must suffer even as I” (Doctrine and Covenants 19:16–17). If not for Jesus Christ, sin would end all hope for a future existence with Heavenly Father.

In offering Himself as a sacrifice for us, Jesus did not eliminate our personal responsibility. We need to have faith in Him, repent, and strive to obey the commandments. As we repent, Jesus will claim on our behalf His rights of mercy of His Father (see Moroni 7:27–28). Because of the Savior’s intercession, Heavenly Father forgives us, relieving us of the burden and guilt of our sins (see Mosiah 15:7–9). We are spiritually cleansed and can ultimately be welcomed into God’s presence.

Jesus’s divine mission was also to save us from death. Because He was resurrected, we will all be resurrected after we die. This means that each person’s spirit and body will be reunited, and each of us will live forever in a perfected, resurrected body. If not for Jesus Christ, death would end all hope for a future existence with Heavenly Father.

Scripture Support

God Sent His Son

Alma 11:40 John 3:16–17

Salvation through Jesus Christ

2 Nephi 2:6–8; 9:21–24

Alma 34:8–9, 14–16

Moroni 7:27–28

Doctrine and Covenants 45:3–5

1 Corinthians 15:20–22

Faith in Jesus Christ

The first principle of the gospel is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Faith is the foundation for all other gospel principles.

Faith in Jesus Christ includes having confidence that He is the Only Begotten Son of God. It includes trusting in Him as our Savior and Redeemer—that He is our only way to return to God’s presence (see Acts 4:10–12; Mosiah 3:17; 4:6–8). We are invited to exercise “unshaken faith in him, relying wholly upon the merits of him who is mighty to save” (2 Nephi 31:19).

Faith in Jesus Christ includes believing that He suffered for our sins in His atoning sacrifice. Because of His sacrifice, we can be cleansed and redeemed as we repent. This cleansing helps us find peace and hope in this life. It also allows us to receive a fulness of joy after we die.

Faith in Jesus Christ includes trusting that through Him, we will all be resurrected after we die. This faith can sustain and comfort us in times of loss. The sorrow of death can be dispelled by the promise of the Resurrection.

Faith in Jesus Christ

Faith in Jesus Christ includes believing and trusting that He took upon Himself our afflictions and infirmities (see Isaiah 53:3–5). He knows by His experience how to mercifully support us through life’s challenges (see Alma 7:11–12; Doctrine and Covenants 122:8). As we exercise faith, He helps us press forward through hardships.

Through our faith in Him, Jesus can heal us physically and spiritually. He is always ready to help us as we remember His invitation to “look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not” (Doctrine and Covenants 6:36).

Faith in Jesus Christ

A Principle of Action and Power

Faith in Jesus Christ leads to action. We express our faith by obeying the commandments and doing good each day. We repent of our sins. We are loyal to Him. We strive to become more like Him.

As we exercise faith, we can experience Jesus's power in our daily lives. He will magnify our own best efforts. He will help us grow and resist temptation.

Faith in Jesus Christ

Strengthening Our Faith

The prophet Alma taught that building faith can begin with a simple “desire to believe” (Alma 32:27). Then, for our faith in Jesus Christ to grow, we need to nurture it by learning His words, applying His teachings, and obeying His commandments. Alma taught that as we patiently, diligently nurture the word of God in our hearts, “it shall take root [and become like] a tree springing up unto everlasting life”—thus strengthening our faith (Alma 32:41; see verses 26–43).

Scripture Support

Examples of Faith

Ether 12 Hebrews 11

Works and Obedience

1 Nephi 3:7

Doctrine and Covenants 130:20–21

James 2:17–26

Faith unto Repentance

Alma 34

Examples of Faith

Ether 12 Hebrews 11

Works and Obedience

1 Nephi 3:7

Doctrine and Covenants 130:20–21

James 2:17–26

Faith unto Repentance

Alma 34

Repentance

What Is Repentance?

Repentance is the second principle of the gospel. Faith in Jesus Christ and our love for Him lead us to repent (see Helaman 14:13). Repentance is the process of turning to God and turning away from sin. As we repent, our actions, desires, and thoughts change to be more in harmony with God's will. Forgiveness of sin is made possible through Jesus Christ and His atoning sacrifice.

Repentance is much more than exercising willpower to change a behavior or overcome a weakness. Repentance is sincerely turning to Christ, who gives us the power to experience a “mighty change” in our hearts (Alma 5:12–14). As we experience this change of heart, we are spiritually reborn (see Mosiah 27:24–26).

Through repentance, we develop a fresh view of God, ourselves, and the world. We feel anew God's love for us as His children—and our Savior's love for us. The opportunity to repent is one of the greatest blessings God has given us through His Son.

Repentance

Process of Repentance

When we repent, we recognize our sins and feel genuine remorse. We confess our sins to God and ask for His forgiveness. We also confess very serious sins to authorized Church leaders, who will support us as we repent. We do what we can to make restitution, which means trying to correct the problems our actions may have caused. Genuine repentance is best demonstrated by righteous actions over a period of time.

Repentance is a daily process throughout our lives. “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). We should continually repent, remembering that we “can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth” us (Philippians 4:13). The Lord has assured us that “as often as my people repent will I forgive them their trespasses” (Mosiah 26:30).

Repentance

Blessings of Repentance

Repentance is a positive principle that brings joy and peace. It brings us “unto the power of the Redeemer, unto the salvation of [our] souls” (Helaman 5:11).

When we repent, our guilt and sorrow are healed in process of time. We feel the influence of the Spirit in greater abundance. Our desire to follow God grows stronger.

“Too many people consider repentance as punishment—something to be avoided. . . . But this feeling of being penalized is engendered by Satan. He tries to block us from looking to Jesus Christ, who stands with open arms, hoping and willing to heal, forgive, cleanse, strengthen, purify, and sanctify us” (Russell M. Nelson, “We Can Do Better and Be Better,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2019, 67).

Scripture Support

Repentance

Alma 34:8–17; 36:6–21

Doctrine and Covenants 18:10–13;
58:42–43; 61:2

2 Corinthians 7:9–10

Redemption and Forgiveness

Helaman 5:10–11

Mercy for Those Who Repent

Alma 12:32–34; 42:13, 21–24

My Understandings

Divine Mission of Yeshua

Hebrew Yeshua vs. Greek Jesus

Redemption

Kingship/Kingdom

Reversing Hermon

My Understandings

Faith in Yeshua Hamaschiach

James 2:14-19 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

Acts 19:15-17 But the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?” 16 And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17 And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Yeshua was extolled.

Matthew 7:21-23 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

My Understandings

Faith in Yeshua Hamaschiach

Matthew 5:17-20 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

John 14:15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

My Understandings

Repentance

שׁוּב Shuv To return, to turn back, to restore, to repent (Greek **μετάνοια**)

Usage: The Hebrew verb "shub" primarily means "to return" or "to turn back." It is used extensively in the Old Testament to describe physical returning, such as returning to a place or person, as well as metaphorical returning, such as turning back to God or repenting from sin. The term is also used in the context of restoration, indicating a return to a previous state or condition.

Cultural and Historical Background: In ancient Israelite culture, the concept of "returning" held significant spiritual and communal implications. The covenant relationship between God and Israel was central, and "shub" often described the act of returning to God in faithfulness and obedience. This return was not merely physical but involved a heartfelt repentance and a commitment to follow God's commandments. The idea of restoration was also important, as it encompassed the hope of returning to a state of blessing and favor with God.

Passover Unleavened Bread Connection

Yeshua's Triumphal Entry

Yeshua Cleansing the Temple

Yeshua's Inspection

Yeshua the Passover Lamb

Yeshua First Fruit

Preach My Gospel – The Gospel of Jesus Christ

The first section in this chapter is the baptismal invitation. The rest of the chapter consists of the following four lessons:

The Message of the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Heavenly Father's Plan of Salvation

The Gospel of Jesus Christ

The Divine Mission of Jesus Christ

Faith in Jesus Christ

Repentance

Baptism: Our First Covenant with God

The Gift of the Holy Ghost

Endure to the End

The Gospel of Jesus Christ Blesses All of God's Children

Becoming Lifelong Disciples of Jesus Christ