

# the Cults - Part 1

## INTRODUCTION

What is a cult? In Roman Catholic countries any non-Catholic religious group is usually considered a cult. But among Evangelical Christians a cult is understood to be a false Christian religious group. Thus any group claiming to be Christian, but deviating from the Bible's teaching at any important point is a cult, a "false cult."

Why study about false cults? Jesus taught that false teachers and even false "Christs" would arise in the world (Matt. 24). He also taught that the devil would be allowed to sow weeds (false teachings and false teachers - Matt. 13) among the "wheat," or true believers.

We see this happening all around us today. These groups believe some truth, and also some error. Their error comes when they accept their leaders' religious distinctives which are not according to the Bible. These religious teachers have travelled the world over, sowing the "weeds" of their false teaching. The Philippines has proven to be fertile soil for these "weeds" of untruth

The Bible clearly warns us to be aware of these cults, and to be able to stand firm against their teachings. We also believe that there are many who can be convinced of the errors of their ways, if we know the truth and how to convince them of it. This is the purpose of this course. God does want to use you as a messenger of His light, and thus to rescue those trapped in the snares of false teachings.

## I. DEALING WITH CULTISTS.

Dealing with members of false cults is usually difficult and frustrating. Most of them have closed minds and refuse to consider any views except those taught by their cult. Once they become full-fledged members of a cult, not very many of them are converted to Christ. For these reasons, it is better to reach people with the Gospel before the cults win and indoctrinate them

However, we should not ignore people who are already active cultists. The God who turned Saul the persecutor into Paul the apostle is still active today.

William Schnell was for many years a faithful, zealous Jehovah's Witness. But even after reaching a high position in their organization, he was truly saved. He has written books and articles exposing the errors he formerly taught. Other similar examples could be mentioned.

So do not feel it is useless to try to win cultists to Christ. Yet whenever it is possible, warn men against the cult's false doctrines before they become confused and misled by these errors.

It is important to seek to win people to Christ before they become involved in one of the cults because \_\_\_\_\_

## THE RULES IN DEALING WITH CULTISTS

### 1. BE PRAYERFUL.

Trying to bring cultists to the Lord will soon convince you that you really are engaged in a spiritual war. They often seem unable to grasp the most obvious truths of God's Word. What is the real reason for this, according to 2 Cor. 4:4? \_\_\_\_\_

(See also Eph. 2:1-3)

Prayer is one of our main weapons in fighting against Satan and his control over the unsaved. Eph. 6:18-20 and 2 Thess. 3:1-2 show us three specific matters to pray for. What are they? \_\_\_\_\_

It is usually wise to have a team of at least two Christians when dealing with cultists, so that as one talks the other can pray silently. Keep on praying for yourselves and for those to whom you have spoken. The first rule in dealing with cultists is to \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Be PATIENT

Cultists often try your patience. They may be unreasonable, or even lose their tempers and use insulting language. But try to be patient and long suffering with them. Their anger may be a sign that you are convincing them you are right. Perhaps they are having inner struggles.

# the Cults - Part 1

To win cultists requires another aspect of patience: persistence in your efforts to teach them the truth. Some persons are converted only after months of patient prayer and teaching. You must seek guidance from the Holy Spirit as to whether to spend this much time with one person, or whether to move on to other prospects who may be more responsive. The second rule is to be \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Be POLITE.

Some Christians are so aggressive they become rude when confronting cultists. Our goal is to win people, not arguments. Love is not rude (1 Cor. 13:5). So while we hate the cultist's errors, we should still be polite to those who believe those errors. The third rule is \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Be LOVING.

Accept them as people for whom you are concerned even though you obviously disagree with them. They may be influenced more by our love than by our reasoning.

However, to be patient, polite and loving to cultists does not mean that we ignore their errors or pretend that such errors are not important. That is not true at all, as the following rules will make clear. A fourth point to remember in dealing with cultists is that we must \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. CHOOSE ONE, TWO OR THREE MAIN ERRORS OF THE CULT.

BE ABLE TO REFUTE THEM THOROUGHLY, and STICK TO THESE MAIN POINTS. If you can disprove just one or two of their fundamental points, the cult's whole system of doctrine will probably collapse. The fifth very important rule has three parts. These are:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

For example, you don't need to argue with Mormons about polygamy. Instead, emphasize the supreme authority of the Bible, and that the Book of Mormon is not needed. Similarly, you don't need to know all the Jehovah's Witnesses' ideas about prophecy, or the Iglesia ni Cristo's views about the one true church. Instead, prove from Scripture the deity of Jesus and you have already shown that these cults teach basic error.

Of course, the more you know about a cult's many errors the more help you can give to people who are being confused by these teachings. But the point we are now stressing is this: You do not need to become an "expert" before you dare to confront cultists. If you can refute just one or two of a cult's main heresies, the Lord can use you now.

What, then, are the main errors or wrong teachings of some of the cults? Here are some of them:

### SOME OF THE MAIN ERRORS

#### MORMONS:

The Book of Mormon and other writings and revelations are equal in authority with the Bible.

Man may become gods, and there are many gods. The Mormon church is the only true church.

#### JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:

Christ is not divine.

There is no Trinity.

#### IGLESIA NI CRISTO:

Christ is not divine.

There is no Trinity.

#### CHILDREN OF GOD or FAMILY OF LOVE:

Mo Berg is God's inspired prophet today.

They alone are God's true people today.

They advocate sexual immorality.

#### HERBERT ARMSTRONG:

There is no Trinity.

Sabbath-keeping is required for salvation.

Armstrong's church is the only true church.

# the Cults - Part 1

## **SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS:**

Christians ought to keep the Sabbath.  
Apparently both salvation by God's grace  
and salvation by works are taught.

## **SPIRITISM:**

It is good to consult mediums and spirits.  
Salvation is by good works.

## **TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION:**

God is in everyone.  
Man is basically good.  
Men do not need redemption and new birth,  
but only to practice meditation.

When you talk with cultists and begin to show how Scripture contradicts some main error which they believe, they will try to change the subject. They will usually ask questions about some other doctrine in order to divert the conversation from the subject which is becoming embarrassing to them. At such times you must be **FIRM**. Say, "Wait a minute. We can go on to talk about that question later on, perhaps. But right now we are talking about this doctrine, so let's stick to it and see what God's Word really says about it" If you are not insistent about this, the discussion will wander around and around and nothing will be finally settled at all.

### **6. Share your PERSONAL TESTIMONY**

Especially about **ASSURANCE THAT RESULTS FROM SALVATION BY GRACE**. In sharing your testimony, put emphasis on the fact that you know you are saved, right now, because salvation depends not on your goodness, faithfulness, and zeal, but on God's grace to sinners. (Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 3:4-7)

True, we must repent of sin and surrender to Jesus as Lord-and we dare not omit these facts in our personal evangelism (Luke 14:25-27; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30). But that does not contradict the fact that our salvation is an undeserved gift from God. It is also true that faith without works is dead (James 2). But such works are the result of salvation, not its cause. We do not work in order to become saved, but because we are saved. And since God saved us by His grace, we can know that we are fully

forgiven, accepted as God's children, and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and that God has prepared a glorious destiny for us forever. (Rom. 5:1; 8:1,9,14-17,28-29, etc.)

All cults teach salvation by man's own goodness and efforts. Therefore, cultists lack assurance. They never know when they might commit some sin which will wipe out all the merit they have tried to accumulate by their righteous deeds and zealous service for God. If we can (1) witness to them that we are sure of salvation, and then (2) show that this is what Scripture teaches, it may make them hungry to experience the wonderful joy we have found in Christ. The sixth rule in dealing with cultists is

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In your personal testimony you should put emphasis on the fact that you \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This witness plus Scripture teaching about assurance may \_\_\_\_\_

### **7. Testimonies, however, are not the main test of truth.**

In fact the cultist may give his testimony to you. His testimony will probably be about what he has done. or how fine his church or movement is, rather than how wonderful Christ is. Our 7th rule is about how to respond to their testimonies and claims: **SHOW THE CULTIST THAT A PERSON (OR MOVEMENT) MAY BE WRONG IN SPITE OF THE FOLLOWING THINGS.**

#### **a. Sincerity.**

Of course we should be sincere; but sincerity does not prove a person is right. Hindus sincerely believe in thousands of gods but that does not make their belief true.

# the Cults - Part 1

b. Zeal.

Zeal is good, but it is no proof of being correct. For example, consider Saul of Tarsus persecuting the Christians.

c. Sacrifice.

Jehovah's Witnesses are sacrificial in their living and service for their cause. But so are Communists. Since their beliefs contradict each other, both can't be right. (In fact, both are wrong.)

d. Fast Growth, or Popularity.

The Mormons are spreading rapidly; but so are the Iglesia ni Cristo. Fast growth does not guarantee correct doctrines.

e. Answers to Prayer.

Herbert Armstrong says God has answered his prayers many times. The Mormons also tell about amazing answers to prayer, especially on their long trip to Utah. God in His goodness sometimes hears and blesses the unsaved, hoping in this way to draw them to Himself and His truth (see Acts 10:1-4; Matt. 5:44,45). But such answers don't prove that He approves of their teaching.

f. Miracles.

Spiritism especially claims miraculous powers for healing and forecasting future events. Of course God can and sometimes does work in miraculous ways. But so can Satan (Matt. 7:22,23; 24:24; 2 Thess. 2:9-20). Miracles alone do not prove a man or a movement is from God. Of course these six things just listed are often good in themselves. True Christians are sincere, zealous, sacrificial, etc. But a movement may have some or even all of these things and still be false. We must show the cultist that if he is trusting his cult because of these things, he may be misled.

The seventh rule is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(List the six things:)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

'What then is the final test of being right?

THE WORD OF GOD. We must judge our beliefs and practices by the Bible, regardless of what anyone may say or do.

**8. Do not always be defensive; TAKE THE OFFENSIVE.**

That is, don't let the cultist do all the talking. If they ask you some hard questions, after you answer go on to ask them questions, too. Firmly but politely insist on taking turns in presenting viewpoints. The eighth rule is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ This means you should

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**9. When they support their false doctrines by taking Bible verses out of their context, insist that they EXAMINE THE CONTEXT OF THEIR PROOF-TEXTS.**

Often their interpretation of a verse is very different from what the verse really means. They ignore the sentences that precede and follow the verse they quote. By making them examine the context you can demonstrate the actual meaning of the passage. The ninth rule is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**10. Try to BRING THEM TO THE PLACE WHERE THEY MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN THE BIBLE'S CLEAR TEACHING ON SOME IMPORTANT POINT AND THEIR CULT'S TEACHING ABOUT THAT POINT.**

Then urge them to follow God's Word, not their cult's contradictory ideas. Challenge them with love to follow God rather than men. The tenth rule means that they should choose between

\_\_\_\_\_

# the Cults - Part 1

---

In conclusion, two Bible passages summarize many of what we have called the "Ten Rules in Dealing with Cultists." Study these passages carefully. See how many of our "rules" you can find in them. And notice how the passages balance each other. 2 Timothy 4:2 and 2 Timothy 2:24-26.

## **REVIEW QUESTIONS**

1. Why is it important to seek to win people to Christ before they become involved in one of the cults?
2. List the 10 rules in dealing with the cults.
3. A Christian's personal testimony should emphasize what 2 things?
4. How will you respond to a cultist who tells you of wonderful miracles and answers to prayer experienced in his cult?

## **II. THE MORMONS.**

The official name of this group is Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. They are often referred to as the LDS church, or simple the LDS.

### **A. THE HISTORY OF THE MORMONS.**

**JOSEPH SMITH** - Joseph Smith, Jr., was born in 1805 in Vermont, USA, the son of a poor farmer. Later, his family moved to Palmyra, New York.

Joseph's mother was a fortune teller and given to erratic behaviour. His father was mentally unbalanced-seeing hallucinations and hearing strange voices. Joseph and his father spent much of their time digging for supposedly buried treasure. Education was almost non-existent for Joseph. He did not learn to read or write until adulthood, though he became well known for his evil nature and vulgar talk.

The 1820's were times of religious excitement. Joseph, though he knew little about the Bible, was deeply interested in spiritual matters. In 1820, at the age of 14, he claimed to have seen a vision from God who told him he

would become a "Prophet of the Most High God." In the vision he was warned to keep away from the established churches which had departed from the true gospel. The alleged vision also said that he, Joseph Smith, would restore God's true gospel and true church.

Smith was greatly influenced by Sidney Rigdon, a former Baptist and Church of Christ minister. Rigdon conceived the idea that he could become famous and rich if he established a new type of religion. In Joseph Smith he found a willing partner.

### ***MORONI AND THE GOLDEN PLATES***

Joseph Smith made the following claims: On September 21, 1823, he had a visit from an angel named Moroni. Moroni told Smith where a book of gold plates was buried in the hill of Cumorah, not far from where Smith was living. The book contained the history of ancient Americans. Four years later, Moroni directed Smith to dig it up, which he did. Also buried with this book was a wonderful pair of "glasses" consisting of two transparent stones, set in a silver bow, called the Urim and Thummim. Smith then proceeded to "translate" the hieroglyphics on the golden plates, which he said was Reformed Egyptian writing. He set himself up in a room with a curtain between him and his writer, so he was hidden from view. He claimed that when he looked at the hieroglyphics through the glasses, the writing appeared to him in English, which he then called out to his writer. This "translation" became known as the Book of Mormon. (Mormon was Moroni's father, according to the story.)

***THE BOOK OF MORMON*** - In actual fact the book was based mainly upon a novel written by a Presbyterian minister, Solomon Spaulding. The novel had never been published and Spaulding had died. But Rigdon found the manuscript of the story in a printing office and took it. It tells of two groups of people who came to America. One group came from the

# the Cults - Part 1

Tower of Babel about 2,250 B. C., and the other group came from Jerusalem about 600 B. C. The book claims that Christ made an appearance in America after His resurrection. He preached the same Gospel there that he had in the East and formed a church in the first century A.D.

As time went on, so the story goes, one race of these Americans fell in battle in 421 A.D. The remnants were the Indians. Moroni was the last of the ancient prophets.

He was commanded to write the prophecies and history of these peoples. Then he was to hide it in the earth until someday it would be united with the Bible as God's message to His people in the latter days. Thus it remained buried until Joseph Smith dug it up 1400 years later.

What about these claims and stories? On examination the Book of Mormon has more than 2000 verses quoted from the King James Version of the Bible. Yet that version was not printed until 1611, over a thousand years after the "Plates" were buried. It also has quotes from a book written by a monk in the 13th century and from Shakespeare and from the Westminster Confession of Faith. All these quotations clearly prove the book could not have been written during the 400's. It is simply a big fraud.

The book's history of the supposed ancient Americans (their cities, battles, etc.) has never been confirmed by archaeology. (Mormon missionaries sometimes claim that discoveries of archaeologists do support the Book of Mormon, but the cult's leaders and university professors officially decline to endorse such claims.) The American Indians cannot be the descendants of the Jews as they belong to a different blood grouping. Linguists have never found any evidence that an ancient Egyptian "Reformed Script" existed. A sample of the hieroglyphics given to two professors was a jumble of characters from various alphabets, childish drawings, etc.

**EXPANSION** - In 1830 Joseph Smith founded his church at Fayette, New York with 30 members. He was the self-appointed leader, prophet, translator, apostle of Jesus Christ and elder of the church. He wrote other books for which he claimed divine revelation and said they were equal in authority with the Bible.

His shady deals and his practice of polygamy (having plural wives-alleged to have had 47 wives) led him into clashes with the law and he had to move several times. Smith and his followers moved from New York to Ohio and then to Missouri.

Their practice of polygamy led to their persecution and they fled to Illinois where they founded the town of Nauvoo - 20,000 strong. From Nauvoo, missionaries were sent out. Brigham Young went to Great Britain and others went to Israel.

In Illinois, Smith became mayor of Nauvoo and decided to seek election as president of the U. S. Residents outside the church became jealous of a government charter favoring the Mormons. Also from within their ranks dissenters arose, among them the first three "witnesses" to the golden plates. They published a newspaper exposing Mormonism as a hoax and charging Smith with political ambitions. An uproar ensued in which Smith and his brother Hyrum were imprisoned. An angry mob stormed the jail and shot to death the two brothers. This was in Carthage, Illinois in 1844.

**BRIGHAM YOUNG** - With Smith, the leader, gone, the Mormons divided into several groups. The largest of these was led by Brigham Young after he returned from Great Britain. Young had been born in Vermont of poor farm parents and had only 11 days' schooling but he had outstanding leadership abilities. He led 70,000 followers over a hazardous route from Illinois to what is now Utah. There he founded Salt Lake City which is now the Mormon headquarters. This group was known as Brighamites.

# the Cults - Part 1

Brigham Young died in 1877 leaving a small fortune, nine living wives and 56 children.

Another group led by Joseph's son (Joseph III) settled in Missouri. They differed from Young's group in that they did not approve polygamy and denied (falsely) that Joseph Smith had ever practiced it. They claimed prophetic succession in the presidency should go from father to son. This group became known as the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. They are also called Josephites.

By 1963 there were over 2 million members in the church of LDS (Brighamites). It had 15,000 missionaries being sent out. By 1968 it was estimated that every year the Mormon church spends \$10,500,000 for missionary work, \$10,000,000 for schools and \$3,000,000 for construction and maintenance of temples.

## **B. THE TEACHINGS OF THE MORMONS**

**"RESTORATION"** - Mormons claim that their church founded by Joseph Smith in 1830 is the restoration of the New Testament church and that all others are apostate. The original church soon became corrupted by false teachings. It died out entirely until God re-established it through Smith. This is why they call themselves 'the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints,' or "LDS."

### **TWO SOURCES OF THEIR CLAIMS**

Mormons base this claim and their other doctrines and practices on two sources.

The Mormon Scriptures consist of the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price. All were written by Joseph Smith between the years 1830 and 1843. They claim these are equal to the Bible in authority; but in practice they elevate them over the Bible.

Continuous revelation to the priesthood is the belief in the revelation by God of further truths not found in the Bible. Such revelations may come by direct communication with God; by

visitation of angels and by impression upon the mind of man by the Spirit of God.

The President of the church, who holds the "keys of the priesthood" and is an accepted prophet and seer, may receive revelation for the guidance of the entire church. His word is received as God's Word. Anyone who rejects his word rejects God. Mormons claim that their church is the only church that legitimately bears the Name of Christ and His authority.

They have two orders of priesthood. The lower, Aaronic priesthood deals with temporal matters. Mormons claim that it was bestowed upon Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery by John the Baptist in May 1829. The higher, Melchizedek priesthood deals with spiritual matters, supposedly bestowed upon Smith and Cowdery directly by the apostles Peter, James and John. Because of the authority of their priesthoods, Mormons challenge all other denominations who officiate in the Name of God, claiming that they alone have the proper authority. There are divisions and officers within the Priesthood. Every male over the age of 12 can be ordained to the priesthood. They also have 12 apostles plus prophets, pastors, teachers and evangelists.

The ordinations in the temple, its rites and services are combined with so many secret oaths and rituals that it is considered by outsiders to be not a church but a Secret Society.

### **TEACHING ABOUT GOD AND MAN**

In his earliest writing, The Book of Mormon, Joseph Smith's views about God sound quite Biblical. When the question is asked, "Is there more than one God?" the answer given is "NO". (Alma 11:26-29) And at least twice the book mentions 'the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost, which are one God.' But as time passed, Smith's view became more and more unorthodox and weird.

You cannot even begin to grasp the Mormon teachings about God until you realize what they believe about man. For these two doctrines fit

# the Cults - Part 1

together. So we must first take a survey of their overall system.

Here is their view of man: You are composed of body and spirit. But where did these come from? Your body, of course, came into existence through procreation by your human parents. But your spirit did not come into existence at that time. It had already existed before your physical birth, and was just waiting for a physical body to be born to provide a home for it. Where, then, did your spirit come from? It resulted from the procreation of some gods (husband and wife) in heaven.

Thus gods procreate spirits, and humans procreate bodies and at birth they are joined. It is necessary for spirits to become human beings so they can learn good from evil and be tested. Also so that enough physical bodies can be produced for the spirit-children of the gods to live in.

Once you are born, if you zealously follow Mormonism's beliefs and practices, you will become a god after your death. If you, as a Mormon, are married in one of their temples, that marriage is sealed for eternity. That means you and your wife, once you become gods in the next life, will still be married. Then you can procreate spirit-children who will later become physically born on earth as humans. So the cycle keeps going.

Only if you grasp the above outline of their doctrinal system will you start to see what they mean by statements such as the following: "As man now is, God once was. As God is now, man may become". "In the heaven where our spirits were born, there are many gods, each of whom has his own wife, or wives, which were given to him previous to his redemption, while yet in his mortal state." "Mormon prophets have continuously taught the sublime truth that God the Eternal Father was once a mortal man who passed through a school of earth similar to that through which we are passing. He became God-an exalted being."

Brigham Young wrote, "When our father Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body, and brought Eve, one of his wives with him. He helped to make and organize the world. . He is our Father and our god, and the only god with whom we have to do." In other words, our god is Adam, the first man now become a god. The question naturally arises, Who then was Adam's god? Who created his body and begat his spirit?

## TEACHING ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

Mormons say that Jesus is the first-begotten Son of the Father in the spirit. That means after Adam was exalted into the condition of godhood, he (god, who was formerly the man Adam) begat the spirit of Jesus before he begat any other spirits. That makes Jesus the first-begotten spirit-son of god, and the elder brother of all other spirits who were later begotten by the Father or by other gods. (Remember that gods procreate spirits.) But there is something else distinct about Jesus. He alone had a body that was begotten by God the Father (thus He is also the only begotten Son of the Father in the flesh). The bodies of everyone else were procreated by ordinary human parents. But Jesus' body was procreated through the sexual union of Mary, a human, and the Father-god (Adam-god, who had already begotten Jesus' spirit also).

Another quotation from Brigham Young is: "When the Virgin Mary conceived the child Jesus, the Father had begotten him in his own likeness. He was not begotten by the Holy Ghost. And who was the Father? He was the first of the human family. . . Jesus, our elder brother, was begotten in the flesh by the same character that was in the garden of Eden, and who is our Father in Heaven."

Mormons also teach that Christ was a polygamist, married to Martha and the two Marys. The wedding feast at Cana was one of His own marriages. They reason that if Christ had not married He would not have any "seed"



# the Cults - Part 1

before He was crucified (based on Isa. 53:10, "He shall see his seed". But that is obviously a figurative statement. just like Christ's "travail" or birth-pangs which are mentioned in verse 11.

## **TEACHING ABOUT JOSEPH SMITH**

Certainly one of the most blasphemous teachings of LDS is their teaching about the origin of Jesus Christ, and His "condition of godhood" which is less than eternal deity. But their down-grading of the Lord Jesus Christ is seen more clearly when we see their exaltation of Joseph Smith, Jr. Their writings state that Joseph Smith holds the keys of heaven, and that only those gaining his approval will be admitted. They hold him to have been flawless (Doctrine of Salvation, Volume 1, p. 88). although secular history records numerous unsavory aspects of his life and character. Their hymn, "Praise to the Man," says that Smith was a martyr whose blood atones for mankind, and that kings and princes will bow down to him. It is no exaggeration to say that Mormons hold Joseph Smith in a more exalted position than Jesus Christ. (They do not make any such assertions when speaking to outsiders. They usually try to make Mormonism appear "just the same as your religion"- except to claim superior organization, fellowship, and emphasis on family.)

## **TEACHING ABOUT SALVATION**

All men are resurrected through the atoning blood of Christ. (But they sing of the atoning blood of Joseph Smith.) But salvation is received only on the conditions-repentance, faith, baptism and the laying on of hands by the Mormon priesthood for the receiving of the Holy Spirit. This must be followed by enduring until the end in keeping the commandments of God. Salvation requires good works.

## **TEACHING ABOUT BAPTISM**

A person must be baptized in the LDS church for the remission of sins before he can be saved. Children from the age of 8 can be saved.

Children younger than this do not need to be saved because they have not reached the age of accountability.

## **BAPTISM FOR THE DEAD**

The living may be baptized on behalf of the dead. (This is to allow the millions of people who died before the LDS church came into existence to have a chance to be saved.) Living saints should get their genealogies and discover the names of their ancestors and be baptized for them. (Some have been baptized 5000 times.)

## **TEACHING ABOUT POLYGAMY**

Plurality of wives is a means of grace, the number of a man's wives and children increasing his chances of honor and glory in the world to come. Formerly, Mormons said that no new marriages will be contracted in the resurrected life. Thus, it is better for a woman to be a plural wife than never to marry, otherwise she will not be a queen but a slave. Women are "sealed for a time" so that they can produce many children on earth and so that their babies' bodies will be inhabited by the spirit children of the gods.

In 1891 the United States government caused the practice of polygamy to stop, saying it would otherwise expel all Mormons from the USA. When polygamy ceased, a new "revelation" of celestial marriage in heaven began. A man who was sealed to a woman in the temple could call her forth as his bride in the resurrection.

## **TEACHING ABOUT HEAVEN AND HELL**

Individuals are to be judged as to what category of heaven they will enter:

Celestial Kingdom-all who have been cleansed of all their sins.

Terrestrial Kingdom-all who had clean lives, but did not accept the gospel on earth, but accepted the testimony of Jesus in the spirit world after they died.

# the Cults - Part 1

Telestial Kingdom-unclean people who have been punished for a time.

Lowest Kingdom-those who cannot be redeemed. the "perdition of ungodly men"

All who are not LDS and have received ordination from other churches will be damned and sent to hell unless they repent of their impious deeds.

## C. REFUTING THE ERRORS OF THE MORMONS ADDING TO THE BIBLE: OTHER WRITINGS

Many cults have books or magazines equal in importance to the Bible-either because these writings furnish additional knowledge not contained in the Bible (i.e. Scripture is not complete), or else these writings contain the only correct interpretation of the Bible so that it cannot be properly understood without them. (On this view, Scripture cannot be correctly understood by the ordinary believer without these additional aids.)

As we saw in a previous section, the Mormons have three other books which they regard as having equal authority with the Bible. These are: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Notice the following Mormon testimony to these additional "Scriptures": "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 " - *Articles of Faith* (J. Smith)

"Because ye have a Bible ye need not suppose that it contained all my (God's) words; neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written." - *Book of Mormon.*"

Additionally, the Mormon Church teaches that there is a continuous revelation of God's Word today through their priesthood leadership. Look at the following statements: "We do not ascribe final authority to any of the Bible's statements because we believe that God has re-established the authority to speak in His

name, and has given it again to righteous man." - *"Why I am a Mormon."*

(U.S. Senator Wallace Bennett)

"Mormons look upon Joseph Smith as a prophet of God, in the same literal sense as they look upon other prophets of the Old and New Testaments. They so accept Smith's successors, from Brigham Young to today's president of the Church." - *"What Is A Mormon?"*

**REFUTATION** - We shall now study the Bible to show how this error of Mormonism and other cults can be refuted.

1. Jude 3. ". . contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

The word faith in this verse does not mean the act of trusting, but the truths to be trusted - the body of doctrines revealed by God for His people to accept. The key expression here is "once for all"

(1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 7:27; 9:26-28). "it is finished," he cried. He need never repeat His sacrifice for sins. In the very same way, the faith - the truths God has revealed - were once for all time revealed to the inspired prophets and apostles, with no need for additions.

2. 2 Timothy 3:16,17.

This is the most important passage on the subject. Let us examine it more carefully. The key words here are "perfect" ( complete) and "all" (every) in v. 17. The Old and New Testaments can make us complete, lacking in nothing. They are all that we need in order to be saved (v. 15); to know the truth (they teach us); to disprove error (they reprove us); to form our character (they train us in righteousness); and to reform evil (they correct us). They also can equip us for Christian service, for every - not some or many but every - good work.

# the Cults - Part 1

## 3. Hebrews 1:1,2.

The Mormons claim that their books are also inspired scripture and therefore are included in the passage just mentioned. A logical question is: If Christians did not need the Book of Mormon for 1800 years, then why do we need it now? The Scriptures of New Testament times (the Old Testament and the writings that were to become the New Testament) were "complete," and "revealed the faith once for all." In other words, what was good enough for Peter, Paul, John, Luke and Timothy and all the other early disciples is good enough for us. We have the revelations of Christ, God's final Word to man.

## 4. Ephesians 2:19b,20, ". . . the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone;"

The inspired apostles and prophets were the foundation - of the church. They originated it by their gospel preaching and guided it by their teaching. (Acts 2) But once a building's foundation is laid it need not be laid again. The gospel they preached and the doctrines they taught are now recorded in the Bible. Thus we no longer need apostles and prophets in the sense of men infallibly inspired and given revelations direct from God. (See Eph 3:5)

## 5. Revelation 22:18 is a stern warning against adding anything to 'the prophecy of this book.' i.e. the book of Revelation.

In principle the warning extends to all the inspired Word of God.  
See also Deut. 4:2; 12:32 and Prov. 30:5,6.

## 6. The final and decisive test of the claims of the Mormons is this: if their writings are truly from God, then the doctrines contained in them will agree with His Word, the Bible.

If both the Book of Mormon and the Bible are from God, then there should be harmony and consistency between them. But instead of this there are numerous contradictions.

## **ADDING TO THE BIBLE: PROPHETS AND PROPHECIES**

### **A. The Prophets - Notice the following quotations from Mormon writers:**

1. 'Mormons look upon Joseph Smith as a prophet of God, in the same literal sense as they look upon other prophets of the Old and New Testaments.

They so accept Smith's successors, from Brigham Young to today's president of the church."

2. 'Mormons do not believe that the revelations of God were confined to ancient Israel, nor that a loving Father would restrict His communication to one part of His family, or to one time in history.

(R. L. Evans in "Look" magazine.)

3. "We recognize the Bible's limitations as well as its value.

We do not ascribe final authority to any of its' statements because we believe that God has re-established the authority to speak in His name, and has given it again to righteous men." (U.S. Senator Wallace Bennett, "*Why I Am A Mormon.*")

### **B. The Prophecies**

1. Joseph Smith claimed that the books he wrote were "revelations from God" and as such classed him in the rank of a prophet. His prophetic revelations are found in the "Book of Mormon", "Book of Commandments," "Doctrines and Covenants," "Pearl of Great Price" and other booklets.

2. Joseph Smith made many prophecies; e.g. In 1844 he predicted Christ would not return in the next 40 years; that his own name would be held for good and evil among the nations; that America would be at war.

# the Cults - Part 1

These things happened, but were not foretold with sufficient detail to prove "prophetic." Fifty-eight prophecies made by Joseph Smith, examined in 3 detail, failed to come to pass.

**REFUTATION** - How do we know if prophets are true or false? How can we tell if they are the fulfillments of Bible prophecy? How can we tell if their predictions are based on revelations from God?

1. Refer back to the previous section on refuting the Mormon error of adding to the Bible.

The same refutations also apply to those who would add to the Bible through claiming fresh doctrinal revelations from God today.

2. Paul describes the purposes of the gift of prophecy in 1 Cor. 14:3.

"He that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification (upbuilding), and exhortation (encouragement), and comfort." These are still the preacher's purposes today, and he needs the Holy Spirit's enabling to fulfill them just as man did in Paul's time. But the method of prophecy in apostolic days is described in 1 Cor. 14:29,30. "Let the prophets speak two or three ... if any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace." Such revelations direct from God's mind to man's are not the Lord's method of imparting doctrine now. Preachers may "Prophecy" only in the limited, secondary sense that they may speak for God from His written Word, seeking the Spirit's guidance and power in explaining and applying it to present-day conditions.

"The Christian preacher is not a prophet. No original revelation is given to him; his task is to expound the revelation which has been given once for all. The last occurrence in the Bible of the prophetic formula, "The Word of God came to." referring to John the Baptist. There were also prophets in N.T. days, but now that the written Word of God is available to us all, the word of God in

prophetic utterance is no longer needed.

**THE WORD OF GOD DOES NOT COME TO MEN TODAY. IT HAS COME ONCE AND FOR ALL; MEN MUST NOW COME TO IT.**" (John Stott)

The ignoring of this principle has led to the rise of the host of cults. Adding later visions and revelations to the Bible, or else claiming to have a special key which alone gives the correct interpretation of the Bible - these are basic errors found in nearly every cult, if not all of them.

3. What are the signs of a true prophet?
  - (a) A prophet's teaching about God must not contradict revelations made earlier. For example, even though a man may be able to perform signs and wonders, yet if he teaches that people should serve other gods, then he is going against prior revelation that only God must be worshipped. See Deut. 13:2, 3.
  - (b) EVERY prediction must come to pass. Deut 18:22 says, "When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously, you need not be afraid of him." The only exception to this second rule is when a prophecy is conditional, that is, when it depends on the moral response of the people it is about. In Jer. 18:7-40, the Lord says that if He predicted He would destroy a kingdom but its people repent, then He would not destroy it. (Jonah and Nineveh are an example of this principle.) And if He predicted blessing upon a kingdom but it turned to evil, then He would not send the intended blessing.

# the Cults - Part 1

## DENYING GOD'S ONENESS

Do Mormons deny that there is only one God? Study these quotations from Mormon leaders themselves:

1. "In the beginning, the head of the gods called a council of the gods; and they came together and concocted a plan to create the world and people it." (J. Smith)
2. "Gods exist, and we had better strive to prepare to be one of them." (B. Young)
3. "As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become." (Former President Lorenzo Snow)
4. "God himself was as we are now, and is exalted man." (Smith)
5. "When our father Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body, and brought Eve, one of his wives, with him.  
He helped to make and organize the world. He is Michael, the Archangel, the Ancient of Days, about whom holy men have written and spoken - He is our Father and our god, and the only god with whom we have to do." (B. Young)
6. "The Father has a body of flesh and bone as tangible as man's; the Son also, but the Holy Spirit has not a body of flesh and bones." (Smith)
7. "In the heaven where our spirits were born, there are many gods, each of whom has his own wife, or wives, which were given to him previous to his redemption. while yet in his mortal state." (Apostle Orson Pratt)
8. "We believe in God, the eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost." (Articles of Faith, written by Joseph Smith; notice how this seems very orthodox until you read it in the light of the previous quotations.)

## REFUTATION

1. Mormonism teaches a polytheistic doctrine, that there are many gods.

The Bible teaches there is only one God. Deut. 6:4; Isaiah 45:5; 1 Tim. 2:5.

2. President Brigham Young said that Adam is our god.  
But Adam was visible and sinned and died; while God is invisible, holy and immortal. 1 Tim. 6:15, 16; Rev. 4:8. If Adam is our god, then what god created Adam?
3. Mormons teach that God the Father has flesh and bones, but the Bible teaches that He does not. Compare John 4:24 and Luke 24:39.
4. Mormons teach that there is marriage in heaven, but the Bible teaches there is no marriage after this life; Matthew 22:30.
5. Mormons teach that in the beginning the head of the gods called a council of the gods and they devised a plan to create the world and people it.  
The Bible says that "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Gen. 1:1. There is no mention of a "council of the gods" in the Bible.
6. Mormons teach that men will become gods. The Bible nowhere teaches this. Rom. 8:29 teaches we shall be like God, but not that we shall become gods.  
To support their view of many gods, Mormons often quote Psalms 82 (and John 10:34 where Jesus quotes Psalms 82:6). Psalm 82:1 says, 'God . . . judges among the gods' and in v. 6, It said, 'You are gods, and all of you none of the Most High.' What do these verses mean?  
Notice the context. That is a principle we must emphasize again and again. Verses 2-5 clearly indicate that this psalm is a rebuke of unjust judges among God's people, Israel. The Lord had placed these magistrates over His people as His representatives, to be "God" to them. (Compare Exo. 4:16, where God told Moses that Aaron "shall be to thee a mouth, and thou shalt be to him as God"; also Exo. 7:1,2). But in spite of the high position God gave these judges, they abused

# the Cults - Part 1

it and perverted justice. Therefore He would judge them (v. 1), and punish them (6, 7): It said, "You are gods, and all of you sons of the Most High. Nevertheless you shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes." Thus He calls them gods only in a figurative sense, referring to the privilege and authority He gave them to judge in His place over Israel. Read verses 2-5 and this point will be obvious to you. The Psalm then ends with a plea for God Himself to judge men, because the human judges were so corrupt.

## **DENYING SALVATION BY FAITH APART FROM WORKS**

Study the following quotations from Mormon writings:

1. The Mormon's third article of faith states, "We believe that through the atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel." Though Christ's atonement and the Gospel are mentioned, yet their dependence is actually on the works of men rather than on the death of Christ, as the following quotations make clear.
2. "The gospel is a code of laws and ordinances given to men to enable them to assimilate themselves to those who are in heaven." (J. Smith)
3. "The gospel is a system or plan of laws and ordinances by strict obedience to which people are assured they may return again into the presence of the Father." (Brigham Young)
4. "Will the water (of baptism) of itself wash sins away?  
No, but keeping the commandments of God will cleanse away the stain of sin." (Young)
5. "Redemption from personal sins can only be obtained through obedience to the requirements of the gospel, and a life of good works." (Apostle Richards and Elder Little)

6. "The sectarian dogma of justification by faith alone has exercised an influence for evil since the early days of Christianity." (Apostle James Talmage)

7. A Mormon booklet, "The Plan of Salvation" presents four steps "For man to take in this life to secure salvation in the eternal world." The four steps are: have faith, repent, be baptized, and receive the laying on of hands to receive the Holy Ghost. Their fourth article of faith also lists these four steps as the "ordinances of the Gospel." Yet when the booklet explains what faith is, it merely quotes the verse, "He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him," and a few other verses that show the importance of faith. But it never tells us specifically what to believe in order to be saved, except to believe in God and His power. Nowhere in this 30 page booklet about salvation or in their 13 articles of faith is the fact mentioned that salvation is by the grace of God and cannot be earned by human works or obedience to laws.

## **REFUTATION**

The Mormons have erected a system of legalism or self-righteousness. They trust not in Christ's redemptive work, but in the "steps" they have taken.

There is a great difference between the Gospel of Christ (i.e., what the Saviour did for sinners) and man's response to the Gospel (receiving the Saviour for themselves through repentant faith). Both are essential, of course. But by preaching man's response as though it were the Gospel itself, men have created various systems of "Legalism" (self-righteousness; self-dependence). They trust not in Christ but in their own activities or even their obedience to Bible commands.

What then, is the Gospel? Paul defines it in 1 Cor. 15:1-5. "I preached to you the gospel . . . by which you are saved. . . that Christ died for

# the Cults - Part 1

our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures."

The Gospel is what Christ did for us as sinners so that we might be saved. Over and over the apostles opposed the idea that man could be saved by obedience to laws and ordinances, or by keeping the commandments of God, or by a life of good works. These things would be the result of salvation, but not its cause. They would be its fruit but not its root. They would be the evidence of a man's salvation, but they could never earn it. Rather, justification is by the grace of God through faith alone. Study Romans 6:20-28; 4:3-8; 5:1; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 3:4-8.

Good works are the natural fruit of faith just as properly planted needs grow and produce fruit. They grow because they have life, not in order to produce life. Just so with good works; they occur because faith and life are present. Study Romans 10:1-13 where Paul sets forth this truth beautifully.

## **TEACHING THAT MEN CAN BE SAVED AFTER DEATH**

Quotes from Mormon writings: "Millions of earth's sons and daughters have passed out of the body without obeying the law of baptism. Many of them will gladly accept the word and law of the Lord when it is proclaimed to them in the spirit world. But they cannot attend to ordinances that belong to the sphere which they have left. Can nothing be done in their case? Must they forever be shut out of the kingdom of heaven? Both justice and mercy join in answering "yes" to the first and "no" to the last question. What, then, is the way of deliverance? The living may be baptized for the dead." (*Mormon Doctrine* by Penrose.)

"God not only revealed the doctrine of baptism for the living to the Prophet Joseph Smith but He established on earth again the glorious doctrine of baptism for the dead, thereby opening the door to all of His sons and

daughters who have ever lived in mortality to come back into His presence on condition of their worthiness. The Lord told Joseph that baptism for the dead should be performed in His Holy house; in fact, one of the principal purposes He had in mind in commanding the Latter-day Saints to build temples was for the performance of the holy ordinance." (*"Gospel Through the Ages"* by Milton Hunter).

## **REFUTATION**

Regarding the Mormon doctrine of baptism for the dead, we find they base it on three passages of Scripture, all of which are very obscure in meaning. 1 Cor. 15:29 is the only verse in all the Bible that mentions being baptized for the dead. There have been more than 25 different interpretations of this verse by various Bible teachers. The fact is that no one knows for sure what it means. It surely is a weak foundation on which to base a practice which they claim can bring salvation. By their practice they also make baptism a magic step that merits God's favor. They also quote 1 Peter 3:18-20 and 4:6 (Christ "preached to the spirits in prison" and "the gospel was preached to the dead") to support their view that people may be saved after death. But for these verses, too, there are various interpretations, for their meaning is unclear. It is risky to build doctrines on such a wobbly foundation, especially when other, clearer verses (like Heb. 9:27 and 2 Cor. 6:2) contradict their interpretation.

## **SUMMARY**

The Mormons believe that people who died unconverted can be saved anyway, if (1) in the spirit world they accept the word of the Lord, and (2) if some living Mormon will be baptized by proxy for them.

# the Cults - Part 1

## **TEACHING THAT YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE ONE TRUE CHURCH TO BE SAVED**

Mormonism claims to be a restoration movement. They believe the true church fell away from the truth and disappeared for centuries, but then was restored under Joseph Smith in 1830.

"The Latter-day Saints believe that the Gospel of Christ . . . was known on earth anciently (to Adam and others); that mankind has repeatedly departed from it (as in the days of Noah); and that it has to be "restored" (through Abraham, Moses and others). They believe that the last such restoration occurred in the last century." (R. L. Evans in "Look magazine")

They also believe that they alone are the true church. All unrestored churches (non-Mormons) are basically wrong and under God's disfavor. Joseph Smith claimed this fact was revealed to him in a vision:

"I asked the Personages who stood above me in the light, which of all sects was right - and which I should join. I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in His sight." (*Pearl of Great Price*)

Due to this revelation, Smith later wrote that the church "restored" through him, "Is the only one existing in the world that can, and does, legitimately bear the name of Christ and His divine authority." And his successor, Brigham Young, wrote, "The church which we represent in the one church and kingdom of God and we possess the only faith by which the children of man can be brought back into the presence of the Father."

## **REFUTATION**

We have seen that the Mormons claim to be the restoration of the one true church - beginning in 1830. If this is correct, it would mean that the Church founded by Christ through the apostles died out and was nonexistent for

more than 1,500 years. Yet Jesus specifically said that such a thing would not happen. He stated emphatically that the gates of hades (that is, the power of death) should not prevail against the Church He was going to build. (Matt. 16:18)

## **STUDY QUESTIONS ON MORMONISM**

1. Who was the founder of the Mormon Church?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the full name of this cult?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When was it established?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. List the 6 main errors of Mormonism discussed and a Bible verse to refute each one:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_  
-verse: Isa. 45:5
  4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  6. Teaching that you must be a member of the one true church to be saved. \_\_\_\_\_  
verse: \_\_\_\_\_



# the Cults - Part 1

## III. JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

### A. THE HISTORY OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

**PASTOR RUSSELL** - A child's fear of hell was a significant factor that eventually led to the organization now known as the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Charles Taze Russell, born in 1852 in Pittsburgh, Penn. USA, was the son of a wealthy owner of a chain of textile stores. By the age of 20, Charles was a member of the local Congregational Church and the YMCA in his neighborhood.

However, not finding a religion to his liking, he proceeded to found one of his own, its most attractive teachings being the non-existence of hell, and the establishment of God's Kingdom on earth. His followers were known as Russelites. He stressed that reason proved that God would not punish sinners eternally since He was a God of love.

In 1872 Russell formed a group called the "International Bible Students Association." He was a compelling speaker and an efficient organizer. He inherited five shops from his father which he sold in order to devote his life to spreading his views. In 1874 he founded a new religious organization called the "Zion's Watch Tower Society." Russell wrote a large number of tracts and by 1879 was editing a magazine called Zion's Watch Tower which had a starting circulation of 6,000. By 1959 "The Watchtower" reached a circulation of three million. By 1970, it published 8 million copies in 74 languages.

Russell also published a seven volume book, "Studies in the Scriptures" which contain his main teachings. In it he attacks all churches and calls them the "work of Satan." His ego knew no limits. He claimed that it would be better to leave the Bible unopened and to read his commentary on it than to omit the commentary and read only the Bible.

A domineering personality and extreme conceit characterized Russell. He claimed to be a Greek scholar but he was proven in court not even to know the Greek alphabet. Though he did not know Latin or Hebrew and had never taken any courses in Theology, he claimed all Bible translations were unreliable except their own New World Translation (This was translated by 7 men of questionable scholarship).

His wife sued him for divorce which was readily granted. He sold fake "miracle wheat" at outrageous prices and he put great pressure on dying people to leave their money to his organization. He also had sneaky ways of avoiding taxation and other financial debts.

By 1880 his organization had spread to England and 8 years later to China, India, Turkey, Haiti and Africa.

Russell died on board a train in November 1916, a silent and unrepentant man. He left behind a considerable fortune.

**JUDGE RUTHERFORD** - Russell's lawyer, Joseph F. Rutherford, became the successor. He had an exalted view of Russell, believing him to be almost perfect. Rutherford was granted a license to practice law in Missouri but his title of "Judge" by which he was known was falsely assumed. At the time of Russell's death, Rutherford was in Atlanta jail serving a term for anti-government statements. Because of his imprisonment he was acclaimed as a hero and led the Society until his death in 1942. His followers relied on him to tell them the correct interpretation of the Bible.

Rutherford was a dynamic speaker and prolific writer. His followers went from house to house "giving away" their literature for a donation. Because their corporation was classified under law as a religious and charitable organization, their sales were not taxable. Rutherford had phonograph records made of his speeches and they were played to householders. He erected a radio station on New York's Staten

# the Cults - Part 1

Island to broadcast his propaganda. Subscription to the "Watch Tower" magazine grew very fast at this time.

In 1931 Rutherford changed the name of the "Watch Tower and Tract Society" to that of "Jehovah's Witnesses," the name by which it is still known. They take that name from Isaiah 43:12, "Ye are my witnesses, saith Jehovah, and I am God." He bitterly opposed all churches and preachers and denounced everyone who disagreed with him in any way.

**NATHAN KNORR** - When Rutherford died in 1942, Nathan H. Knorr became the leader of the JW. At that time they claimed their world membership was 106,000. By 1960 it had risen to 851,000 - and by 1971 to 1,502,280. Their claimed distribution of literature is almost unbelievable. In 1957 they distributed 55 3/4 million copies of their magazines, which was 19 million more than the previous year. Their magazines are published semi-monthly in four Filipino languages and monthly in another four Filipino languages plus English and Chinese. They publish them in over 70 languages altogether.

Thus under Knorr's leadership they made rapid growth. Yet he himself was far different from Russell and Rutherford. He was not nearly so publicity-seeking as they were. His name did not appear in the mass media very often and he is not credited as the author of their books nor of the articles in their magazines. Knorr died prior to 1981.

We should also notice that the books of Russell and Rutherford are not published any more by the JW. Most of their doctrines are still believed and taught but their names are rarely mentioned. The Witnesses even say, "Who is preaching the teaching of Pastor Russell?" Certainly not Jehovah's Witnesses. They neither quote him as an authority nor publish his writings. Probably they avoid mentioning Russell any more because of his scandalous conduct and Rutherford because of his strong

denunciation of all churches and preachers outside of the JW. The Witnesses still believe that they alone are right, but the attacks on other groups are now somewhat milder.

## **B. TEACHINGS OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES SOURCE AND AUTHORITY -**

Jehovah's Witnesses do not quote Russell now. However, their present teachings are almost entirely the same as his were and their movement is the continuation of that formed by Russell. (Russell's own teachings were influenced by the Seventh Day Adventists.)

They use the Bible as their basis of authority using their own New World translation in which the text has been mis-translated in certain vital places in order to support the views of their leaders. (See Jn. 1:1; Col. 1:15-17; Rev. 3:14; Phil. 2:6; Titus 2:13 2 Peter 1:1; Phil. 1:22,23; Matt. 24:32 and Matt. 27:50. A few of these are quoted later).

**ESTABLISHMENT OF GOD'S KINGDOM ON EARTH** - From the books of Daniel and Revelation, Russell calculated that 1874 was the year of Christ's "invisible return" and he set 1914 as the end of the "times of the Gentiles." (The Bible teaches that Christ will return visibly, Matt. 24:27, 30; 26:64; Rev. 1:7; and nowhere teaches an invisible return.)

Jehovah's Witnesses now claim that in 1914 Christ became King on his throne in heaven, displacing Satan whom he hurled down to earth - where Satan is being allowed to rule for a "short period of time." We are now living in the "last days" controlled by Satan but in which Christ has taken up his 'kingly rule on the earth.' They believe that as God's witnesses they must forewarn everyone that the end is near. People must prepare for God's kingdom that will be set up on earth. How can we prepare for it? By faith and by living a morally good life. At the end of the "last days" the wicked will be destroyed in the war of Armageddon, when angelic forces will fight against all political and

# the Cults - Part 1

religious powers opposed to Jehovah's Witnesses. Then Satan together with his demons will be hurled into the "abyss" and the present wicked system will come to an end. (JW believe that the world powers, political parties and religious organizations are the unwitting allies of Satan. and for this reason they refuse to salute the flag of any nation or to perform military service and rarely take part in public elections.)

From his heavenly throne Christ will administer earth's affairs in a way that will bring lasting benefits, e.g. freedom from fear, want and aggression. Associated with Jesus in his heavenly kingdom will be 144,000 kings and priests taken from mankind, "the little flock," made perfect by God. They will be Jehovah's Witnesses - the most zealous ones. They will have representatives on earth called princes.

The initial program of the kingdom will cover 1000 years, during which the earthly survivors of Armageddon will be made perfect by Christ and his priests.

During the first 100 years, the dead will be resurrected and given the opportunity of gaining eternal life. They will be given scrolls for their education and will be judged according to their deeds after learning the contents of the scrolls. All the earthly subjects will subdue the earth and make it a paradise.

By the end of the first 1000 years all traces of unrighteousness will be removed. All the human race will stand before the throne of God to be judged whether they are worthy to have everlasting life. God will give them an opportunity of showing their loyalty to him by releasing Satan and his demons from the "abyss". Each person will answer the challenge made to the Father by Satan. Those who stay loyal to God will be judged worthy of everlasting life. Any who rebel against God will be destroyed in the second death, which is total annihilation.

Never again will earth be destroyed by sin. God's kingdom will rule for all eternity.

## **REDEMPTION AND SALVATION**

Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus, though He was not divine, paid at his death the ransom necessary to set man free from death. This they call the "atonement." This does not give or guarantee everlasting life, but it does guarantee to every person another opportunity or trial for life everlasting. They teach that one forfeited life could redeem one forfeited life but no more, therefore Christ's death redeemed Adam but man now dies because of Adam's sin. Everyone is destroyed in death. but all who died without Christ will be raised again in the millennium. They will be given a second chance to repent and be included in God's Kingdom. Most, seeing the glory of the millennium, will repent gladly. Those who do not accept will be annihilated - the second death. JW say they cannot know until the kingdom comes whether they are saved, for only those who endure to the end will be saved. Salvation will depend upon faith plus moral integrity; in other words, they must work for their own salvation. This is self-salvation. They are afraid of being excommunicated from their movement, for that would mean destruction in the Battle of Armageddon. A good record from his superiors is a person's means of believing that he might be saved.

(Like the Mormons, JW hold an incomplete doctrine of salvation. For the Mormons, "all men are 'resurrected' through the atoning blood of Christ," but must be baptized by the Mormon priesthood in order to be saved, and must endure to the end in keeping God's commandments. For the JW, Christ's death gives men an "Opportunity or trial for life everlasting," an opportunity to work for Salvation. And only those who endure to the end will be saved.

There is one more similarity: Mormons believe those who don't become Mormons during their lifetime may be saved if a Mormon is baptized for them, after their death. JW believe that those who died without Christ will be raised at the millennium and given another

# the Cults - Part 1

opportunity to believe. But the Bible teaches only two alternatives after death: eternal heaven for believers in Christ, and eternal hell for those outside of Christ.) JW teach soul-sleep: there in no consciousness after death until the resurrection.

**TRINITY - God.** They strongly deny that God exists as a Trinity. He in a solitary being from eternity, unrevealed and unknown. No one has existed as his equal to make him known. God is a god of love.

**Jesus.** He is the first and only creation of God, the "only begotten" of all things. Then he, as Jehovah's power, created all other things. He is also the archangel Michael.

He was born of a virgin and gave up his angelic nature in the days of his flesh. He was a perfect man, nothing more. He did not have two natures, human and divine. Jesus was human until his baptism at the age of 30 when he was anointed with the Spirit and became the Messiah. He was put to death as man but was raised from death as a spirit being of the highest order of the divine nature. He was not God but a god. (JW mistranslate John 1:1 as well as other verses to try to prove that Christ was not equal with God.) For Christ's work of atonement see the above notes on "Redemption and Salvation." As a man Jesus suffered extinction - absolute annihilation. No one knows what happened to his body; whether it dissolved in gases or is being kept somewhere as a grand memorial. Christ's post-resurrection appearances are explained away as being possible because his spirit-body "materialized."

**Holy Spirit.** They teach He is not a person in the Godhead, but an influence or power of God.

**Man.** They deny that man is made up of body, soul and spirit. They say man does not have a soul; instead, he is a soul. (This belief is partly

true, partly false. It will be discussed later under Armstrongism.)

## **OTHER DATA**

They meet in church buildings called Kingdom Halls.

They baptise by immersion.

They insist upon a high moral code in personal conduct.

They oppose blood transfusions on the grounds that blood is sacred and that eating of blood is prohibited in the Scripture. They have allowed people to die rather than let them have a blood transfusion.

They have won cases in courts establishing their right to speak and witness in accordance with their beliefs.

They celebrate the Lord's Supper once a year. Only the worthy are allowed to participate.

Their movement has spread to 200 countries; world membership exceeds one million.

They are very zealous. But their zeal is based on fear (hoping to earn salvation and escape doom because of their works) rather than on love and gratitude for the salvation God offers by grace.

Their headquarters are in Brooklyn, New York, with a special training center, the Watchtower Bible School of Gilead, in South Lansing, N. Y. Their headquarters in the Philippines are in Quezon City. They have very many congregations scattered throughout many parts of the Philippines.

## **OTHER COMPARISONS WITH LDS**

The Mormons and the JW offer lofty rewards to those who zealously follow their beliefs and practices. A Mormon will become a god. A JW, if he is among the most zealous ones, may be one of the 144,000 kings and priests who will be associated with Jesus in His heavenly kingdom.

Both cults claim divine authority for their own writings which are superior to the Bible: the Mormons, for the Book of Mormon, Doctrines and Covenants and Pearl of Great Price; the JW

# the Cults - Part 1

for their New World Translation and their books and magazines.

Both cults have exalted their founders - the Mormons, Joseph Smith and Brigham Young; the JW, Charles Taze Russell and Judge Rutherford - though the JW no longer read nor quote Russell's writings.

## C. REFUTING THE ERRORS OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

**ADDING TO THE BIBLE** - Regarding his "Studies in the Scriptures" Charles Russell said: "People cannot see the divine plan by studying the Bible itself. We find also that if anyone lays the Scripture Studies (his books) aside, even after he has become familiar with them, if he lays them aside and ignores them and goes to the Bible alone, our experience shows that within two years he goes into darkness. On the other hand, if he has read only the Scripture Studies (Russell's books) with their references, and has not read a page of the Bible as such, he

would be in the light at the end of two years." (1910)

(Most JW now do not read or quote Russell's writings. In fact they say, "Who is preaching the teaching of Pastor Russell? Certainly not Jehovah's Witnesses. . . they neither quote him as an authority nor publish his writings." In spite of this. however, the quote from Russell is valuable because he was their founder, and their present teachings are almost entirely the same as his were. And for all practical purposes they still equate their books and magazines with the Bible in authority, for they believe you cannot understand the Bible correctly without the aid of their other writings.

## REFUTATION

Also, they mainly use their own translation of the Bible, the New World Translation. But this version has a number of mistranslations, which support their doctrinal errors. For example,

### NEW WORLD TRANSLATION

Originally the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god.

John 1:1

By means of him all other things were created in the heavens and upon the earth ... All other things have been created through him and for him. Also he is before all other things and by means of him all other things were made to exist. Colossians 1:16,17

Again Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and ceased to breathe. Matthew 27:50

### KING JAMES TRANSLATION

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:1

In Him were all things created that are in heaven and that are in earth ... All things were created by Him and for Him. And He in before all things, and by Him all things consist. Colossians 1:16, 17

And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Matthew 27:50

# the Cults - Part 1

notice the following comparisons between their version (New World) and the King James:

We covered the refutation of this error while studying the Mormons. It would be good to go back and review this section.

## DENIAL OF THE TRINITY

The denial of the Trinity includes either the denial of Christ's deity, or the denial of the Holy Spirit's personality, or both.

This is a very important error of the Jehovah's Witnesses. The Iglesia ni Cristo and the Armstrongites also deny the Trinity, but the JW are most active in teaching this error. We will study the refutation of this error here. You may wish to review this section later while studying the teachings of INC and Armstrong.

Study the following quotes from the JW.

- (a) "There are some clergymen, no doubt, who are really sincere in thinking that Jesus was his own father, and that the Almighty is the son of himself, and that each of these is a third person, who in the same as the other two and yet different from them."
- (b) "Jehovah is not sharing worship with two other gods in a triad. Jehovah demands a devotion that is exclusive of other gods, from a heart not divided in love between three gods."
- (c) "Jehovah is no Babylonish triad of gods, no God of three Persons in one individual. Jehovah is only one God, one Person."
- (d) "Not once will you find the word "trinity" occurring in the inspired Bible."

They also quote from *The Catholic Encyclopedia* which says: "The word *trias* (of which the Latin TRINITAS is a translation) is first found in Theophilus of Antioch about A.D. 180."

The conclusion they reach: "Satan is the originator of the Trinity doctrine." In attempting to explain away the Biblical teaching regarding the Trinity, they ask "But what about the scriptures cited to support the "trinity"? Would they not prove the doctrine?"

. . . Let us turn our attention to the main scriptures used to support the trinity doctrine." Then they mention only these 4 passages: 1 John 5:7; John 10:30; 1 Tim. 3:16; and John 1:1. Only these 4 passages are mentioned, and none of them are "main Scriptures" for proving the Trinity (see below).

## REFUTATION

### 1. The Trinity in the Bible

Look up the following Bible passages mentioning the Father, Son and Holy Spirit together and yet distinct from each other. Note how they support the doctrine of the Trinity.

References with a # are the main ones.

Matt. 3:16,17	Rom. 8:9-11, 14-17	
#Matt. 28:19 (note: "Name" is singular)	1 Cor. 12:4-6	
#John 14:16,17, 26	#2 Cor. 13:14	
John 16:7-10	Acts 5:30-32	Gal. 4:4-6
John 20:21,22	1 Peter 1:2	Eph. 2:18-22
Acts 1:4,5	Acts 7:55	Eph. 3:14-17
Acts 2:32,33	1 John 4:13,14	Eph. 4:4-6

### Summary of the Bible's Teaching about God.

- a. There is only one true God. (Deut. 6:4; Isa. 44:6-6, 45:5 1 Tim. 2:5).
- b. The Father is God (no one disputes this); the Son is God (John 1:1; Col. 2:9 etc.); the Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3,4; Matt. 12:31,32 -only God can be blasphemed).
- c. The Father is not the Son or the Spirit; the Son is not the Father or the Spirit; the Spirit is not the Father or the Son. (Christ prayed to the Father; the Father sent the Son and the Spirit, etc.)

This is truth which logic cannot understand; but since God's Word clearly teaches it, we should accept it by faith. To understand everything about the infinite God, we should have to be God Himself. "Bring me a worm that can comprehend a man, and I will show you a man that can comprehend God." - John Wesley.

# the Cults - Part 1

## 2. The "three, yet one" characteristic of the Trinity.

### a. Oneness of the Trinity

- 1) Oneness of substance and nature: the Father, Son and Spirit are similar and equal in essence and being. No person of the Trinity possesses any attribute of deity not possessed by the others.
- 2) Complete oneness of purpose and will: there is no conflict within the Trinity, but perfect unity instead. (Jesus' words, "Thy will, not mine. be done" show the relationship that existed during the days of His voluntary humiliation, when He "emptied himself, taking the form of a servant." (Phil. 2.:7)

His will differed from the Father's only in that as a human He perceived the terrible pain of the coming separation from the Father, and of "being made sin" for us on the cross. In the flesh He did not welcome that. But He did not for a moment choose anything different from the Father's will; the will of the Father and of the Son were in perfect unity.)

Because of the perfect oneness of the Trinity, there are some passages where apparent "confounding of the Persons" occurs: the Bible usually speaks of the Holy Spirit's indwelling the believer, but notice John 14:23, Gal. 2:20 and Col. 1:27; the Bible usually teaches us to pray to the Father, but notice Acts 7:59 and Rev. 22:20; also notice that Romans 8:9-11 uses the terms "spirit of God," "Spirit of Christ" and "Christ" interchangeably.

### b. Distinctions within the Trinity

- 1) Distinct self-awareness: Christ prayed to the Father, and sent the Spirit, etc. He was not talking to Himself when He prayed, nor did He send Himself at Pentecost.
- 2) Distinct functions or activities:
  - (a) in Redemption: the Father chooses and destines, the Spirit sanctifies, the Son

shed His blood and is to be obeyed by the believer: I Peter 1:2.

- (b) in Prayer the usual pattern (Eph. 2:18) is to pray to the Father (Matt. 6:9), through the Son (John 14:13) and in the Spirit (Rom. 8:26; Eph. 6:18).
  - (c) "The Father is all the fullness of the Godhead invisible, John 1:18; the Son is all the fullness of the Godhead manifested, John 1:14-18; the Spirit is all the fullness of the Godhead acting immediately upon the creature, 1 Cor. 2:9,10".
- 3) In some unexplained way, the Son and the Spirit are dependent on and subordinate to the Father:
- (a) The father-son relation suggests this. We must not, however, infer that the Son had a beginning, for He is eternal - Col. 1:17. But He has enjoyed a permanent relation of sonship to the Father through eternity, and always will: 1 Cor. 15:24,28. Yet He has 'the form of God' and the "Whole fulness of deity," Phil. 2:6, Col. 2:9.
  - (b) The Holy Spirit "proceeds" from the Father and is sent by the Son, John 15:26. Yet he is also called the "Eternal Spirit," Heb. 9:14.

## 3. The Trinity in Church History.

- a. It is true that Tertullian (160-230 A D) coined the use of the word "Trinity"; the word is not found in the Bible. But the truth represented by the word is in the Bible, many times, as we just saw. In the same way the expressions "Great Commission" and "Golden Rule" are not found in the Bible; but that does not prove that Matthew 28:18-20 and 7:12 are false or nonexistent.
- b. Early heretical views: (1) Arius taught that the Father created the Son, who then created all other creatures (JW agree).

# the Cults - Part 1

c. Sabellius said there is no distinction of personality within the Trinity; there are merely three different names for one person. Like an actor playing three different parts in a play, God has revealed Himself at different times in different roles. Thus the Father is the Son and the Spirit. (This view is held by some churches in the Philippines.) Early Church leaders, combating these errors warned: "Don't confound the Persons of the Godhead (as Sabellius did), and don't divide the Substance of the Godhead (as Arius did)."

#### 4. Refutation of the Quotes from the Cults.

The cults which oppose the Trinity quote these Scriptures to back up their view: Deut. 6:4, 5; Isa. 44:8, 46:9. Yet even in those passages and other O. T. passages stressing that there is only one God, there are hints that "the unity of the Godhead is not simple but compound" (Evans). For the word "God" in these verses is plural. The literal translation of Deut. 6:4 is. "The Lord our Gods is one Lord". This Hebrew word, ELOHIM, is used hundreds of times in the O. T. referring to the one and only true God, but using the plural form. The verses from Isa. also use it: "I am Gods, and there is no other" (Isa. 46:9 -literally).

In this and other ways, even the O. T. suggests the compound nature of God, which is revealed in the N. T. to be a triune nature. Yet the O. T. stresses God's unity, in great contrast to the theology of the heathen, who believed in competing gods, gods of certain regions only, or gods of certain aspects of life only ( a god of war, of agriculture, of business etc.).

Thus Deut. 6 and Isa. 44 - 46, far from contradicting or disproving the Trinity, indirectly support it.

#### JEHOVAH' S WITNESSES AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The JW say that the Holy Spirit is an "it," not a "he;" not a person but "God's active force." Notice this quote: "John the Baptist said that

Jesus would baptize with the holy spirit even as John had been baptizing with water. Water is not a person nor is the holy spirit a person. At Pentecost the disciples all became filled with holy spirit. Were they 'filled' with a person? No, but with God's active force."

#### REFUTATION

Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as "he" and "him" not "it" (John 16:7-15). The Holy Spirit chooses, makes intercession, knows, can be grieved, teaches, guides. forbids, etc.-All of these activities show His personality. (1 Cor. 2:10,11, 12:11; Rom. 8:14, 27; Eph. 4:30; John 14:26; Acts 16:6,7). He is not an impersonal force, but the Comforter-Counselor-Helper whom Christ has sent as His replacement (John 14:16,17; 16:7). His fellowship (that is, communion with Him) should be very real to us (2 Cor. 13:14).

#### DENYING CHRIST'S DEITY

##### A. Read the following quotations from the Jehovah's Witnesses:

"This One (Christ) was not Jehovah God. He (Christ) was a mighty one, although not almighty as Jehovah God is." "He is not the author of the creation of God; but, after God had created him as his first-born Son, then God used him as his working partner in the creating of all the rest of creation." "He was a god, but not the Almighty God, who is Jehovah."

"The angelic announcer of Great Babylon's fall (in Rev. 18:1-3) could picture no one better than Jehovah's archangel, the glorified Lord Jesus Christ. As an archangel, his name in heaven is Michael, which means 'Who is like God?'"

"Jesus had a glorious existence long before he was born as a human here on earth." (Note: the JW differ on this point from the INC)

"At the Council of Nicaea, 325 AD, Arius and others showed from the Scriptures that Jesus Christ was less than God his Father, and maintained that the Son of God was a creature,



# the Cults - Part 1

made from nothing; that there was a time when he had no existence; and that were he in the truest sense a son, he must have come after the Father, therefore the time obviously was when he was not, and hence he was a finite being."

"Who ran the universe during the three days that Jesus was dead and in the grave, or, for that matter, during his 33 years on the earth while he was made a 'little lower than the angels'? If Jesus was God, then during Jesus' death, God was dead and in the grave. If Jesus was the immortal God he could not have died."

In the New World Translation the Jehovah's Witnesses changed the end of John 1:1 so that it reads "the Word was a god." This expression is required, they argue, because the Greek word for God, 'theos,' is not preceded by the definite article, 'the.'"

## **B. Bible Teaching and Refutation of this Error.**

How can we answer the JW argument that John 1:1 actually says that Jesus (the Word) was "a god," instead of "God"? They base their claim on the fact that in the Greek the definite article ("the") should precede the word "god" if it refers to Jehovah-God, the Father. Since the Greek does not say "the God," it must mean "a god," according to them.

But this is not true. In the same chapter, John 1, verses 6, 12, and 13 all obviously refer to God the Father, as the JW will admit. But in none of those verses does "the" precede the word "God." If their argument is true, verses 6, 12, 13 should also be translated "a god." But such a translation would not make sense, as even the JW would admit.

Now note comparisons between what Isaiah says about Jehovah, and what the N. T. says about Jesus. Compare the following references and list the things which are said to be true only of God but said about Christ also.

Isa.6:1-3/John 12:37-41 \_\_\_\_\_

Isa.42:8/John 17:5 \_\_\_\_\_

Isa.44:6/Rev. 1:17 \_\_\_\_\_

Isa.45:23/Phil. 2:10,11 \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to the above passages, examine carefully Isa. 43:10,11. Verse 10 is the JW "motto-verse": "Ye are my witnesses, saith Jehovah, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me" (ASV). They take their name from the first six words of this verse; but notice the end - neither before nor after Jehovah was any God formed. But that contradicts their view that Jehovah-God (the Father) created or made the Son, who is "a god, but not God." (Remember this was their explanation of John 1:1-3). Isa. 43:10 shows that no God but Jehovah has been or ever will be. Therefore Jesus either is not God at all (but we have seen many verses which show that He is), or else He Himself is Jehovah, which the other verses prove to be true. "Jehovah" (which most versions of the Bible translate "the LORD" is the O. T. name for the Son of God as well as for God the Father.

This fact is further proved by verse 11: "I, even I, am Jehovah; and besides me there is no saviour" (ASV). but we know that Jesus is repeatedly called "Saviour" in the N. T.: Titus 2:13; Acts 13:23; 1 John 4:14, for example. What conclusions, then, can we draw? We see that there is only one God, Jehovah; and yet the Father is Jehovah and Jesus is Jehovah. There is no saviour except Jehovah; and yet the Father is called Saviour and Jesus is called Saviour. These facts contradict the teachings of the JW (and the INC). But for those who believe that Jesus is fully divine, there is no problem at all. There is one God/Jehovah/Saviour; but this one God exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

This error (that Jesus is not Jehovah, and not God) is also vigorously taught by the Iglesia ni

# the Cults - Part 1

Cristo. We will include more Bible teaching about the Deity of Christ in the later section on refuting this error in the INC.

## **DENYING SALVATION BY FAITH APART FROM WORKS**

Note the following quotations from the JW "Gospel" of self-salvation.

1. "If Jehovah's Witnesses should fail or refuse to deliver the message, they would be unfaithful to God and would suffer destruction." (Gilbert in "His Vengeance")
2. "Christ's sacrifice did two things:
  1. It cancelled Adam's sin and its consequence, death;
  2. It made a second chance to earn merit possible." (Russell)

Jehovah's Witnesses are zealous in warning people that God is going to establish His Kingdom on earth. They believe that in doing so, they will earn their own salvation and will not be destroyed in the Battle of Armageddon. Only those who stay within the ranks of the Jehovah's Witnesses will survive this terrible battle.

### **Summary**

JW believe that Christ's death provides the opportunity for man to work for his salvation. They trust not in Christ to gain salvation, but in their own zealous works, especially the propagating of the message of the establishment of God's Kingdom on earth.

### **REFUTATION**

We have studied the refutation of this error while studying the Mormons

## **DENYING WE ARE SAVED NOW, AND CAN KNOW IT**

### **A. Review "Redemption and Salvation,"**

### **B. Note these quotes concerning the JW view of their salvation.**

"While religious denominations may talk of salvation by faith or by character, Russell and

Rutherford hammer into the thickest skull of the simplest-minded devotee that there is a mansion in heaven for no one who does not devote his days and nights unto the hour of death itself - to the high calling of door-to-door canvassing and propagandizing. There is no other test of faithfulness. It matters not what one believes or what one does, he is doomed to extinction unless he incessantly witnesses in the prescribed manner." (*Riches* by Gilbert.)

Jehovah's Witnesses live in fear of being excommunicated from the Society. If they are, they will not survive the Battle of Armageddon. Also they will be excluded from the kingdom of Jehovah. An excommunicated Jehovah's Witness, William J. Schnell, wrote, "This record (all my work for the Watchtower Society) according to my superiors, was to be my evidence that I was saved and could not be destroyed in Armageddon. Well, it was wiped out in one night . . . I realized with shock that all these years I had been building upon sand." (*Thirty Years a Watchtower Slave*)

### **REFUTATION**

1. The Bible shows that salvation has three **tenses**.
  - a. The Christian has already been saved from sin's penalty. Look up the following verses: Luke 7:50; Eph. 2:8; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 2:2.
  - b. The Christian is now being saved from sin's power. Look up Phil. 2:12b; 1 Tim. 4:16; 1 Peter 2:2.
  - c. The Christian, in the future shall be fully saved from sin's presence in body as well as soul. Look up Romans 13:11; 1 Peter 1:5.
2. The Bible tells us plainly that it is possible to know in this life that we already have eternal life. Look up 1 John 5:13.
3. The Bible tells us plainly that if we have eternal life, we may be confident and assured that we shall keep on having it.

# the Cults - Part 1

If a believer sins, he does not lose his relationship to God as a son, but he does lose his fellowship with God. But when he confesses his sin to God with a repentant heart, this joyful fellowship is restored.

1 John 1:7,9; 2:1-4 is an important passage about this. You should master its teaching. There are many Scriptures that assure the real Christian of the security of his salvation. We have assurance that we are already, now, forgiven of our sins and adopted as God's sons. Notice the following passages which show the security of a believer:

John 5:24, 6:39, 10:28,29; 1 Cor. 1:8; Eph. 1:13,14; 1 Peter 1:4,5; Phil. 1:6; 2 Tim. 1:1, 12; Rom. 5:8-10, 8:28,39

It is true that Scripture also contains urgent warnings to believers to persevere in their faith and keep holding on to the Saviour. We should not forget nor neglect these warnings (such as John 15:2; Rom. 11:20-22; Gal. 5:4; Col. 1:22,23; Heb. 6:4-6; 2 Peter 2:20-22). But such passages do not contradict the verses listed above (though it may seem that way to our finite minds). Disciples of Jesus may know with certainty that they are saved now, and that their Lord and Saviour will hold them, guard them, and at the end bring them to glory forever. "Hold on to Christ - He is holding you"; this summarizes the Bible's teaching.

## **TEACHING THAT MEN CAN BE SAVED AFTER DEATH**

- A. Review the Mormon teaching on this subject.**
- B. Review the section on the Redemption and Salvation teachings of the JW**
- C. Quotes from JW writings. "Men will be given a second chance for salvation during the millennium."**

*(Studies in the Scriptures)* ". . . it will not be difficult for God to remember all who have died and who come under Christ's ransom provision. They will be restored to life right here on earth.

Those resurrected to life on earth will come forth to the opportunity of gaining life eternal in paradise. It will be a time of education for them. "Scrolls" containing instruction from God will be opened, and they will need to follow these in making their minds over in harmony with God's will. They will be "Judged individually according to their deeds". That is, the deeds they do after being resurrected and after learning the contents of the "scrolls." (Revelation 20:11-13)

*(The Truth that Leads to Eternal Life)*

## **REFUTATION**

These doctrines are very appealing, especially to people whose loved ones have died unsaved. But, are these doctrines true? That is the question. No, the Bible contradicts them (See next paragraph). And these teachings are very dangerous. First, they cause unconverted people to remain careless about their salvation, feeling they can wait till the next life to be saved. Second, they cause Christians to lose their sense of urgency about obeying the Great Commission. Why witness to other people and why sacrifice to support missionaries if, as JW say, "Men will be given a second chance for salvation" after life is over? Look up Heb. 9:27; Isa. 55:6; 2 Cor. 6:2.

The Bible nowhere clearly tells the destiny of those who have never heard the Gospel. It says they will be judged according to the light of conscience and nature (Rom. 1:18-20; 2:12-16). God will judge men according to the opportunities they have: the more the opportunities, the heavier the judgment (Matt. 11:20-24). But Scripture never supports the popular idea that many people are "not good enough for heaven but not bad enough for hell." It offers no hope for anyone to become saved after this life is over. Review again the scriptures mentioned above. (Heb. 9:27, etc.)

# the Cults - Part 1

## **TEACHING THAT WE MUST BE MEMBERS OF THE ONE TRUE CHURCH TO BE SAVED**

Note these quotes from JW writings:

"Who, then, are the ones who form the body of true worshippers today? On the basis of the evidence, which is known or available to persons in all parts of the earth, we do not hesitate to say that they are the Christian witnesses of Jehovah."

"The greatest racket ever invented and practiced is that of religion, especially the "Christian religion." (*Enemies* by Rutherford)

"The ecclesiastical systems, Catholic and Protestant, are under supervision and control of the Devil, and form a part of his visible organization, and therefore constitute the antichrist." (Rutherford)

Questions asked of a Jehovah's Witness: "Do JW believe theirs is the only true faith?" Reply: "Certainly. If they thought someone else had the true faith, they would preach that. There is only 'one faith,' said Paul. JW do not believe that there is more than one way to gain salvation..."

## **REFUTATION**

The JW movement had its beginning in the 1870's. If this is the true church it would mean that the church founded by Christ through the apostles died out and was nonexistent for more than 1,500 years. Yet Jesus specifically said that such a thing would not happen. He stated emphatically that the gates of hades (that is, the power of death) should not prevail against the Church He was going to build. (Matt. 16:18)

Of course, Jesus did teach that tares (unsaved people, "sons of the evil one") would grow up among the wheat (true Christians, "sons of the kingdom"). He also taught that His disciples would vary in their fruitfulness: some would bring forth fruit 100-fold, others 60-fold, and others 30-fold. But He never suggested at all that the wheat (true Christians) would disappear. (Matt. 13:23-30, 36-43).

But what is the true Church? It is composed of every born-again Christian in all the world. Such believers are scattered among many different Gospel-preaching churches. Every person who repents of his sin and trusts in Christ as divine Saviour and Lord becomes a child of God (John 1:12,13), and thus a member of the true Church.

The JW are obviously disqualified from being the true Church because their "Saviour" is not divine. Also their "gospel" is not the good news of salvation by God's grace, but the bad news of salvation-if-you-work-hard-enough-and-serve-long-enough. The true gospel offers justification by grace, "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy" (Titus 3:5-7; Eph. 2:8,9). The JW speak much of the "gospel of the kingdom of God," and so should we (Acts 19:8; 20:24-25; 28:23, 30,31). But they forget that Jesus said that it is the poor in spirit who enter the kingdom of God (Matt. 5:3). His kingdom is not for the spiritually rich, those people who have plenty of good deeds and zealous service to their credit. Instead it is for those who are humble enough to realize and confess their spiritual poverty, and to put their trust in the Saviour.

## **TEACHING SOUL-SLEEP AT DEATH, AND THAT HELL MEANS ANNIHILATION**

The JW, Armstrong and the Seventh Day Adventists all teach soul-sleep (i.e. there is no consciousness after death until the resurrection), and also the annihilation of the wicked (i.e. eternal extinction after the judgment). They base these beliefs on their ideas of the human soul and/or spirit.

The Iglesia ni Cristo also teaches soul-sleep, but not annihilation of the wicked.

**A. "The following are Bible passages used by these three cults as proof texts on the state of man after death, and refutations of their interpretations.**

# the Cults - Part 1

1. Psalm 146:4: Man's "breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish."

## REFUTATION

Does this prove that man's spirit does not think or have consciousness after death? No. (other translations are "his plans perish". and "his purposes perish".) It means that a dead man can no longer carry out the plans and purposes he had thought about doing while he still lived.

2. Ecclesiastes 3:19-21: "For that which befalleth . . . men befalleth beasts; even one . . . as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath . . . All go unto one place; all are from the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?"

Ecclesiastes 9:4-6: "A living dog is better than a dead lion. For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward. . ."

## REFUTATION

The statement that all (both men and beasts) go to one place and turn to dust again, refers of course to the body and proves nothing about the spirit. The writer's point is that no matter how great and important a man might be in this life, sooner or later he will die and decay just like an animal. All are headed for the grave, By the statement. "The dead know not any thing," he means they do not know what happens in this life. See Job 14:21.

Notice that the three "proof texts" above (Psa. 146, Ecc. 3 and 9) are all from the O. T. During those times God did not make known much about immortality or resurrection. Thus the writer asks (3:23), "Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward (to God)?" He was unsure. But we now have the fuller revelation God gave in later times through Christ and His apostles (see section following). Even in Eccl. however, he says, ".... the dust (man's body)

returns to the earth as it was, and, the spirit returns to God who gave it," (12:7)

3. Ezekiel 18:4,20: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." (Of course "soul" here simply means "Person;" compare Acts 27:37).

Romans 6:23, "The wages of sin is death."

## REFUTATION

The cultists insist that death in these verses and elsewhere must mean unconscious nonexistence. Armstrong writes, "When a human being dies . . . his body, mind, and soul are all dead. He simply stops 'being' ." Again he says, "Why do so many religious people teach that the wages of sin is eternal life in hell?" In other words, he and others equate life with existence and death with nonexistence. They believe that to exist forever in hell would be the same as having eternal life. Death can only mean extinction. As an SDA writer says about Rom. 6:23, "By no manner of reasoning can death be made to mean its opposite - life without end."

But they misunderstand the Biblical meaning of life and death. In the Bible the main idea of life is union and the main idea of death is separation. There are three distinct-but-related types of life and death mentioned in God's Word.

- (a) PHYSICAL life is the union of body and spirit, while physical death is the separation of the spirit from the body. At death, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit" (Acts 7:59).
- (b) SPIRITUAL life means union with God, i.e. fellowship with Him through having Christ as Lord and Saviour. "He who has the Son has life" (1 John 5:12a). Spiritual death means separation from God, being cut off from Him because of our sins. God warned Adam that, in the day that he ate of the forbidden tree he would die (Gen. 2:17). Yet Adam did not become nonexistent on that day. Nor did he die

# the Cults - Part 1

physically until many years later. How, then, did he die on the day of his transgression? Obviously he died spiritually, for at that time he was banished from Eden and from the communion with God which he had enjoyed until then. Notice how Eph. 2:5 explains both spiritual life and death, "... when we were dead in sins, hath (God) quickened (made alive) us together with Christ... "

- (c) ETERNAL life is the same as spiritual life; knowing God in intimate communion. Christ prayed, "This is eternal life, that they know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3) So eternal life begins in this life, at conversion: "He that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me, hath eternal life: (he) . . . is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24). It is not merely never-ending existence, but fullness of life - real life. But this eternal life will be consummated at the resurrection (when physical death shall be overthrown), and will continue forever and ever (Rev. 21:3; 22:3-5). Eternal death (or the second death, Rev. 20:14, 15; 21:8) will be unending separation from God, when at the judgment Christ will say to the unrepentant, "Depart from me" (Matt. 7:23; 25:41).

Thus the Bible's view of death is not extinction but separation. Since conscious, physically alive sinners are called spiritually dead (Eph. 2:5; 1 John 5:12b etc.). This shows that death does not mean unconsciousness, as the cults claim. In the same way they cannot prove that the second death, eternal punishment, is unconscious nonexistence.

## **B. Scriptures showing the existence of man's spirit after death:**

Luke 23:43; (See 2 Cor. 12:2,3 for explanation regarding paradise.) Look up also Luke 23:46; Matt. 27: 50; Acts 7:59; Heb. 12:22,23; Phil. 1:20-24. 2 Cor. 5:1-9 is the clearest Scripture on this topic. Read the entire passage.

Comment. "Paul shrinks from death because it seems to be a state of disembodied nakedness (2 Cor. 5:3), and he longs for the resurrection body (v. 4). However his natural fear of death is overcome by the confidence that to be absent from the body means to be present with the Lord. (v. 3) and therefore . . . more desirable than earthly existence" (*New Bible Dictionary*).

Look up 2 Peter 1:14. Here Peter, like Paul in 2 Cor. 5, compares his body to a tent in which his spirit dwells. At death he will put off, or leave, his tent. He does not say he will cease to be, but that he will leave his present, temporary dwelling-place, his body.

Look up Luke 16:19-31 and read the entire passage. The cultists insist that this is only a parable, fully symbolic, and that it reveals nothing about conditions after death. Of course we should be cautious about the details of this passage (for example, whether saved and unsaved dead people can communicate with each other; etc.). Yet this story is quite different from Christ's parables, for in them He always uses ordinary, everyday activities to illustrate some spiritual lesson. Here, He uses unknown scenes. If this were a parable, why make up unreal, untrue conditions to illustrate His point? If there is no consciousness after death, His whole story seems meaningless. No characters in the parables have names, whereas Lazarus was a real person. Read also Rev. 6:9-11.

## **C. Scriptures about the eternal destiny of the unrepentant.**

(Matt. 25:30, 41, 46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 12:4,5; John 3:36; Rom. 2:5-9; 2 Thess. 1:6-9; Rev. 14:9-11, 19:20, 20:10-15)

Whatever the exact meaning may be of the various terms used in the above passages,

# the Cults - Part 1

obviously It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb. 10:31). Let us then faithfully urge men to repent and turn again, to be reconciled to God, to flee from the wrath to come, to come to the One who loves them so much that He gave His only Son so that they might not perish, but have eternal life.

## STUDY QUESTIONS ON JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

1. The founder of this cult was \_\_\_\_\_  
His successor was \_\_\_\_\_
2. The magazine for the JW is called \_\_\_\_\_
3. When was this cult established? \_\_\_\_\_
4. List the 9 main errors of the JW discussed and give a Bible verses to refute each:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  3. The Holy Spirit is an "it", not a person - God's active force  
(verse) \_\_\_\_\_
  4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  6. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - (verse) 1 John 5:13
  7. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  8. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  9. Soul-sleep at death, Hell means annihilation  
(verse) \_\_\_\_\_
10. I have read all the printed material in Cults I,  
\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_ NO
11. I have looked up \_\_\_\_% of the Scripture references.

# Exam for Cults - Part 1

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Teacher's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** / /

1. Why is it important to seek to win people to Christ before they become involved in one of the cults?

---

---

2. A Christian's testimony should emphasize what 2 things?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. List 3 of the 10 rules in dealing with the cults.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who was the founder of the Mormon church? \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the full name of this cult? \_\_\_\_\_

6. List the 6 main errors of Mormonism and a Bible verse to refute each one:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name the founder of the JW \_\_\_\_\_ and the magazine \_\_\_\_\_



# Exam for Cults - Part 1

8. Under the Mormon errors listed above, # 1, 4, 5, 6 are also found in the JW teachings.

List the 5 errors discussed under JW teachings that are not found in Mormonism.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (verse) \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ (verse) \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ (verse) \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ (verse) \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ (verse) \_\_\_\_\_

9. I have read all the printed material in Cults I, \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

10. I have looked up \_\_\_\_\_% of the Scripture references.

# the Cults - Part 1

## Table of Contents

<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>I. DEALING WITH CULTISTS</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>STUDY QUESTIONS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>II. THE MORMONS</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>STUDY QUESTIONS</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>III. JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>STUDY QUESTIONS</b>	<b>31</b>

Additional Outlines in the back.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS BLOCK:**

1. **Read all the material** for this block.
2. **Look up and read all the verses** in the material as you read through the material.
3. **Fill in the answers** to your **STUDY QUESTIONS** ahead of time so you will be better prepared for the EXAM during the final hour.
4. **T-H-I-N-K** as you read this material.      **It will be a blessing to you.  
It will also change your life.**



# the Cults Part I

This material is  
copyrighted and  
used by  
permission.



B. A. M. A. Bible Institutes, Inc.

(Baptist Asian Missions Association, Inc.)

133 Isarog Street, LaLoma, Quezon City 1114 R.P.

# ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

## **Mormons' New Prophet Says Prophet's Word Takes Precedence Over the Bible**

Ezra Taft Benson, former Secretary of Agriculture under Dwight D. Eisenhower, chosen Monday, November 11, 1985, (as expected) as the 13th prophet the Mormon church, upon the death a few days before of his predecessor, Spencer W Kimball.

Benson, known for his conservative politics and unswerving dedication to old-line Mormonism, had been expected to succeed the long-time ailing Kimball who passed away at age 90.

Benson, 86, has been in poor health since a riding accident several years ago. He chose as his First Counselor, Gordon B. Hinckley, 75, and as his Second Counselor, Thomas S. Monson, 58.

Benson, long a subject of controversy, has been expected to succeed Kimball ever since he became president in 1973.

Benson, an outspoken opponent of Communism, is a close friend of Cleon Skousen and has appeared on many of his Freeman Institute programs. Benson's most memorable speech was presented at BYU in March of 1980 and was entitled, "Fourteen Fundamentals in Following the Prophets!" In line with an earlier leader who had said, "When our leaders speak, the thinking has been done. When they propose a plan-it is God's plan. When they point the way, there is no other which is safe. When they give directions, it should mark the end of the controversy." (*Improvement Era*, June, 1945, page 54), Benson made it evident that he intended to continue that position. Benson declared in his 1980 speech that the Mormon prophet is the only man who speaks for the Lord in everything.

He said that what the living prophet says is more important than that of any of his predecessors and that what he says even takes precedence over the Bible, *Book of Mormon*, *Doctrine and Covenants*, and *The Pearl of Great Price*. He said that the prophet will never lead the church astray.

He reminded his hearers that the prophet can speak without earthly training. Even when he fails to say, "Thus saith the Lord," what he says is still rapture.

Benson said the prophet can be involved in civic and political matters. It was felt that Benson's speech in 1980 was but a foretaste of what could be expected when he became the prophet-which seemed imminent in view of Kimball's declining health.

LDS people have been fearful of Benson for 20 years. A predecessor Joseph Fielding Smith was very critical of Benson, who was evidently banished to Europe for a couple of years in the 60's. Smith said that when he returned, he hoped "his (Benson's) blood would be purified."

Many Mormons have been displeased with Benson through the years, but time (and a new generation) has tempered their displeasure.

**-Taken from *UTAH EVANGEL* and edited.**

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mormonism is a cult, and Bible-believing Christians should be careful not to promote a cult that puts a Mormon prophet on the same plane with Jesus Christ or puts the word of a Mormon prophet above the Bible.

# ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

The following pages represent one large folder with information from:

**The Spirit of Truth and the Spirit of Error.**

**THE  
Spirit of Truth  
and the  
Spirit of Error**

**(I John 4:6)**

**A Chart Showing What God Has Said on  
Seven Fundamentals and What Men Are  
Now Saying . . .**

**Quotations are from standard  
writings and leading teachers  
of the various sects or cults.**

**"Examine yourselves whether ye  
be in the faith."**

**II Corinthians 13:5.**

**"There must be also heresies among  
you, that they which are approved  
may be made manifest among  
you."**

**I Corinthians 11:19.**

**Compiled by Keith L. Brooks  
Revised 1969**

Copyright © 1969 by  
THE MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE  
OF CHICAGO

**MOODY PRESS  
CHICAGO**

# ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

“They received the WORD with all readiness of

## TRUTH

“Mark them—avoid them’

	<b>WORD OF GOD</b>	<b>CHRISTIAN SCIENCE</b>	<b>SPIRITUALISM</b>
<b>GOD</b>	<p><b>PERSONALITY OF THE GODHEAD</b></p> <p>God is a Spirit; and they that worship HIM must worship HIM in spirit and in truth. John 4:24.</p> <p>In the name of the FATHER, and of the SON, and of the HOLY GHOST. Matthew 28:19.</p> <p>There is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. I Timothy 2:5.</p> <p>God said let US make man in OUR image. Genesis 1:26. God said let US go down. Genesis 11:7.</p> <p>In the beginning God. Genesis 1:1.</p> <p>JESUS baptized—SPIRIT descended—The FATHER spake. Matthew 3:16-17.</p> <p>The Lord He is God; there is none else beside HIM. Deuteronomy 4:35.</p>	<p><b>GODHEAD</b></p> <p>God is incorporeal, divine, supreme, infinite Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, Love. God is all-in-all.</p> <p>God is good. Good is Mind.</p> <p>God, Spirit, being all, nothing is matter.</p> <p>God is infinite, the only Life, substance, Spirit or Soul. The only intelligence of the universe, including man.</p> <p>Life, Truth, and Love constitute the triune Person called God.</p> <p>A trinity in unity . . . God the Father-Mother; Christ the spiritual idea of sonship; divine Science or the Holy Comforter.</p> <p><i>Science and Health, 1916, 465:9-10; 113:16-18; 330:11-12; 331:26-27; 331:30-31.</i></p>	<p><b>GODHEAD</b></p> <p>God is impersonal. He is creator and sustainer.</p> <p>To assert that God inspired the writers of the Bible to make known His divine will is a gross outrage on and misleading to the public.</p> <p><i>Wilkins, The Physical Phenomena in Spiritualism Revealed, 1922, p. 12.</i></p>
<b>CHRIST</b>	<p><b>JESUS CHRIST</b></p> <p>The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14.</p> <p>No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him. John 1:18.</p> <p>He was in the beginning with God. John 1:1.</p> <p>When as His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with Child of the Holy Ghost. Matthew 1:18.</p> <p>A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14.</p> <p>In Him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:3.</p> <p>God manifest in the flesh. I Timothy 3:16.</p> <p>Declared to be the Son of God with power, . . . by the resurrection from the dead. Romans 1:4.</p> <p>If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain. I Corinthians 15:17.</p> <p>He ever liveth to make intercession. Hebrews 7:25.</p> <p>This same Jesus . . . shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven. Acts 1:11. Cf. John 14:3; I Thessalonians 4:13-18.</p>	<p><b>JESUS CHRIST</b></p> <p>Jesus is the human man who demonstrated Christ.</p> <p>Christ is the ideal Truth, divine idea, the spiritual or true idea of God.</p> <p>Mary's conception of him was spiritual.</p> <p>Jesus was the offspring of Mary's self-conscious communion with God.</p> <p>At the ascension the human, material concept, or Jesus, disappeared, while the spiritual self, or Christ, continues to exist in the eternal order of divine Science, taking away the sins of the world, as the Christ has always done, even before the human Jesus was incarnate to mortal eyes.</p> <p>His resurrection was not bodily! He reappeared to his students, that is, to their apprehension he rose from the grave—on the third day of his ascending thought!</p> <p><i>Science and Health, 1916, 473:15; 332:19; 347:14-15; 332:26-27; 29:32-30:1; 334:10-20; 509:4-7.</i></p>	<p><b>JESUS CHRIST</b></p> <p>Christ himself was nothing more than a medium of high order.</p> <p>The teaching of spirits supercedes and is an advance upon the teachings of Christianity.</p> <p>Jesus Christ was not divine. He is now an advanced spirit in the sixth sphere. He never claimed to be God manifest in the flesh and does not at present.</p> <p>Jesus did not claim for himself more than he held out for others.</p> <p>His identification with the Father was the oneness of mediumship. He was a medium or “mediator.”</p> <p><i>Spiritual Telegraph, No. 37.</i> <i>Dr. Weisse, Demonology or Spiritualism, p. 141.</i> <i>Colville, Universal Spiritualism, p. 234.</i></p>
<b>HOLY SPIRIT</b>	<p><b>HOLY SPIRIT</b></p> <p>When the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, . . . HE shall testify of me. John 15:26.</p> <p>When HE is come, HE will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. John 16:8.</p> <p>When HE, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth. John 16:13.</p> <p>The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, HE shall teach you all things. John 14:26.</p> <p>HIS SPIRIT that DWELLETH IN YOU. Romans 8:11. Cf. Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 3:16; 5:18.</p>	<p><b>HOLY SPIRIT</b></p> <p>The Holy Ghost is Divine Science; the development of eternal Life, Truth, and Love.</p> <p><i>Science and Health, 1916, 588:7-8.</i></p>	<p><b>HOLY SPIRIT</b></p> <p>Denies the Personality of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>The Holy Spirit from God is the spirit of some holy person who has once been in the flesh.</p> <p><i>Hastings, p. 91.</i></p>

# ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

mind, and searched the SCRIPTURES daily, whether those thir

## ERROR

-Romans 16:17-18

"By their fruits ye shall kn

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES	THEOSOPHY	MORMONISM
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GODHEAD</b></p> <p>There is no authority in the Word of God for the doctrine of the Trinity of the Godhead. The Trinity doctrine is unbiblical in origin. Rebellion in Eden called into question Jehovah's position as supreme sovereign. The Scriptures abound with evidence that the primary issue before creation is the vindication of Jehovah's name and Word.</p> <p>God is a solitary being from eternity, unrevealed and unknown. No one has existed as his equal to reveal Him.</p> <p>Jehovah is the almighty and supreme sovereign of the universe—not omnipresent, but with power extending everywhere.</p> <p><i>Studies in the Scriptures, V, 54 ff. unbiblical. Make Sure of All Things, 1957, pp. 191, 386. President Nathan Knorr, Religion in the 20th Century, p. 388. The Kingdom Is at Hand, p. 507.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GODHEAD</b></p> <p>We reject the idea of a personal or an extra-cosmic and anthropomorphic God. Man is not "a" god, but God.</p> <p>We believe in a Universal Divine Principle, the root of ALL, from which all proceeds, and within which all shall be absorbed at the end of the great cycle of Being.</p> <p>For you are God, and you will only what God wills; but you must dig deep down into yourself to find the God within you, and listen to his voice which is your voice.</p> <p><i>H. P. Blavatsky, The Key to Theosophy, 1953, pp. 56, 63. Krishnamurti, At the Feet of the Master, p. 11.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GODHEAD</b></p> <p>I have always declared God to be a distinct personage, Jesus Christ a separate and distinct personage . . . and that the Holy Ghost is a distinct personage and a Spirit, . . . three distinct personages and three Gods.</p> <p>In the heaven where our spirits were born, there are many Gods, each of whom has his own wife or wives. . . .</p> <p>The heads of the Gods appointed one god for us. . . .</p> <p>The Father in heaven has a body of flesh and bones, the Son also. . . .</p> <p>God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man.</p> <p><i>Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp.345-346, 370-372. Orson Pratt, The Seer, I, March 1853, p. 37. Doctrine and Covenants 130:22.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JESUS CHRIST</b></p> <p>Jesus Christ, a created individual, is the second greatest Personage of the universe, the first and only direct creation by his Father, Jehovah . . . appointed as his vindicator and the Chief Agent of life toward mankind.</p> <p>Born as a human son of God, October, 2 B.C. Became the Messiah Seed in Fall, A.D. 29. Died on Stake as Ransomer in Spring, A.D. 33.</p> <p>Resurrected Immortal on Third Day . . . He was raised "as a mighty immortal spirit Son . . . a glorious spirit creature.</p> <p>We know nothing about what became of (his body), except that it did not decay or corrupt.</p> <p><i>Make Sure of All Things, 1957, p. 207. Let God Be True, 1952, pp. 207-210. Studies in the Scriptures, II, p. 129.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JESUS CHRIST</b></p> <p>Jesus gave to the world fragments of teaching of value as basis for world religion, as did men like Buddha, Confucius, Pythagoras, etc.</p> <p>. . . at a certain stage in the career of Jesus, the latter was taken possession of by the great Teacher, the Bodhisattva of eastern tradition.</p> <p><i>Hugh Shearman, Modern Theosophy, 1952, pp. 201-202.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JESUS CHRIST</b></p> <p>Jesus Christ is Jehovah, the first-born among the spirit children of Elohim, to whom all others are juniors.</p> <p>He is unique in that he is the offspring of a mortal mother and of an immortal, or resurrected and glorified, Father.</p> <p>He was the executive of the Father, Elohim, in the work of creation.</p> <p>He is greater than the Holy Spirit, which is subject unto him, but His Father is greater than He.</p> <p><i>Talmage, The Articles of Faith, pp. 471-472. Doctrine and Covenants 76:24. Joseph F. Smith, Doctrines of Salvation, I, p. 18.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HOLY SPIRIT</b></p> <p>The holy spirit is the invisible active force of Almighty God which moves his servants to do his will.</p> <p><i>Let God be True, 1952, p. 108.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HOLY SPIRIT</b></p> <p>. . . the Holy Spirit is the Creative Intelligence, that brooding over the chaos of primeval matter that organizes it into materials out of which forms can be constructed.</p> <p><i>Annie Besant, Esoteric Christianity, 1957, p. 180.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HOLY SPIRIT</b></p> <p>The Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit. . . . A man may receive the Holy Ghost and IT may descend upon him and not tarry with him.</p> <p>The bestowal of the Holy Ghost . . . is effected through the ordinance . . . pronounced by the specified authority of the Holy Priesthood, accompanied by the imposition of the hands of him or those officiating.</p> <p>Such references as being filled with the Holy Ghost . . . have reference to the powers and influences that emanate from God. . . . The actual person of the Holy Ghost cannot be in more than one place at a time.</p> <p><i>Doctrine and Covenants 130:22-23. Talmage, The Articles of Faith, pp. 161, 165.</i></p>

# ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

gs were so." Acts 17:11

ow them"—Matthew 7:20

UNITY	MODERN THEOLOGY
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GODHEAD</b></p> <p>God is Principle, not a person—law, being, mind, all good. The life of God is poured into the race stream as a vitalizing energy. When accepted in faith it purifies the life flow in our bodies and makes us immune to all disease thoughts and germs. The main idea individualized in substance is the I AM. I AM established in consciousness is man made manifest. Every man therefore in reality is the Son of God, not a Son of God. God does not love anybody or anything. God is the love in everybody and everything. <i>Cady Lessons in Truth, 1953, pp. 18-20.</i> <i>Fillmore, Jesus Christ Heals, 1939, p. 27.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GODHEAD</b></p> <p>The Absolute. God, infinite and eternal energy—not a person. God—the first cause. God has no existence apart from the universe and never had. The latter is eternal. There never has been a creation. It is only as we read God in the universe that we know anything about him. The whole cosmic process is one uprising of the being of God, from itself to itself. With what God have we to do except the God who is eternally man? Essentially God is man—the fount of humanity. From matter and force comes intelligence, and from these come morality and religion.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JESUS CHRIST</b></p> <p>Jesus was not the Christ. By Christ is not meant the man Jesus. When we speak of Christ, we do not mean the man Jesus. "The enfolding of the Christ-consciousness . . . by Jesus made him God incarnate, because Christ is the mind of God individualized, and whoever so loses his personality as to be swallowed up in God becomes Christ Jesus or God-man." This world and everything in it was brought forth by Him [Jesus Christ] in many earthly incarnations. His incarnations took the forms of Moses, Elisha, David and others. <i>Cady Talks on Truth, 1934, p. 169.</i> <i>Unity, vol. 14, p. 149.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JESUS CHRIST</b></p> <p>An idyllic figure. The flower of humanity. The world's greatest ethical teacher. A man so good his deluded followers took him for a god. Jesus was divine—and in the same sense, all are divine. The spark of divinity only needs to be fanned into flame. In Christ humanity was divinity and divinity was humanity. The recorded miracles of Christ are merely legendary exaggerations of events that are entirely explicable from natural causes. Jesus spoke in accommodation with the ideas of his contemporaries and held the current Jewish notions. Those who recorded the virgin birth were doubtless influenced by pagan fables, thinking thus to secure for him the honor of celestial paternity. A virgin birth and literal resurrection are no essential part of Christian faith. Christ was a master product of evolution.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HOLY SPIRIT</b></p> <p>All is Spirit. The Spirit reigns in all the world. We recognize no authority nor guide but the spirit of truth, the discerning spirit within us. We recognize our oneness with truth. The Holy Spirit is not the Author of the Bible. If one substitutes the Bible for the spirit of truth as his teacher, he fails to receive the inspiration which would reveal to him the truths Jesus taught which are not in the Bible. <i>Cady Talks on Truth, 1934, pp. 134-135.</i> <i>Metaphysical Bible Dictionary, Unity School of Christianity, 1959, p. 629.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HOLY SPIRIT</b></p> <p>The impulses to righteousness that come to men. Influences emanating from the divine side of man's nature, conscience.</p>



# ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

	<b>WORD OF GOD</b>	<b>CHRISTIAN SCIENCE</b>	<b>SPIRITUALISM</b>
<b>SIN</b>	<p><b>SIN</b></p> <p>Sin is the transgression of the law. I John 3:4.                      All unrighteousness is sin. I John 5:17.                      Whatsoever is not of faith is sin. Romans 14:23.                      To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin. James 4:17.                      Sin—because they believe not on Me. John 16:9.                      All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23.                      There is none righteous, no, not one. Romans 3:10.                      If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us. I John 1:10.                      If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. I John 1:8.</p>	<p><b>SIN</b></p> <p>Here also is found the cardinal point in Christian Science, that matter and evil (including all inharmony, sin, disease, and death) are unreal.                      Man is incapable of sin, sickness, and death. Whatever indicates the fall of man . . . is the Adam-dream, which is neither Mind nor man.                      Death is another phase of the dream that existence can be material.</p> <p><i>Misc. Writings, p. 27.</i>  <i>Science and Health, 1916, 475:28-29; 282:28-30; 427:13-14.</i></p>	<p><b>SIN</b></p> <p>Man never had a fall.                      Whatever is, is right. Evil does not exist. Evil is good. No matter what man's path may be, good or bad, it is the path of divine ordination and destiny.                      A lie is the truth intrinsically: it holds a lawful place in creation; it is a necessity.</p> <p><i>Dr. A. B. Childs, Whatever Is, Is Right.</i>  <i>G. G. Andre, The True Light, p. 162.</i></p>
<b>REDEMPTION</b>	<p><b>REDEMPTION</b></p> <p>The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin. I John 1:7.                      My blood which is shed . . . for the remission of sins. Matthew 26:28.                      Redeemed with the precious blood of Christ. I Peter 1:18-19.                      Redemption through His blood. Ephesians 1:7.                      Washed us from our sins in His own blood. Revelation 1:5-6.                      Without shedding of blood is no remission. Hebrews 9:22.                      Made peace through the blood of His cross. Colossians 1:20.                      And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: but this man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God. Hebrews 10:11-14.</p>	<p><b>REDEMPTION</b></p> <p>One sacrifice, however great, is insufficient to pay the debt of sin.                      The atonement requires constant self-immolation on the sinner's part.                      The way to escape the misery of sin is to cease sinning. There is no other way.                      The material blood of Jesus was no more efficacious to cleanse from sin when it was shed upon 'the accursed tree' than when it was flowing in his veins as he went daily about his Father's business.</p> <p><i>Science and Health, 1916, 23:3-5; 327:12-13; 25:6-10.</i></p>	<p><b>REDEMPTION</b></p> <p>There is no atoning value in the death of Jesus Christ.                      Jesus was a Jewish enthusiast and came to an untimely death.                      Salvation by a vicarious atonement is a wicked and soul-destroying delusion.</p> <p><i>Childs, Whatever Is, Is Right.</i>  <i>Ethics of Spiritualism, p. 99.</i></p>
<b>SALVATION</b>	<p><b>SALVATION</b></p> <p>As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name. John 1:12.                      He that believeth on Him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already because he hath not believed on the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:18, 36.                      Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost. Titus 3:5.                      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. Ephesians 2:8-9.                      Justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Romans 3:24.                      This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent. John 6:29.                      Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth. Romans 10:4.</p>	<p><b>SALVATION</b></p> <p>The great work of Jesus was to teach the way of Life by demonstration.                      He was the Way-shower, and His crucifixion demonstrated practical affection and goodness for mankind.                      We acknowledge that the crucifixion of Jesus and his resurrection served to uplift faith to understand eternal Life, even the allness of Soul, Spirit, and the nothingness of matter.                      Man is saved through Christ, through Truth, Life, and Love as demonstrated by the Galilean Prophet in healing the sick and overcoming sin and death.</p> <p><i>Science and Health, 1916; 25:13; 24:27-28; 497:16-22.</i></p>	<p><b>SALVATION</b></p> <p>Man becomes his own saviour.                      Man is made better in this life by intercourse with spirits.                      We affirm the moral responsibility of the individual, and that he makes his own happiness or unhappiness as he obeys or disobeys Nature's physical and spiritual laws.                      Man becomes a spirit after death, doing both evil and good, but he may be saved as he progresses from one spirit level to the next. We affirm that the doorway to reformation is never closed against any human soul, here or hereafter.</p> <p><i>Declaration of Principles, Nos. 7 and 8.</i></p>
<b>RETRIBUTION</b>	<p><b>RETRIBUTION</b></p> <p>Them that sleep in the dust shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Daniel 12:2.                      After death the judgment. Hebrews 9:27.                      I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God—judged according to their works. Revelation 20:12.                      Fire that never shall be quenched. Mark 9:43.                      The Lord Jesus revealed from heaven—in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall be punished with everlasting destruction. II Thessalonians 1:7-10.</p>	<p><b>RETRIBUTION</b></p> <p>Hell is mortal belief, error, lust . . . suffering and self-destruction, self-imposed agony, effects of sin.                      Now is the time for so-called material pains and material pleasures to pass away, for both are unreal, because impossible in Science.                      No final judgment awaits mortals, for the judgment day of wisdom comes hourly and continually, even the judgment by which mortal man is divested of all material error.                      Mortal belief dies to live again in renewed forms, only to go out at last forever.</p> <p><i>Science and Health, 1916; 588:1-3; 39:22-24; 291:28-31; 556:10-12.</i>  <i>Misc. Writings, p. 2.</i></p>	<p><b>RETRIBUTION</b></p> <p>Hell does not exist and never will.                      All spirit people of wisdom, knowledge and love know there is no hell and no devil.                      No resurrection—no judgment.                      When you believe in spiritual manifestations, you will feel far happier than you do now. You will not fear the threats of damnation and hell . . . such doctrine is wrong. . . .</p> <p><i>A. Conan Doyle, The New Revelation, 1918, p. 68.</i></p>

# ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

<b>JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES</b>	<b>THEOSOPHY</b>	<b>MORMONISM</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SIN</b></p> <p>Adam and Eve's Sin (was) a literal eating of tree; their missing the mark brought death upon all mankind.</p> <p>Adam disobeyed God, and for this the penalty was death to the whole man, body and soul. For man IS a soul; he does not possess a soul separate from the body.</p> <p>Death is "utter cessation of conscious, intellectual, or physical activity, celestial, human or otherwise," "termination of existence."</p> <p>No soul is conscious after death.</p> <p>Adam was not sent to Eternal Torment, but to Unconscious Annihilation in Dust of the Ground.</p> <p><i>New Heavens and New Earth, p. 207.</i>  <i>Make Sure of All Things, 1957, pp. 86, 157, 287, 344-345, 348-349.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SIN</b></p> <p>All thought, good or bad, leaves its traces on the thought body and reappears as tendencies in future incarnations. No escape from this sequence of cause and effect is possible. Our past must work itself out.</p> <p>Man's spirit is transmigratory and its good or bad conduct determines the body it will have in each successive birth.</p> <p>The only freedom from sin is to become entirely lost in meditative contemplation.</p> <p><i>Besant, Esoteric Christianity, 1957, pp. 213-214.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SIN</b></p> <p>Adam fell that men might be; and men are that they might have joy.</p> <p>Men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression.</p> <p>Every spirit of man was innocent in the beginning.</p> <p>Were it not for our transgression we should never have had seed, and never should have known good and evil, and the joy of our redemption, and the eternal life which God giveth to all the obedient.</p> <p><i>Book of Mormon, II Nephi 2:25.</i>  <i>Second Article of Faith of the LDS.</i>  <i>Doctrine and Covenants 93:38.</i>  <i>Pearl of Great Price, Moses 5:11.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REDEMPTION</b></p> <p>Jesus Christ laid down in sacrifice . . . a perfect HUMAN life, equal to that which Adam forfeited.</p> <p>His sacrifice was the RANSOM which releases from inherited sin and from prospects of eternal death as a result of sin.</p> <p>His atonement provided the redemptive price whereby mankind by obedience and service could gain perfect human life with its rights and EARTHLY prospects.</p> <p>Adam, with some others, was wilfully rebellious, beyond repentance, and his sentence is beyond recall.</p> <p><i>You May Survive Armageddon, p. 39.</i>  <i>Make Sure of All Things, 1957, pp. 293-294.</i>  <i>Let God Be True, 1952, p. 114.</i>  <i>The Truth Shall Make You Free, p. 113.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REDEMPTION</b></p> <p>An ordinary being must pass through some eight hundred incarnations before he can complete his purification from sin.</p> <p><i>Besant, Esoteric Christianity, 1957, p. 144.</i>  <i>L. W. Rogers, Elementary Theosophy, 1956, pp. 201-202.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REDEMPTION</b></p> <p>Even the unbeliever, the heathen, and the child who dies before reaching the years of discretion, all are redeemed by the Savior's self-sacrifice from the individual consequences of the Fall . . . the resurrection of the body is one of the values achieved by Christ through His atoning sacrifice. (This is called General Salvation.)</p> <p>Unconditional Redemption "means to restore us from this mortal state to the immortal state; in other words, to give unto us the resurrection. That comes to every creature, not only to men but also to the fish, the fowls of the air, and the beasts of the field. . . . All of them had spiritual existence before they were placed upon the earth; therefore they are to be redeemed.</p> <p><i>Talmage, Articles of Faith, p. 85.</i>  <i>Smith, Doctrines of Salvation, II, p. 10-11.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SALVATION</b></p> <p>All who by reason of faith in Jehovah God and in Christ Jesus dedicate themselves to do God's will and then faithfully carry out their dedication will be rewarded with everlasting life. . . . Some of these, that is 144,000, will share in heavenly glory with Christ Jesus, while the others will enjoy the blessings of life down here on earth.</p> <p>The greater mass of humankind will be resurrected to find life here on earth amid paradise conditions. This will take place, after Armageddon, at the beginning of the great Judgment Day, 1,000 years long (Millennium). He that exercises faith (in that Day) has everlasting life; the disobedient is judged adversely and will sleep a perpetual sleep.</p> <p><i>Let God Be True, 1952, pp. 279, 281, 298.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SALVATION</b></p> <p>Man is a spiritual being, in his essence with the Universal Spirit manifested in and through the universe.</p> <p>Throughout each incarnation it inhabits the capacity to respond to its impulses, but it is through the molding of successive bodies that it accomplishes its task of human elevation.</p> <p>The innate character which the child brings into the world is the result of its own past. We made our present destiny in our past and are making our future destiny in our present.</p> <p><i>Irving S. Cooper, Theosophy Simplified, 1955, p. 77.</i>  <i>H. P. Blavatsky, The Key to Theosophy, 1953, p. 108.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SALVATION</b></p> <p>The sectarian dogma of Justification by Faith alone has exercised an influence for evil.</p> <p>We believe that through the Atonement of Christ all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel.</p> <p>The priesthood of Aaron . . . holds the keys of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins.</p> <p>The living may be baptized for the dead "who died without a knowledge of the restored gospel."</p> <p>Only those married "for time and eternity" (Celestial Marriage) in Mormon temples can receive fulness of glory and "continuation of seeds forever and ever. Then shall they be gods, because they have no end."</p> <p><i>Talmage, The Articles of Faith, p. 479.</i>  <i>Third Article of Faith of the LDS.</i>  <i>Doctrine and Covenants 13; 128:5; 132:19-20.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RETRIBUTION</b></p> <p>Certain are excluded from any hope of resurrection, and from any second chance. These include Adam and Eve (Paradise Lost, p. 236), Cain, those who died in the Flood, Judas Iscariot, and others. There is no hope for those desecrated at the Battle of Armageddon.</p> <p>The final test will come (at the end of the Millennium) by the loosing of Satan the Devil out of his restraint.</p> <p>All who then yield to Satan's temptations . . . will be consigned to the second death, symbolized by the lake of fire. This is annihilation, "as if they had never existed before."</p> <p><i>Let God Be True, 1952, p. 293.</i>  <i>New Heavens and New Earth, p. 354.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RETRIBUTION</b></p> <p>At death, the physical body and the "astral double" disintegrate together, the vitality returns to universal life, the passionate nature in its own ethereal envelope exists for a longer or shorter period, according as it was subservient to the higher nature, but ultimately fades away.</p> <p>If we do not admit of any punishment outside of this earth, it is because the only state the spiritual Self knows of, hereafter, is one of unalloyed bliss. . . . We believe in no hell or paradise as localities. . . .</p> <p><i>Blavatsky, Key to Theosophy, 1953, p. 91.</i>  <i>Besant, Esoteric Christianity, 1957, p. 212.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RETRIBUTION</b></p> <p>Sons of Perdition are "those whose sin is the unpardonable one, whose transgression has carried them beyond the present horizon of possible redemption. . . . They, having learned the power of God afterward renounce it . . . sin wilfully in the light of knowledge, etc."</p> <p>They are "doomed to suffer the wrath of God . . . in eternity. . . . There is no forgiveness in this world nor in the world to come."</p> <p>Punishment will be graded according to sin. Any punishment ordained of God is eternal, for He is eternal.</p> <p><i>Talmage, The Articles of Faith, pp. 60, 409-410.</i>  <i>Doctrine and Covenants 76:33-34.</i></p>

# ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

UNITY	MODERN THEOLOGY
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SIN</b></p> <p>There is no sin, sickness nor death.            Since God sees and understands perfectly, sees no evil because there is no evil, we shall see clearly the unreality and futility of appearances of evil to which, through misunderstanding, men now attribute substance and reality.            Sin is falling short of demonstrating our divine nature.            I do not accuse the world or myself of having lustful passions or sensual appetites, for God is all.            The sins of ancestors cannot reflect upon us in any way.</p> <p><i>Turner, What Unity Teaches (pamphlet). UNITY, January, 1936.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SIN</b></p> <p>Man is under a process of evolution which has neither beginning nor end. He is a passing form of universal energy without free will.            If man ever had a fall, it was a fall upward rather than downward.            Man's present moral condition is due to his failure to rise out of animalism.            A thing is only seen to be evil when the capacity for good is present and unsatisfied. Evil is not principle at war with good.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REDEMPTION</b></p> <p>Through the mind of man the earth will be redeemed from all imperfections and harmony and order in creation restored.            Forgiveness of sin is an erasure of mortal thoughts from consciousness. This brings the inflow of divine love after the mind has been cleansed by the denial of sin.            We overcame the accuser by denying his existence and power, affirming our own absolute and unassailable perfection.</p> <p><i>UNITY, February, 20, 1955.            UNITY, April, 1954, vol. 120, No. 4, p. 4.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REDEMPTION</b></p> <p>Every man must atone for his own soul.            The "slaughter-house religion" belongs to the dark ages.            The "gospel of gore" is an entirely out-worn dogma.            Why should God require the sacrifice of His son before He could feel Himself free to forgive His erring children?            Nothing of the kind was needed.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SALVATION</b></p> <p>All men may attain the Christ perfection by living the righteous life.            The Christ principle is the property of all men.            Man is the builder and to him is given all the materials out of which to construct the temple in which he dwells.            The repeated incarnations of man are a merciful provision to the end that all may have opportunity to attain immortality as Jesus did.</p> <p><i>Fillmore, Christian Healing, 1957, p. 26.            Cady, Talks on Truth, 1934, pp. 159 and 150-151.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SALVATION</b></p> <p>Consecrated Christians are too busy about deeds of love and justice to give thought to their own selfish salvation.            Universal fatherhood of God and common brotherhood of man.            What does God require of a man but to be good and do good?            God is the God and Father of all, through all and in all.            The incarnation of God is not limited to one life only. All are sons of God, and will eventually be saved.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RETRIBUTION</b></p> <p>We refuse to believe in the reality of the loss of life, or death.            The law of life is based in mind action and through the mind we resurrect ourselves from the dead. This is the way in which the last enemy, death, is overcome.            There is no warrant for the belief that God sends man to everlasting punishment.</p> <p><i>Fillmore, Christian Healing, 1957, p. 123.            Statement of Faith, p. 4.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RETRIBUTION</b></p> <p>God, angel or man could not be happy in heaven if a single human being was suffering in hell.            God is too loving and merciful to send any of His own creatures to eternal punishment.            There is no far-off judgment day and no judge external to ourselves.</p>

End of folder for:

**The Spirit of Truth**  
**and the Spirit of**  
**Error**