


Sermon  SNAPSHOTS



THE BOTTOM LINE

Part 4: Mormonism & Pentecostalism

This is the fourth in a series of five lessons on denominationalism. Our opposition to denominationalism it is no secret, yet many don't understand "why." This series gives some reasons for our opposition. Our previous lesson looked at "Protestantism." But this one shall examine "Mormonism and Pentecostalism"

MORMONISM

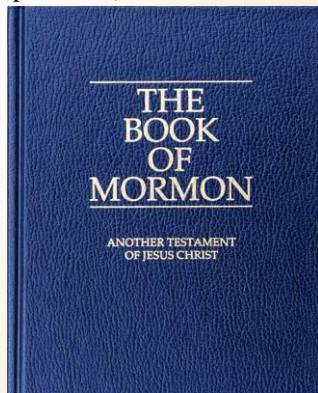
We now take a look at "Mormonism," or the "Mormon Church," or "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints." These studies have focused on a "bottom line" approach. And the "bottom line" or basic fundamental issue with the Mormons is whether or not the Bible is the complete and final revelation of God's will. In other words, is the Bible complete, or was there to be more added to it? Let's consider this.

The claim of the Mormons

- There was an "apostasy" predicted by the apostles (1Tm.4:1-3, "depart **from** the faith")
- As a result, *priestly "authority" in "the Church" was lost, and thus must be restored*
- Furthermore, *the Bible was corrupted, and also needed to be restored* (see quote below)
- "They have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain & most precious" (Quote take from the book of Mormon, cf. 1 Nephi 13:26)

The BASIS of their claim

- In Ezekiel 37:15-17, the "two sticks" supposedly represent "TWO BOOKS" joined into ONE BOOK
- **They say:** stick = wooden writing tablet; stick of Judah = Bible; and stick of Ephraim = Book of Mormon
- **But the Bible says:** sticks = sticks (See Hebrew word); and sticks symbolize nations (vv.18-22)
- **Further:** IF "books," why not OT/NT? And why not FOUR sticks? (Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine & Covenants, Pearl of Great Price) (Mormon Scriptures).



To establish their claim, they also quote from their own book of Mormon:

"Wherefore, because that ye have a Bible, ye need not suppose that it contains all my words; neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written." (2 Nephi 29:10)
However, this *assumes* what is yet to be proven, i.e., that the Bible is incomplete!

The TRUTH of the matter

- *God's revelation is complete, final, and permanent! No more is needed nor coming!*
- A new covenant (revelation) promised -- *and given!* (Jer.31:31-34; Hb.8:7-13)
- This was also promised by Jesus! (Jn.16:12-13; Ep.3:3-5, "has now been revealed")
- It is **complete** (2Pt.1:3), **final** (Jude 3, "once for all delivered"), & **permanent** (1Pt.1:25)

The conclusion is clear: We must reject the Mormon claims, the Mormon books, & the Mormon Church!

PENTECOSTALISM & CHARISMATICISM

Our study of denominationalism continues, with a look at Pentecostalism and Charismaticism. I treat this group as separate from other Protestants, because *other* issues come into play. “Pentecostalism” stresses the “Pentecostal experience” of Acts 2 (tongues, etc.). *The “bottom line” of this study is whether or not Biblical miracles still occur. If so, Pentecostalism has some validity – but if not, it’s a false religion!*

Pentecostalism represents a wide spectrum

- This spectrum of religious sects is often broadly called: “*The Charismatic Movement*”
- This comes from “charisma,” a Greek word that often denotes spiritual gifts (1 Cor.12:4)
- Ex: The Assemblies of God; Church of God of Prophecy; United Pentecostal Church.
- This movement cuts across denominational lines, existing among some Baptists, Catholics, and other denominations.

Before we study, let’s clarify some things:

- I believe in miracles! I believe in the Holy Spirit! And, I believe in the power of God!
- *I am NOT trying to “limit” God’s power (nor could I do so); I just want the truth!*
- By “miracle,” I do NOT mean “the amazing” (a birth), or “inexplicable” (cancer healing)
- I refer to clearly supernatural, awesome exhibitions of God’s power (Lk.8:22-25)

The Scriptures teach that miracles ceased

- Miracles served the purpose of *creation*, which is now “finished” (Gn.1:1; cf. 2:1)
- Miracles served the purpose of *persuasion*, which is now “written” (Jn.20:30-31)
- Miracles served the purpose of *revelation*, which is “complete” (1Cor.13:8; Jm.1:25)
- Miracles served the purpose of *confirmation*, which “was confirmed” (Hb.2:3-4)

There’s no way to obtain miraculous power

- In the beginning of the church, it was obtained *directly* only twice (Ac.1:1-5; 11:15-17)
- It was also given by the laying on of *the apostle’s hands* (Ac.6:5-8; 8:14-18; 19:6)
- *With no more direct baptism, and the apostle’s deaths, there’s no way to obtain the gifts!*
- The necessary inference is while God CAN do miracles today, He DOESN’T do them!

Therefore, the claims of Pentecostalism and the Charismatic movement are false! Do not be deceived by such bold claims, but take God at His word. The recorded miracles are sufficient! If you believe in the evidence which has already been revealed and recorded, then why not come to Jesus Christ, right now?

-Lanny Smith



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