

Faith and Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ

Published by The Church of Jesus Christ
Headquarters Monongahela, Pennsylvania

Printed by The Church of Jesus Christ Print House
1983
Reprint 1990, 2000, 2002

Preface

This pamphlet contains the Faith and Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Our faith is based exclusively on the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Because of our belief in the Book of Mormon, we have at times been mistakenly referred to as a faction broken away from the Utah Mormons. We do, therefore, declare that we are entirely a distinct and separate church, without affiliations to any other church or groups of the restoration movement; nor are we affiliated with any other religious group of people or church, regardless of their denomination.

This work was originally compiled by Brothers Wm. Cad-man, J. K. Armbrust, and W. D. Wright, and printed by order of the Church in 1897.

It is our wish that whosoever reads the contents of this pamphlet will do so with sincerity of mind and heart, to the end that, having read same, they shall have received some light and knowledge of the basic principles upon which The Church of Jesus Christ is founded.

It is the prayer of The Church of Jesus Christ, also, that someday the honest of heart and the seekers of truth of all faiths and denominations will be united in one fold, under one shepherd.

1st. We believe in God, the eternal Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. These three are the great and matchless power that rules all things visible and invisible, for it is of Him and through Him that we receive all things both for this life and that which is to come.

2nd. We believe in God, the Father, to be a personage of glory (Eph. 1:17; I Nephi 1:8). The Son is the express image of the Father, and He was with the Father before the foundation of the world. In the fullness of time, He came from the bosom of the Father, was born of the Virgin Mary (according to the scriptures) became man, and suffered and died for the sins of the whole world. On the third day He rose again and brought about the resurrection (according to the scriptures) and ascended up on high to sit at the right hand of God. Principalities and powers are subject to Him “Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of ever creature; For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence. For it pleased the Father that in him shall all fullness dwell” (Colossians 1:15-19). We believe, also, that He will come again the second time to judge both the living and the dead according to the scriptures (Acts 1:11; Matt. 24:30,36).

We believe that the Holy Ghost to be:

- A. The mind of the Father and of the Son. *Bible:* I Cor. 2:16
- B. The unseen power and glory which emanates from God and can, at His will, manifest itself in various forms. *Bible:* Matt. 3:16 *Book of Mormon:* I Nephi 11:11
- C. The witness of God. *Bible:* I John 5:6 *Book of Mormon:* III Nephi 35:36, III Nephi 28:11
- D. The gift of God. *Bible:* Acts 2:38, John 14:26 *Book of Mormon:* III Nephi 19:13
- E. Pure and holy, just and good, omnipresent, full of light and knowledge, and a discerner of thoughts and intents of mankind.

3rd. We believe in the Church or Kingdom as set up by the Saviour to be sufficient for life and salvation for all people.

Ref. *Bible:* I Cor. 12:28, Eph. 4:1-16, Matt. 28:18-20 *Book of Mormon:* III Nephi 27:7-11

4th. We believe that the New Testament scriptures contain a true description of that Church or Kingdom as established by our Saviour at Jerusalem, and that no principle or doctrine

inconsistent therewith ought to be practiced or respected, or any principle or doctrine consistent therewith rejected.

5th. We believe The Church of Jesus Christ in this age (in order to be worth of the name) must be molded substantially and minutely after the pattern left us by Christ. The scriptures bear witness that its officers consist of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (all inspired) for the work of the ministry, for the perfecting of the saints, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come into the unity of the faith, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Ref. *Bible*: I Cor. 12:28, Eph. 4:13, Titus 1:5 *Book of Mormon*: III Nephi 27:1-11

6th. We believe that mankind will be punished only for their own actual transgressions and not for the sins of our first parents, as is clearly implied by the Savior in representing little children to be heirs of the Kingdom. "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14).

Ref. *Bible*: Eph. 2:15-16, Col. 2:14, I Peter 2:24, Isa. 53:5 *Book of Mormon*: Alma 40:21, Mormon 9:12-13

7th. We believe that divine inspiration is an indispensable qualification for preaching the Gospel. General information about the world is advantageous to man when properly used. Theological education is good only when spiritually correct; such instruction, however, is not absolutely requisite to teach the Word of God. Furthermore, formal schooling or practical training which fosters the belief that inspiration and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are unnecessary in the ministry of Christ's Gospel is erroneous and harmful (see II Tim. 3). Moreover, we believe in preaching the Gospel without purse or scrip according to the Saviour's instructions: ". . . freely ye have received, freely give" (Matt. 10:8). The language is of supreme importance as containing the full force of both Christ's authority and example.

Ref. *Bible*: Luke 10:21, Gal. 1:12, Eph. 3:3, I Cor. 2

8th. We believe that all men must obey the Gospel before they can be saved.

Ref. *Bible*: Mark 16:16, St. John 3:5, Acts 2:28, Acts 10 *Book of Mormon*: II Nephi 9:23-24.

9th. We believe the first principle of action required in the Gospel is belief in the Lord Jesus Christ, the once crucified and now risen Redeemer. The second is repentance, which signifies nothing more or less than feeling a Godly sorrow for our sins with a fixed determination to sin no more. The third is baptism by immersion in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, for the remission of sins. The fourth is the laying-on-of-hands in the name of Jesus Christ, for the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Ref. *Bible*: Acts 2:28, Acts 19:2-7, Acts 8:17, Gal. 3:27, Col. 2:12, I Peter 3:21 *Book of Mormon*: Mosiah 18:8-17, III Nephi 18:36-38, Moroni 2

10th. We believe in being buried with Christ by baptism, and planted together in the likeness of His death, and raised in the likeness of His resurrection, and that we should walk in the newness of life. Let not sin, therefore, reign in your mortal body; being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. Therefore, yield ye yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead.

Ref. *Bible*: St. John 3:5, Rom. 6:3-13, Col. 2:12 *Book of Mormon*: III Nephi 11:23-27

11th. We believe in the promises of the Saviour as they are written in Mark 16:15-18. "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

Ref. *Bible*: I Cor. 12:1-12 *Book of Mormon*: Moroni 10:8-25

12th. We believe in partaking of the Lord's Supper every first day of the week, the bread as His body and the wine as His blood, in commemoration of His death and His suffering.

Ref. *Bible*: Matt. 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-24, I Cor. 10:16-17 *Book of Mormon*: III Nephi 18:1-9, Moroni 4 and 5

13th. We believe in the washing of feet as an ordinance instituted by our Lord and Saviour to be observed in the Church. We further believe it to be our duty to attend to that ordinance at least once within each three months.

Ref. *Bible*: St. John 13:1-17

14th. We believe in saluting the brethren with a holy kiss.

Ref. *Bible*: Rom. 16:16, I Cor. 16:20, II Cor. 13:12, I Thes. 5:26, I Peter 5:14

15th. We believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ as recorded in the scriptures, which was a victory over the power of death and a reintroduction of the principle of continuous or eternal existence; that is principle of continuous existence was not only attained for Himself but for all Adam's race, the wicked as well as the righteous, by which the former will be accountable for their conduct during this life and receive due punishment. Also, that the latter may be duly rewarded for their righteousness or good conduct. We also believe that the righteous that lived previous to the days of Jesus Christ expected their resurrection through, and as a direct result of, Christ's resurrection; also, that there was a general resurrection of the righteous that lived before the days of Christ (in the flesh) immediately following Christ's resurrection. The scriptures inform us, ". . . and many bodies of the saints which slept arose . . . And appeared unto many." A few moments of reflection by a person acquainted in a reasonable degree with the principles of God's divine justice will force him to conclude that God could not grant this great privilege of the resurrection to some (at that time) and deny it to others, who were equally worth and expectant, and deprive them of the enjoyment of the benefits of Christ's resurrection until a period still beyond our day when Christ will come again. We believe, also, in a future resurrection of those that die after Christ, according to the scriptures.

Ref. *Bible*: Matt. 27:52-54 *Book of Mormon*: Alma 40, II Nephi 9:4-22, III Nephi 23:9-11

16th. We believe in observing all things whatsoever the Lord has commanded us, and on those conditions he has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the world.

Ref. *Bible*: Matt. 28:20 *Book of Mormon*: III Nephi 12:19-20, III Nephi 27:6-22

17th. We believe there has been a gross and widespread apostasy among men from the true order and doctrine of the early Church as set up by the Saviour. Few scriptural subjects are treated more extensively in the Sacred Word, and to make anything like a comprehensive statement of the matter would be an extensive task. We refer the reader to several very pointed passages on the subject.

Ref. *Bible*: Isa. 24:5-6, Acts 20:29-30, II Thes. 2, I Tim. 4, II Tim. 3 and 4, II Peter 2. *Book of Mormon*: IV Nephi 1:24-49

18th. We believe that this apostasy from the true Gospel was so widespread, complete and general, that man himself was utterly unable to provide a remedy, and we recognize all efforts of reformation as utter failures to reproduce even a faint resemblance of the duties and privileges of the ancient saints or the order and excellence of the ancient Church as established by the Saviour. We will further state that we know of no scripture that in the least degree intimates that a reformation of the Gospel and Church of Christ ever would take place from the aforesaid apostate condition. The scriptures however, do foretell a restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the latter ages of time, in the hour of God's judgments. "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear god, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." We should all remember that in the time of John, there is no doubt of the true Gospel then existing, and that he saw in visions occurrences of future times. It necessarily follows, then, that this scripture foretells the restoration of the Gospel by an angel, calling back mankind from erroneous religion to worship of the true God and announcing the hour of God's judgments, reminding people that worship a God without body, parts or passions of the necessity of contrasting him with that God, who is the author of this vast creation. The next angel that John mentions declares that Babylon is fallen and thereby clearly locating the period of these occurrences.

Ref. *Bible*: Rev. 14:6-7

19th. We believe that the fullness of the Gospel shall soon be taken from the Gentiles because of their iniquity; and they will be punished for their disobedience. Moreover, God will remember His covenants to the House of Israel and bring them to a knowledge of the fullness of the Gospel.

Ref. *Book of Mormon*: III Nephi 16:10-11

A. We believe in the restoration of Israel as it is spoken of by the prophets; and that God will use man as His instrument for its accomplishment in this age, as He did in ages past. We believe, also, that in order to bring about these events, God must and will reveal His will to man as He did in days of old. (*Bible*: Ezek. 34:11-16; *Book of Mormon*: III Nephi 20, III Nephi 21: 14-21)

B. We believe that God will employ this church for that purpose. "Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock" (Jer. 31:10). "Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the Lord, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for

many hunters, and they shall hunt for them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks” (Jer. 16:16).

C. We believe, also, that blindness in part is happened unto Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in; and so all Israel shall be saved, as it is written, “There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob” (Rom. 11:25-26).

D. We believe that the aborigines, or Indians, upon this hemisphere are a part of Israel, descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh, the sons of Joseph, and that this land of America is theirs by an original God-given right. Also, that it is the land referred to by Jacob as a land given of God to Jacob and of Jacob and Joseph. Also, that it is the land referred to by Moses when blessing the children of Israel before his departure from them, as the land of Joseph. It is the land referred to by Ezekiel and Isaiah, where the “little stone of Daniel” will smite the image at the feet and bring about the wonderful results by him described. (*Bible*: Gen. 49:22-26, Deu. 33:13-17, Ezek. 37:25, Isa. 33:17-21, Dan. 2:34-35)

20th. We believe the Word of God, wherein He says, “I have written to him [Ephraim] the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing.” We also believe that the Book of Mormon is that strange thing, or the great things of God’s law to Ephraim; also, that it contains a true record of the Gospel of Christ as given to the tribe of Joseph by Christ as given to the tribe of Joseph by Christ, in person, after His resurrection, whom He recognized as the sheep of whom He spake that had to hear His voice and become one fold and have one shepherd.

Ref. *Bible*: Hosea 8:12, St. John 10:16 *Book of Mormon*: III Nephi 15:16-24, III Nephi 16:1-3

21st. We believe that the Book of Mormon is the book spoken of by the Prophet Isaiah, and also the book that Ezekiel refers to in his book as the stick of Joseph in the hand of Ephraim.

Ref. *Bible*: Isa. 29, Ezek. 37:16-19 *Book of Mormon*: II Nephi 27:6-22, II Nephi 29:6-8

22nd. We would just state, that the Book of Mormon has been shamefully misrepresented, and we desire every lover of truth to read it for themselves, as they cannot afford to rely on common report concerning any matter connected with their soul’s salvation. We hereby assure all men that it teaches nothing contrary to purity and sound doctrine and is a history of dealings of God with the aborigines of this land. It also contains a vast amount of prophetic matter of unlimited importance bearing upon the future. It is impossible for lovers of truth and virtue,

who are reasonably free from prejudice, to carefully peruse its contents without experiencing delight and satisfaction; or for persons who are soaked in greed, hypocrisy and sensuality to read this book without being maddened by its stinging reproaches of their character and conduct. It affords cold comfort for polygamists or bigamists. Jacob, the ancient prophet of the Lord of this land, writes as follows: "Wherefore, I the Lord God will not suffer that this people shall do like unto them of old [meaning David and Solomon with their many wives]. Wherefore, my brethren hear me, and hearken to the word of the Lord: For there shall not any man among you have it save be one wife; and concubines he shall have none; For I, the Lord god, delight in the chastity of women. And whoredoms are an abomination before me; thus saith the Lord of Hosts." This is not the only instance, by any means, where polygamy is condemned in the Book of Mormon. The Almighty commanded Lehi, when He brought him to this land, positively against the practice of polygamy. Old King Noah was condemned by Abinadi for the same offense. Riplakish is also condemned in the Book of Ether for the same abomination. Therefore, we believe that a man shall have only one wife and a woman but one husband, and base our faith especially upon the Book of Mormon in this particular.

Ref. *Book of Mormon*: Jacob 2:23-28, Mosiah 11, Ether 10:5

23rd. We believe in the fulfillment and ultimate establishment of the Kingdom of God on the earth while men are still in the flesh. We refer to this period of time as the Peaceful Reign, which shall precede the Millennium, or Thousand Years with Christ.

Ref. *Bible*: Isa. 2:1-5, Isa. 35, Isa 51:3, Isa. 55, Isa. 65:18-25, Hosea 2:18-19, Job 5:22-25, Ezek. 34:25-26 *Book of Mormon*: I Nephi 22:4-28, III Nephi 20:22, III Nephi 21:23-29, Ether 13:4-12

24th. We believe in the second coming of Christ; that He shall appear in glory at the end of the world, which takes place immediately following the conclusion of the Peaceful Reign. At this time, He will wed His Bride (the Church) to gather unto Himself all the righteous to dwell with Him for a thousand years (the Millennium), and then for all eternity.

Ref. *Bible*: Matt. 24:36-42, Luke 17:23-37, Acts 1:11, I Thes. 4:17, Rev. 19:7-9, Acts 3:20-21
Book of Mormon: III Nephi 28:7-8

25th. We believe in continuous divine revelation. Such revelations are consistent with the Holy Scriptures. The Lord reveals Himself through the Holy Ghost in dreams, visions, signs, gifts, and His Word. God speaks when, where, and through whomever He chooses.

Ref. *Bible*: I Cor. 12:3-11, Joel 2:28 *Book of Mormon*: Alma 9:21, II Nephi 26:13, II Nephi 29, Moroni 10:8-24, Mormon 9:7-8

26th. We believe that marriage between man and woman is a holy institution. “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh” (Gen. 2:24). We believe that a man shall have one wife and a wife but one husband, except when death takes one of the parties, in which case the survivor is at liberty to remarry.

Finally, whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report; and everything virtuous, praise-worthy and upright, we seek after, looking forward to the recompense of reward.

Ref. *Bible*: Phil 4:8