

# San Juan church of Christ

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## What Does God's Word Say About... False Doctrine and Teachers

The Bible is full of proof that it came by the inspiration of God and the Holy Spirit. "But know this first of all, that no prophesy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophesy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God" (2 Peter 1:20-21). The Bible by itself claims to be sufficient for eternal life with God. "Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was ONCE FOR ALL handed down to the saints" (Jude 3). This verse teaches there are no "new" revelations that would be given to man. The New Testament is complete in its entirety.

One example of false teaching is the Mormon Church founded by Joseph Smith. They believe the Bible is only one of God's revelations to mankind. They consider that "The Book of Mormon," "The Doctrine and Covenants," and "The Pearl of Great Price" are considered later revelations. The inspired writer of the book of James (Jesus' half-brother) writes, "But one who looks intently at the perfect law [complete and mature word], the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does" (James 1:25). In the Bible God has given to us "everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence" (2 Peter 1:3). The Bible provides everything we need to serve and please God (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Joseph Smith claimed to have received golden plates from an angel of God [Moroni], which plates it is claimed he translated by the "gift and power of God". When Paul wrote the letter to the church at Galatia in approximately 49 A.D., he warned them as well as us, that he was "amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But if we (apostles), or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we (apostles) have preached to you, he is to be accursed!" (Galatians 1:6-9).

Mormons believe the priesthood of Aaron continues to this day. The Bible teaches that the priesthood has changed (Hebrews 7:12). Today, Jesus Christ is the Christian's high priest (Hebrews 4:14-16). Joseph Smith claimed that Peter, James, and John later appeared to him and conferred on him the Melchizedek priesthood, or higher priesthood. But scripture says in Hebrews that Jesus is "a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek" (Hebrews 7:14-21), which means only Jesus Christ can be such a priest.

This means that Joseph Smith is trying to take the place of Jesus. Paul warned us of this man of lawlessness "who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God" (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). The "man of lawlessness" repeals or changes the laws of God. We must not place our trust and eternal soul to the word of one man. The Hebrew writer said of Jesus, "Although He was a son, He learned obedience from the things which he suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him, the source of eternal salvation, being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek" (Hebrews 5:8-10).

The Mormons believe that when "the apostles were killed that the keys to direct and receive revelation for the Church was taken from the earth because the Church was no longer led by priesthood authority and that error crept into the Church teachings and that the gospel established by Jesus Christ was lost" (quoted from the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ). To refute this false doctrine we need to go to the dream of Daniel in the Old Testament that the "God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people" and "His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom" (Daniel 2:44, 4:3). Jesus told Peter that he would have the keys to this kingdom [fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost, Acts 2:1-47]. Jesus said, "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven [which is the church]" (Matthew 16:17-19). These scriptures tell us that the kingdom- church is eternal, forever, will never be lost and will not be overpowered.

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" and "in Him you have been made complete and He is the head over all rule and authority" (Matthew 28:18; Colossians 2:10). Peter told us, "that you should remember the words spoken before hand by the holy prophets (Old Testament) and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles." (2 Peter 3:2). "Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son" (2 John 9). In short, the Book of Mormon is the doctrine of "demons" and the "myth" that the New Testament warns Christians to turn away from.

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