

Salvation and Eternal Life

Mormonism	Biblical Christianity
<p style="text-align: center;">Salvation Comes AFTER Works</p> <p>“Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is grace sufficient for you...” Moroni 10:32</p> <p>“For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do” 2 Nephi 25:23.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Salvation Comes BEFORE Works</p> <p>“David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: ‘Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him.’</p> <p>Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham’s faith was credited to him as righteousness. Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised or before? It was not after, but before!” Romans 4:6-10. NIV</p> <p>“I tell you the truth, whosoever hears my word and believes in him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life” John 5:24. NIV</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Mankind Does Have Ability to Keep ALL the Commandments</p> <p>“And now it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father: I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them” 1 Nephi 3:7</p> <p>“Being perfect means to triumph over sin. This is a mandate from the Lord. He is just and wise and kind. He would never require anything from his children which was not for their benefit or which was not attainable.</p> <p>Perfection therefore is an achievable goal” Miracle of Forgiveness p. 209.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mankind does NOT have Ability to Keep ALL the Commandments</p> <p>“I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out” Romans 7:18. NIV</p> <p>“To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me” 2 Corinthians 12:7-9. NIV</p> <p>“For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it” James 2:10. NIV</p> <p>“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us” 1 John 1:8. NIV</p>

Cannot be Saved IN Sins

“And I say unto you again that he cannot save them **in** their sins; for I cannot deny his word, and he hath said that no unclean thing can inherit the kingdom of heaven; therefore, how can ye be saved, except ye inherit the kingdom of heaven? Therefore, ye cannot be saved **in** your sins” Alma 11:37.

“The Lord cannot save men **in** their sins but only **from** their sins, and that only when they have shown true repentance. The one thief did show some compassion, whether selfishly with hope we are not sure. He was confessing, but how could he abandon his evil practices when dungeon walls made evil deeds impossible? How could he restore stolen goods when hanging on the cross? How could he, as John the Baptist required, ‘bring forth fruits meet for repentance?’ How could he live the Lord’s commands, attend his meetings, pay his tithing, serve his fellowmen? All these things take time. Time was the one thing he was running out of very rapidly. ‘No unclean thing can enter the kingdom of heaven.’ This thought has been repeated throughout the scriptures numerous times and is a basic truth. We may be sure that the Savior’s instructions to the thief on the cross were comparable to his instructions to the woman caught in adultery: ‘Go your way and transform yourself and repent’” Miracle of Forgiveness p. 166.

Christ Saved Us While We Were Sinners

“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were **still sinners**, Christ died for us” Romans 5:6-8. NIV

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.

But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God have mercy on me, **a sinner.**’”

I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” Luke 18:10-14. NIV

Sins Return if Repentance is NOT Complete

“And now, verily I say unto you, I, the Lord, will not lay any sin to your charge; go your ways and sin no more; but unto the soul who sinneth shall **the former sins return**, saith the Lord your God” Doctrine and Covenants 82:7.

“To return to sin is most destructive to the morale of the individual and gives Satan another hand-hold on his victim. Those that feel that they can sin and be forgiven and then return to sin and be forgiven again and again must straighten out their thinking. **Each previously forgiven sin is added to the new one** and the whole gets to be a heavy load.

Thus when a man has made up his mind to change his life, there **must be no turning back**” Miracle of Forgiveness p. 170.

Sins Never Return to Us

“For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; **as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us**”

Psalms 103:11-12. NIV (The east and west never meet at a pole; therefore our sin has dropped off the map never to be found.)

“No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they all will know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord.

For I will forgive their wickedness and **will remember their sins no more**” Jeremiah 31:34. NIV

Eternal Life = Godhood (Bestowed after this life and final judgment)

“**Then shall they be gods**, because they have no end; therefore shall they be from everlasting to everlasting, because they continue; then shall they be above all, because all things are subject unto them. Then shall they be gods, because they have all power, and the angels are subject to them...**This is eternal lives**—to know the only wise and true God, and Jesus Christ, whom he hath sent. I am he. Receive ye, therefore, my law” Doctrine and Covenants 132:20, 24.

“Accordingly, eternal life is not a name that has reference only to the unending duration of a future life; immortality is to live forever in the resurrected state, and by the grace of God all men will gain this unending continuance of life. But **only those who obey the fullness of the gospel law will inherit eternal life.** (D & C 29:43-44.) It is ‘the greatest of all the gifts of God’ (D & C 14:7, for it is the kind, status, type and quality of life that God himself enjoys. Thus those who gain eternal life receive exaltation; they are the sons of God, joint heirs with Christ, members of the Church of the Firstborn; they overcome all things, have all power, and receive the fullness of the Father. **They are gods**” Mormon Doctrine p. 237.

Eternal Life Starts at the Moment of Belief (Men do not become gods)

“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. **He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.** I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life” 1 John 5:11-13. NIV

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As God’s fellow workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain. For he says, ‘In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.’ **I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation**”

2 Corinthians 5:21-6:2. NIV

“Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He appointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his **Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come**” 2 Corinthians 1:21-22. NIV

Fear and Worry, Never Knowing One’s Final Stand with God

“Your Heavenly Father has promised forgiveness upon total repentance and meeting all the requirements, but that forgiveness is not granted merely for the asking. There must be works—many works—and an all-out, total surrender, with a great humility and ‘a broken heart and a contrite spirit.’ It depends upon you whether or not you are forgiven, and when. **It could be weeks, it could be years, it could be centuries before that happy day when you have the positive assurance that the Lord has forgiven you**” Miracle of Forgiveness p. 324-325.

Peace and Security (Knowing Where We Stand)

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, **will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord**” Romans 8:38-39. NIV

“Being confident in this, that he who began a good work in you **will carry it on to completion** until the day of Christ Jesus” Philippians 1:6. NIV

“I give them eternal life, **and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand**” John 10:28. NIV

Eternal Life Through Personal Righteousness

“For I the Lord cannot look upon sin with **the least degree of allowance;**” Doctrine and Covenants 1:31.

“In our journey toward eternal life, purity must be our constant aim. To walk and talk with God, to serve with God, to follow his example and become as a god, **we must attain perfection.** In his presence there can be no guile, no wickedness, no transgression. In numerous scriptures he has made it clear that **all worldliness, evil and weakness must be dropped** before we can ascend unto ‘the hill of the Lord’” Miracle of Forgiveness p. 26.

Eternal Life Through Credited Righteousness

“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about **to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God**” Romans 10:1-3.KJV

“...that I may gain Christ and be found in him, **not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law**, but that which is through faith in Christ—the **righteousness that comes from God and is by faith**” Philippians 3:8b-9. NIV

Summary

Mormonism	Christianity
1. Salvation Comes After Works	1. Salvation Comes Before Works
2. Mankind Has Ability to Keep ALL Commandments	2. Mankind Does NOT Have Ability to Keep All Commandments
3. Cannot Be Saved IN Sins	3. Christ Saved Us as Sinners
4. Sins Return to Us	4. Sins Never Return to Us
5. Eternal Life Given in Next Life	5. Eternal Life Begins in This Life
6. Fear and Worry	6. Peace and Security
7. Eternal Life through Personal Righteousness	7. Eternal Life Through Credited Righteousness