



HIGHER GROUND
CALVARY CHAPEL

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

Damned Deceptions:
Class 06
God's Plan Of Salvation

We have spent six weeks looking
at Satan's Deception versus
God's Truth

Tonight is where everything boils
down to why the truth is important

We have entitled our class on the
Cults, Damned Deceptions

We have used this title because it
illustrates what the issue truly is

When it comes to God's Plan of
Salvation

If you are deceived and you get it
wrong

Then you will be damned and
spend eternity in Hell

This is why the truth is so
important

All roads do not lead to God

There is only one way to God

Jesus is God who was born into
the human race and became one
of us

If anyone would know the Plan of
Salvation and how to get saved

He would be the one

He made this statement when speaking to His Disciples

John 14:6:

“...I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life; no one comes unto the Father but by me.”

This is what makes Christianity an exclusive faith

It is not the Church that made this statement

It was Jesus and that means

That it was God who said this

We ignore this message at our own peril

Which is why Satan has used deception to convince us that there are other ways that lead to God

There are not

There is no Alternative Plan

I am going to take a few minutes to discuss the Plan of Salvation offered by the Latter Day Church
I will then spend a few minutes looking at Salvation per the Jehovah's Witnesses

I then want to wrap up this class discussing God's Plan of Salvation...
The True Plan of Salvation...
The only one that will work and get you into Heaven
And avoid Hell

When dealing with the Latter Day Church we need to understand their terminology...

The Plan of Salvation for the Latter Day Church is progressing toward an Exalted status and to become a God

Bruce McConkie, "What the Mormons Think of Christ" (Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1973), 27 – 33

"All men are saved by grace alone without any act on their part, **meaning that they are resurrected and become immortal** because of the atoning sacrifice of Christ. . . ."

Bruce R. McConkie, "What the Mormons Think of Christ" (Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1973), 27 – 33

"Hence Nephi was led to write: '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 it is by grace that we are saved **after all we can do.**'"

Bruce R. McConkie, "What the Mormons Think of Christ" (Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1973), 27 – 33

The Mormons use the word
“salvation.”

Jesus attained salvation

But their definition of the word
“salvation” refers to a universal
resurrection for all mankind

“Most adults” will go to the Telestial kingdom which is composed of “the endless hosts of people of all ages who have lived after the manner of the world; who have been carnal, sensual, and devilish...

“...who have chosen the vain philosophies of the world rather than accept the testimony of Jesus; who have been liars and thieves, sorcerers and adulterers, blasphemers and murders”
(Mormon Doctrine, Bruce McConkie 1966, 778).

The second kingdom (the Terrestrial) will be inhabited by Christians who did not accept the Mormon message, Mormons who did not live up to their church's requirements, and men of good will of other religions who rejected the revelations of the Latter-day Saints (Mormon Doctrine, Bruce McConkie, 1966, 778).

The highest or Celestial Heaven is itself divided into three levels. Only in this highest level is godhood or the possession of a kingdom for one's self and one's family to be gained.

This particular estate has as its prerequisite the candidate's having been sealed by celestial marriage in a Mormon temple while upon the earth. Even in the celestial kingdom, godhood is by slow progression, and in the end each who becomes a god will, with his family, rule and populate a separate planet of his own.

As noted in the Mormon teachings, there are three Kingdoms in the afterlife.
For the Mormons, salvation is resurrection
All mankind will be resurrected into one of these three Kingdoms
They will be resurrected no matter what they do

Salvation (Resurrection) in the Latter Day Church is not based upon works
Resurrection for all was secured by Jesus' death on the cross
But Jesus' salvation has no influence on which Kingdom you will resurrect into

What determines which Kingdom you spend eternity in is determined by your works
The Latter Day Church is a works-oriented religion

So for the Latter Day Church, what works do they have to do in order to achieve this Exalted Status and become a god of their own?

According to the teachings of the Latter Day Church
When the Council of Gods was creating the earth, there were two Plans of Salvation presented

Book of Moses 4:1:
“Lucifer, who was also a son of the Father, came forward with a counterproposal: “Behold, send me, I will be thy Son, and I will redeem all mankind, that not one soul shall be lost and surely I will do it; wherefore, give me thine honor.””

Apparently, Lucifer was looking for honor for himself, and this is why his plan was rejected
Jesus, on the other hand sought honor and glory for the Father

Book of Moses 4:2:
“But behold, my Beloved Son, which was my Beloved and Chosen from the beginning said unto me – ‘Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever.’”

The Council of Gods chose the Plan of Salvation offered by Jesus
And rejected the Plan of Salvation offered by Lucifer

The Council of God selected the Plan of Salvation offered by Jesus because it limited redemption to only those who deserved it
It was a works-oriented program
We will look at that in just a few minutes

But as I normally do, I have a few questions...
First of all, I have to wonder why a Council of Gods who are overseeing the creation of a new world to ensure that it will be what it should be...

...Would ask two spirit babies who had never been gods or created a world to design a plan of salvation?
Since earth is not the first world this Council of Gods have created, it seems to me...

...That this would not be the first time that they had to address the Plan of Salvation

Logic suggests that at some point in their history they would have gotten it right and created the perfect Plan of Salvation

Therefore, once you have the perfect Plan of Salvation, why keep trying to reinvent it?

Why keep changing it and taking the chance of getting it wrong?

Then there is another question I have...

Isn't the purpose of a Plan of Salvation is to save people?

If your goal is to save as many people as possible, why reject a plan that saved everyone?

Why go with a plan that excludes people and ensures that there will be those who will not make it?
Aren't you setting the human race up for failure?

And if you are setting them up to fail
And you expect them to fail
How can you hold them accountable for doing what you expect them and designed them to do?

Now before moving on, let me just note one important piece of information...
The Plan of Salvation outlined in the Bible does exactly what the Plan of Salvation offered by Lucifer offered to do

It makes salvation available to all

Free of charge

And this is possible because
Jesus – the True Jesus – did
exactly what Lucifer had
suggested

Jesus did everything necessary to
secure true salvation for all

This is how deception works...

It take what someone else has
done

And it attributes it to someone
else

In this case it lies about the Plan

It lies about who is offering it

So how does the Plan of Salvation
offered by the False Jesus of the
Latter Day Church work?

“...[S]alvation in its true and full meaning is synonymous with exaltation or eternal life and consists in gaining an inheritance in the highest of the three heavens within the celestial kingdom...

“...This full salvation is obtained in and through the continuation of the family unit in eternity, and those who obtain it are gods.”

[Bruce McConkie,
Mormon Doctrine page 670]

Now I have to ask questions again
That is how you avoid being
deceived
You keep asking questions until it
makes sense

Bruce McConkie keeps using this expression of “full salvation.”

That suggests that there is some kind of partial salvation

How is that even possible?

You are either saved or you are not saved

How can you be partially saved?

The Bible makes it very clear that...

“...He who began a good work in you is faithful to complete it”

[Philippians 1:6]

God does not start something and then stop, change His mind or fail to complete it

If God starts to save you

You will be saved

Period

Now according to the Latter Day Church, your salvation [your exaltation] begins in your Pre-Mortal State before you are even born

“Is there reason then why the type of birth we receive in this life is not a reflection of our worthiness or lack of it in the pre-existent life? ...”

“...Can we account in any other way for the birth of some of the children of God in darkest Africa, or in flood-ridden China, or among the starving hordes of India, while some of the rest of us are born here in the United States?”

Mark Peters

“Our spirits were pure and holy when they entered our tabernacles;”

[Brigham Young,
Journal of Discourse 8:138]

In the Latter Day Church, There is a general salvation “which comes by grace alone without obedience to gospel laws... [It] consists of the mere fact of being resurrected.”

[Bruce McConkie –
Mormon Doctrine]

“Then there is individual salvation and is ‘that which man merits through his own acts through life and by obedience of the Gospel.’”

[Joseph Fielding Smith,
Doctrines of Salvation, 1:134]

There are seven elements dealing with salvation for those men in the Mormon faith:

1. Repentance,
2. Baptism,
3. Membership in the LDS church,
4. Innumerable good works,

5. Abiding by the Mormon "Word of Wisdom"

6. Marriage and other temple rituals

7. Keeping all the Lord's commandments

I just want to point out that there is nothing in this list that even mentions Jesus

How can Jesus be your Savior

When He is not even part of your Plan of Salvation?

Now where did this list come from?

It was presented by the Founding Fathers of the Latter Day Church

This means that it came from Joseph Smith

Where did Joseph Smith get this list?

He got it from the Angel Moroni

What did Paul have to say about this?

Galatians 1:8:

“But though we, or an angel from Heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”

Is this list the same Plan of
Salvation taught by the Bible?
It is not even close
It is another Gospel all together
What does that tell you?

Let me conclude this discussion
on the Mormon's Plan of
Salvation by making an
observation...
There is no Plan of Salvation
available to women
Women have no say in their
salvation

It is a "Men Only" Club
Only men can be exalted
If they fail to be exalted, then their
wives will not be resurrected by
them
There is nothing a woman can do
to fix this

So Mormon women...

Is this the kind of salvation you want?

Or would you prefer where you can come before Jesus on your own

And ask Him to save you apart from your husband?

Now with regards to the Plan of Salvation offered by the Jehovah's Witnesses

They do not recognize Jesus as God

They teach that he is "a god"

Question: How many Gods are there?

They teach Jesus was the Archangel Michael

He was not God

Their Jesus is not qualified to save us

So they begin their Plan of Salvation with a Savior who does not fulfill all the legal requirements set down in the Bible
If their Redeemer is not legally entitled to redeem us
It does not matter what their Plan of Salvation is – it won't work

In order to be saved, you must be baptized into the Jehovah's Witnesses church.
You must prove yourself worthy of salvation and work for it by going door-to-door.

You can also lose your salvation.
So one of their requirements is that you can never blow it.

Let me just make a note of what
the Bible says here

I John 4:19:

“We love Him, because He first
loved us.”

According to the Bible, we start
out with God loving us

God chose to love us before we
were even born

God chose to love us knowing full
well the kind of person we would
be

The Jehovah’s Witnesses have
gotten it backwards

We do not have to prove
ourselves worthy of God’s love

God loves us

And we are responding to His love

Any other arrangement turns their faith into a kind of spiritual emotional blackmail

“Unless you do what I want, I won’t love you”

Is that really a God that you want to serve?

And their salvation is not the same kind of salvation the Bible describes

John 14:2 - 3:

“In my Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you.

And if I go to prepare a place for you. I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there you shall be also.”

The Jehovah's Witnesses teach that there are only 144,000 places available for us in heaven
And all of these were taken up in 1935

Is that what Jesus just promised?
"In my Father's house are 144,000 places..."
Jesus declared that in His Father's house are many places

He is going there to prepare a place for each and every one of us
When John was in Heaven as part of the Revelation
He kept seeing crowds of believers who were "without number"

John could count to 144,000
He gave us that number in the
Revelation
The 144,000 are going to be
12,000 Jewish men from each of
the 12 Tribes

If the Jehovah's Witnesses claim
that they are the 144,000
Then they all have to be Jews
They have to be 12,000 from each
Tribe
Which Tribe are they part of?
And all they all males up there?
What happens to women?

Their teaching is that there is
going to be a Kingdom Age here
on the earth
They teach that it will be like the
Garden of Eden
They teach that Jesus will be here

What they are describing is the Millennium spoken of in prophecies and in Revelation
But there is just one problem with this
It only lasts 1,000 years

Revelation 20:7 – 9:
“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be [released] out of his prison...

Revelation 20:7 – 9:
“And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea...

Revelation 20:7 – 9:

“And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of Heaven, and devoured them.”

Now stop and consider this information

Per the Jehovah’s Witnesses,
only Jehovah’s Witnesses will be
in this Kingdom Age

And not just Jehovah’s Witnesses
It will be the best of the Jehovah’s
Witnesses
It will only be those who will prove
themselves worthy

And according to the teachings of the Jehovah's Witnesses it will be possible to blow it even if you make it to the Kingdom Age
And even there you will be annihilated
You will cease to exist forever

Now go back and read this passage again...

Revelation 20:7 – 9:
“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be [released] out of his prison...

Revelation 20:7 – 9:

“And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea...

Revelation 20:7 – 9:

“And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of Heaven, and devoured them.”

If only the Jehovah’s Witnesses are there

Then that means that Satan inspires so many Jehovah’s Witnesses to rebel against Jesus that you cannot even count them
They are like the sands of the sea

And what happens to them?
They are devoured by fire
The heavens and the earth
[Kingdom Age] will cease to exist

All the bodies that were in this
Kingdom Age are destroyed
What just happened to all the
Jehovah's Witnesses?
If we follow their teachings, all of
them cease to exist
They are annihilated

Their eternity...
Their concept of Heaven
Will only last for 1,000 years
Then what happens?
They do not have any teaching to
deal with this

According to the Bible the Millennium will include those who survived the Tribulation.
Not all of these will be saved
Jesus will rule for 1,000 years
Obviously those who were not saved will not be happy about that

At the end of the 1,000 years Satan is released
He will lead the unsaved who want to rebel to rise up against Jesus
This heavens and earth ends

But with our spiritual bodies and our immortal souls we continue on
And God provides a New Heaven and a New Earth that will last forever
Christianity has a solution to their problem

Unfortunately, their theology does not offer any hope beyond this
And if the Kingdom Age is Jehovah's Witnesses only
It is not a good endorsement to their theology
If so many of them rebel at the end

There is something else to consider per their theology
The soul is not immortal
It does not last past death
When you die, your soul ceases to exist
It is annihilated

Your body goes into the ground and decays
There is no resurrection according to their theology
IF [and that's the big IF] you make it into the Kingdom Age
God creates a new body for you
He does not resurrect your original body

Your soul was annihilated
It no longer exists
There is nothing left of it
So God will have to make a new
soul for your new body
Think about this
It is not you in the Kingdom Age

All your work and effort to prove
you were worthy of salvation does
not produce salvation for you
It produces the Kingdom Age for
your look alike – your double
You personally will never enjoy
the Kingdom Age
Something looking like you will

Now with regards to the Bible' Plan
of Salvation
Let me go to Ephesians 2:8 – 9:
“For by grace are you saved
through faith, and that not of
yourselves. It is the gift of God.
Not of works lest any man should
boast.”

We have spent several classes discussing the legal structure of salvation according to the Bible
I do not want to go back over them at this time
I want to walk you through a series of Bible verses we call "The Romans Road to Salvation"

Each verse is in the Book of Romans
It is a step-by-step process that explains the need for salvation
And how you can obtain salvation
It begins with Romans 3:23

Romans 3:23:
"For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God"
We all need salvation because we all have sinned

Romans 6:23:

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”

Just one sin will earn you eternal death

Romans 5:8:

“But God [extended] His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

While we were enemies of God; God still took steps to save us from our sins

Romans 10:9 – 10:

“If you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and shall believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved...”

“...For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

We are saved by confessing our sins to God, repenting of our sins, and accepting Jesus as our Savior

Romans 10:13:

“For whosoever shall upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

This is not about works.

It is accepting what God is offering.

Romans 12:1 – 2:

“I beg you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God; which is your reasonable service...”

And be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God”

Let God change your mind and how you see this world

Romans 11:29:

“For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance”

God will never change His mind about saving you

He will never take back His gift of salvation

There is one verse outside of Romans I like to add at the end
John 6:37:

“All that the Father gives me shall come to me; and he who comes to me I will in no wise cast out.”

You obtain salvation by asking for it

Once you have it, God will never take it back

If you come to Jesus, He will never turn you away

This is the true contract that God is offering

This is the true Gospel

This is the true salvation

This is the true Jesus and Savior

Insist on what is true

And never settle for counterfeits

Remember the warning of Jesus:

“Let no man deceive you”

Yes, It is THAT important

QUESTIONS


