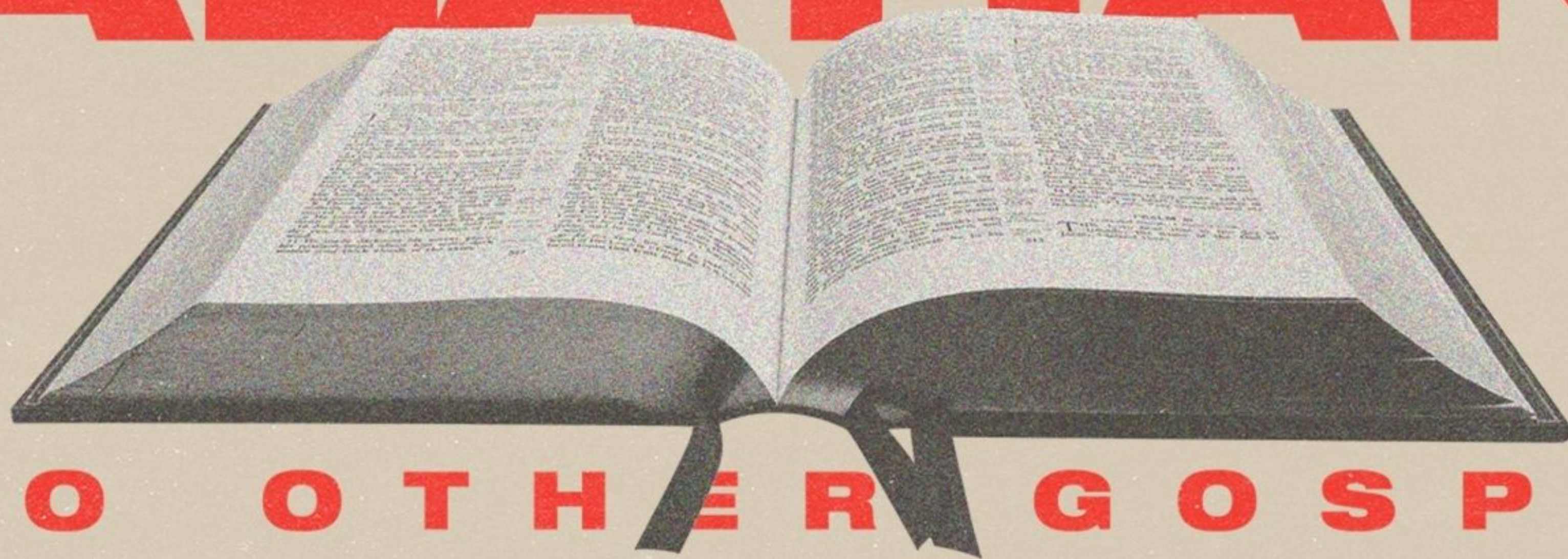


GALATIANS



NO OTHER GOSPEL

The Scale of Gray

When a different Gospel is almost right





The Gamez Family

What If?

- **What if...** you truly believed God loved you because of Christ and not because of your performance?
- **What if...** you could recognize false gospels before they took root?
- **What if...** you learned to walk daily in the Spirit
- **What if...** you experienced the freedom Jesus purchased for you?

The Main Purpose

- **The main purpose is to get to know JESUS.**
- **The main purpose is to have a relationship with JESUS.**
- **The main purpose is to live overwhelmed by His presence daily.**
- **The main purpose is always JESUS.**



Andersonville Prison









Andersonville: A Picture of Physical Captivity

Andersonville Prison was one of the most notorious prison camps of the American Civil War. Designed for about 10,000 prisoners, it eventually held more than 30,000 Union soldiers within its crowded prison camp. With little shelter, inadequate food, contaminated water, disease, and extreme suffering, nearly 13,000 men died there. The prison became a symbol of hopelessness, where thousands were trapped behind walls and fences, unable to free themselves, no matter how desperately they desired liberty. Today, Andersonville stands as a sobering reminder of the devastating consequences of captivity, neglect, and human suffering.

Physical Prisons and Spiritual Prisons

A physical prison confines the body, but a spiritual prison confines the heart, mind, and soul. While physical prisoners are held behind walls of wood, steel, and concrete, spiritual prisoners are often trapped behind walls of fear, guilt, shame, legalism, addiction, bitterness, or false beliefs. A person may appear free on the outside yet live in bondage on the inside. The tragedy of a physical prison is the loss of freedom; the tragedy of a spiritual prison is that many people do not realize they are captive. Jesus came to set people free from every spiritual chain, offering not merely better conditions within the prison, but complete freedom through His grace and truth.

GALATIANS 1:6-10 NLT

6 I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ.

You are following a different way that pretends to be the Good News but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the truth concerning Christ.

8 Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you.

9 I say again what we have said before: If anyone preaches any other Good News than the one you welcomed, let that person be cursed.

10 Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant.

Observation

- You turned away so soon.
- You are following a different Gospel.
- You are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the Gospel.
- Anyone who preaches a different Gospel will be cursed.
- Do not try to win the approval of men.



Main Points

1. The True Gospel
2. Let Him Be Cursed
3. Grace VS Legalism
4. People Pleasing



Who was the apostle Paul?

1. Paul Was Originally Saul of Tarsus

- He was born in Tarsus, a prominent city in the Roman Empire (Acts 22:3)
- He was a Jew from the tribe of Benjamin and a Roman citizen (Philippians 3:5; Acts 22:28)

2. He Was a Highly Educated Pharisee

- Paul studied under the respected rabbi Gamaliel.
- He was deeply trained in the Law of Moses and Jewish traditions (Acts 22:3)

3. He Persecuted Christians Before His Conversion

- Paul actively opposed the early church and participated in the persecution of believers.
- He approved of the execution of Stephen (Acts 7:58-8:1).

4. He Had a Dramatic Encounter with Jesus

- On the road to Damascus, the risen Christ appeared to him.
- This encounter completely transformed his life (Acts 9:1-19).

Who was the apostle Paul?

5. He Became the Apostle to the Gentiles

- God specifically called Paul to take the Gospel to non-Jewish people (Romans 11:13).
- Through his ministry, Christianity spread throughout much of the Roman world.

6. He Wrote Much of the New Testament

- Paul wrote 13 epistles, including:
 - Romans
 - Galatians
 - Ephesians
 - Philippians
 - Colossians
 - 1 & 2 Corinthians
 - 1 & 2 Timothy
 - Titus
 - Philemon
- His letters form the foundation of much Christian doctrine.

7. His Central Message Was Christ and Grace

- Paul taught that salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ, not through works of the Law.
- This is the major theme of Galatians:
"A person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law."
(Galatians 2:16)

Summary

Paul was a former Pharisee and persecutor of Christians who encountered the risen Jesus, became the Apostle to the Gentiles, wrote much of the New Testament, and passionately proclaimed salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone.

THE SCALE OF GRAY

THE DIFFERENCE IS SUBTLE.

THE IMPACT IS ETERNAL.



GRACE

God's love **received**

LEGALISM

God's love **earned**

———— GALATIANS 1:6-10 ————

THE SCALE OF GRAY

NOT ALL FALSEHOODS ARE THE SAME. | KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.

MOST SUBTLE

LOOKS MOST LIKE CHRISTIANITY

MODERATE DIFFERENCES

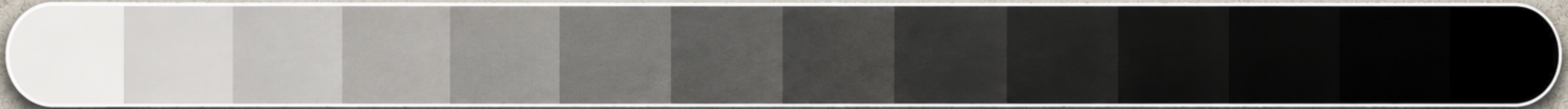
SOME KEY DOCTRINAL DIFFERENCES

VERY DIFFERENT

MAJOR DOCTRINAL CONFLICTS

OPPOSED

DIRECTLY CONTRARY



**BIBLICAL
CHRISTIANITY**



**LEGALISTIC
CHRISTIANITY**



MORMONISM



**JEHOVAH'S
WITNESSES**



**JUDAISM
(RABBINIC)**



ISLAM



HINDUISM



BUDDHISM



ATHEISM



**OCCULT /
NEW AGE**



SATANISM

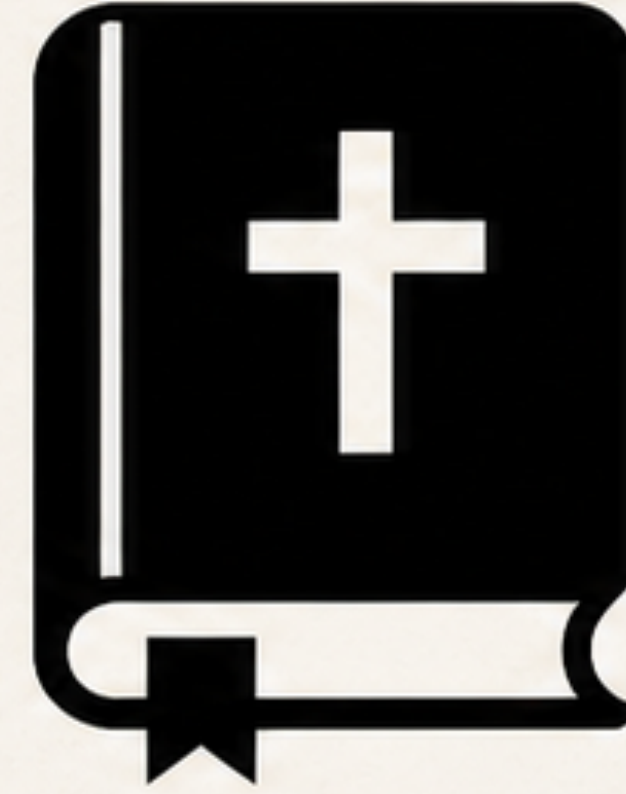
MOST SUBTLE

LOOKS MOST LIKE CHRISTIANITY



BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

Grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Scripture as our final authority.



LEGALISTIC CHRISTIANITY

Jesus is Savior, but adds human effort, rules, or traditions.



KEY TRUTH: The closer something is to the truth, the harder it is to recognize the error.

MODERATE DIFFERENCES

SOME KEY DOCTRINAL DIFFERENCES



MORMONISM

Teaches additional scriptures and a different view of God, Jesus, and salvation.



JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Denies the deity of Christ and teaches a different view of God's kingdom and salvation.



KEY TRUTH: The vocabulary sounds familiar, but the definitions are different.



MORMONISM




— ADDITIONAL REVELATION BEYOND SCRIPTURE —



CORE CLAIM

Claims additional revelation from an angel (Moroni) and accepts scriptures beyond the Bible.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

-  Book of Mormon
-  Doctrine and Covenants
-  Pearl of Great Price

KEY DIFFERENCES



GOD

God the Father was once a man who progressed to godhood.



HUMANITY

Faithful humans may eventually become gods and rule their own worlds.



SALVATION

Includes faith, repentance, baptism, temple ordinances, covenant keeping, and eternal progression.



KEY DIFFERENCE

Historic Christianity teaches that God is eternally God, Scripture alone is the final authority, and salvation is by grace through faith in Christ alone.

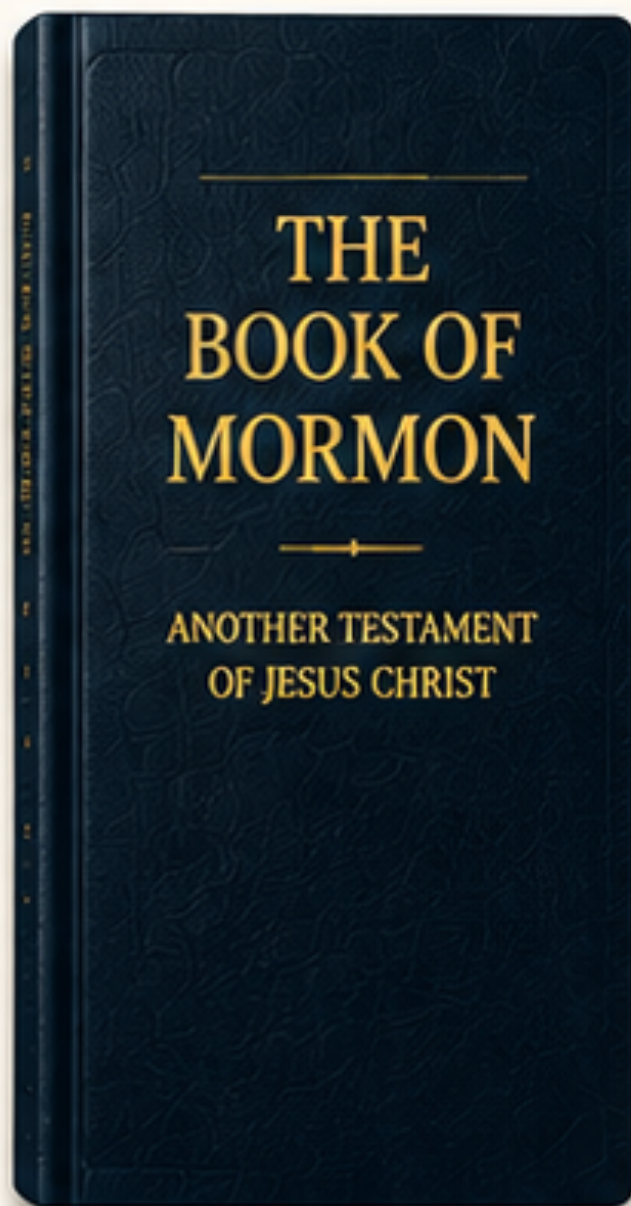


ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

MORMONISM ACCEPTS ADDITIONAL BOOKS AS SCRIPTURE ALONGSIDE THE BIBLE.



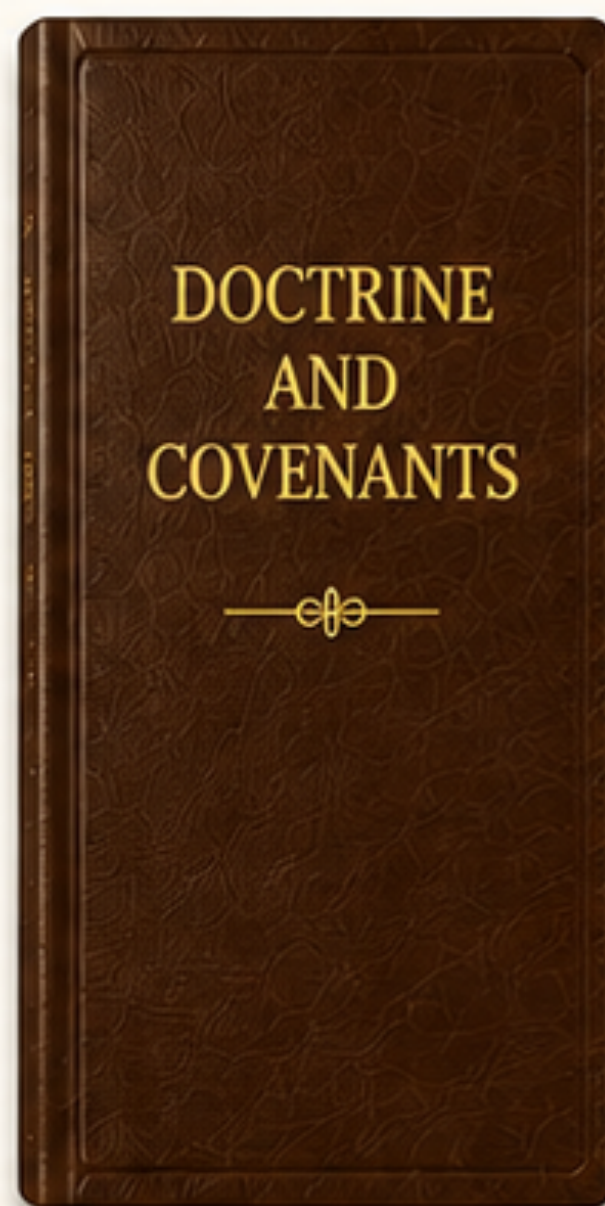
BOOK OF MORMON



- Claims to be another testament of Jesus Christ.
- Tells the history of ancient people who came from Jerusalem to the Americas around 600 B.C. to A.D. 421.
- Teaches that Jesus visited the Americas after His resurrection.
- Adds doctrines that differ from the Bible such as: exaltation, preexistence, multiple gods, and others.



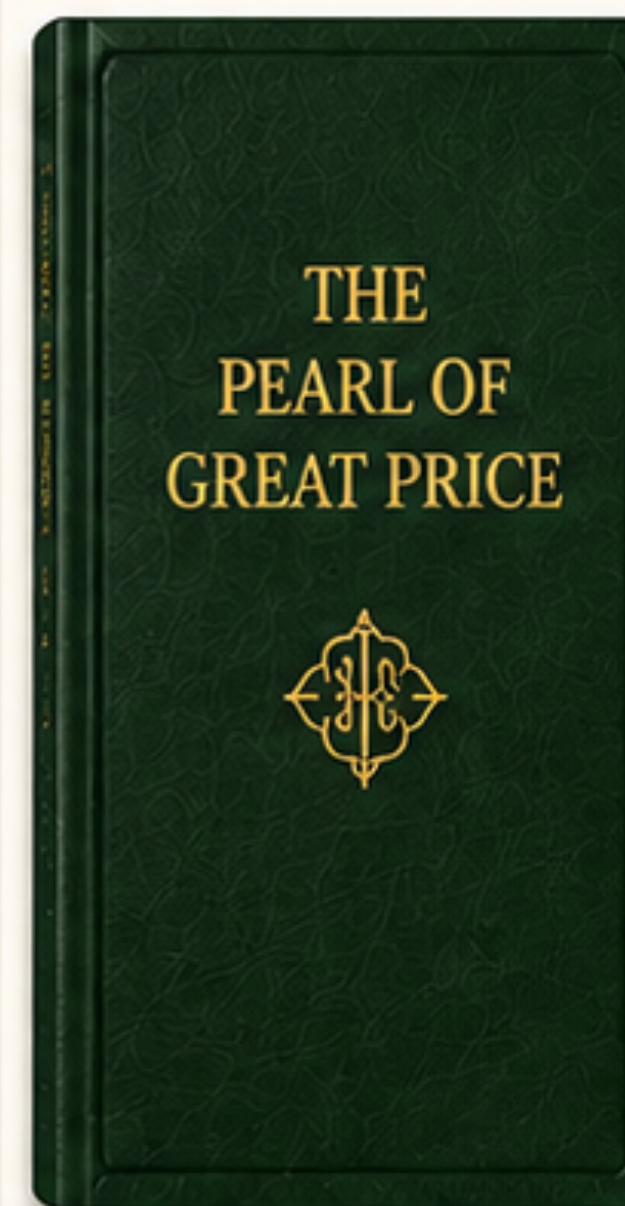
DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS



- A collection of revelations given to Joseph Smith and other early leaders.
- Includes instructions for the church, ordinances, policies, and moral laws.
- Contains modern revelations and teachings not found in the Bible, such as the Word of Wisdom and polygamy revelations.
- Claims ongoing revelation through living prophets.



PEARL OF GREAT PRICE



- A collection of ancient writings and revelations.
- Includes the Book of Abraham, which claims to be Abraham's writings translated by Joseph Smith.
- Also includes Moses, the Joseph Smith—Matthew account (a version of Matthew's Bible), and other historical documents.
- Contains unique teachings and cosmology not found in the Bible.



KEY TRUTH:

Mormonism teaches that God continues to reveal truth through modern prophets and additional scriptures. These writings add to and in some cases contradict the Bible, which teaches that God's Word is complete and final in Scripture alone (2 Timothy 3:16–17; Revelation 22:18–19).



VERY DIFFERENT

MAJOR DOCTRINAL CONFLICTS



RABBINIC JUDAISM

Rejects Jesus as the
Messiah; follows the
Law, not grace.



ISLAM

Denies Jesus' deity
and crucifixion; teaches
salvation through
submission to Allah.



HINDUISM

Many gods and paths;
salvation through karma
and good works.



BUDDHISM

No creator God; teaching
focuses on enlightenment
and escaping suffering.



KEY TRUTH: These faiths may contain moral truths,
but they offer a fundamentally different path to God.

OPPOSED

DIRECTLY CONTRARY



ATHEISM

Denies the existence of God; rejects all supernatural truth.



**OCCULT /
NEW AGE**

Seeks spiritual truth through hidden forces, not through God.



SATANISM

Openly rejects and opposes God; exalts darkness over light.



KEY TRUTH: Rather than offering an alternative path to God, they reject or oppose Him altogether.



BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

Grace through faith
in Jesus Christ
alone. Scripture as
our final authority.



LEGALISTIC CHRISTIANITY

Jesus is Savior,
but adds human
effort, rules, or
traditions.




MORMONISM

Uses Christian
language and
the Bible, but
teaches a different
gospel and god.


GRACE

SLIGHTLY LIGHTER SHADE OF GRAY


 Reads the Bible

 Prays

 Goes to Church

 Serves

 Worships

 Pursues Holiness

 Gives



MOTIVATION

*God already
loves me.*



**I OBEY BECAUSE
I'M ACCEPTED.**

RELATIONSHIP • SONSHIP • EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT

FRUIT OF LOVE

LEGALISM

SLIGHTLY DARKER SHADE OF GRAY


 Reads the Bible

 Prays

 Goes to Church

 Serves

 Worships

 Pursues Holiness

 Gives



MOTIVATION

*I need to earn
God's love.*



**I OBEY TO BE
ACCEPTED.**

PERFORMANCE • SLAVERY • SELF-EFFORT

FRUIT OF FEAR

VS.



BOTH CAN LOOK IDENTICAL ON THE OUTSIDE,
BUT THE HEART MOTIVATION CHANGES EVERYTHING.

We preach Christ crucified...
not adding anything to the gospel.
(Galatians 1:6-9)

THE GRACE-LEGALISM SCALE

THE DIFFERENCE ISN'T ALWAYS OBVIOUS.
SMALL SHIFTS IN MOTIVATION CAN MOVE US FROM GRACE TO LEGALISM.

PURE GRACE
RESPONSE TO LOVE

GALATIANS 1:6-10

LEGALISM
RESPONSE TO FEAR

A SUBTLE PROGRESSION. A DRAMATIC DIFFERENCE.



FROM ACCEPTANCE → OBEDIENCE

FREEDOM • LOVE • EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT • FRUIT OF LOVE

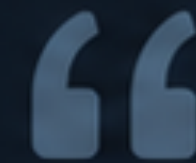


FROM OBEDIENCE → ACCEPTANCE

FEAR • PRESSURE • SELF-EFFORT • FRUIT OF FEAR



LEGALISM RARELY ARRIVES WEARING A BLACK HAT.
IT USUALLY ENTERS THE CHURCH
DISGUISED AS A SLIGHTLY DARKER SHADE OF GRACE.



If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be cursed.

GALATIANS 1:8-9

The Path from Grace to Legalism

FIVE STAGES EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD RECOGNIZE

1

**BIBLICAL
GRACE**



*"Christ is
enough."*

I am accepted
because of Jesus.
My obedience is
a **response** to
God's love.

2

**HEALTHY
DISCIPLESHIP**



*"Because I am
saved, I want
to obey."*

Spiritual
disciplines help
me **grow** closer
to God.

3

**SUBTLE
SHIFT**



*"Good Christians
should pray
every day."*

True, but the
focus begins to
move toward
performance.

4

**DANGEROUS
MIDDLE**



*"If I don't pray
today, God may
be disappointed
in me."*

Moving from
relationship to
performance-
based thinking.

5

**GRAY
ZONE**



*"I know I'm saved by
grace... but God is
happier with me
when I perform
well."*

Sounds Christian,
but acceptance is
starting to feel
conditional.

The Path from Grace to Legalism

FOUR ADDITIONAL STAGES TO WATCH FOR

6

FUNCTIONAL LEGALISM



“God’s acceptance depends on my consistency.”

Performance begins to affect identity and confidence.

7

STRONG LEGALISM



“Real Christians don’t do that.”

Judgment, comparison, and striving increase. Focus on others.

8

JUDAIZER TERRITORY



“Jesus saves you, but you also need these rules.”

Adding requirements to the gospel. This is where Paul draws the line.

9

ANOTHER GOSPEL



“Christ plus works equals righteousness.”

A different gospel. Paul warns this brings God’s judgment.

GALATIANS
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GALATIANS

Final Reflection

- Am I trusting in **Christ alone** or in my performance?
- Am I serving God because I am **accepted** or to be **accepted**?
- Am I seeking **God's approval** or people's approval?
- Have I added anything to the finished work of Christ?
- **Christ + Nothing = Salvation**
- **Christ + Anything = A Different Gospel**