**Lightning Apologetics**

**MORMONISM – PART THREE**

*Why the Mormon doctrine of man is not the Christian doctrine of man:*

1. According to Mormonism, all human beings existed as spirit children of God and his wife in heaven before coming to earth.
2. They grow to spirit “adulthood” serving God (even fighting in heavenly battles), and are then sent to earth to be babies of human parents.
3. The earthly life is their opportunity to become gods themselves, like their heavenly Father, by “obeying the laws of the Gospel” just as the god of this planet once did.

*Christian Answer:*

1. There is no biblical support for the idea that human beings were spirit children of God in heaven before coming to earth.
2. Jesus was unique in being a human being with a pre-human existence (Jn 1:18; 3:13, 31; 8:23, 58).
3. Jesus took on human nature at the Incarnation. God became man – not the other way around. His human nature was glorified at His Resurrection.
4. We will be like God in that we will have the same kind of glorified human nature which Jesus possesses, not in becoming gods and ruling planets ourselves ( 1 Jn 3:3; Rom 8:22, Phil 3:20-21).
5. While heaven is the presence of God with unfettered communion, the distinction between God and creatures remains (Rv 5: 13,14).

**What is Salvation?**

*What Mormons say about salvation?*

1. All are redeemed by the Savior’s self-sacrifice, from the consequences of the fall.
2. Immortality comes as a free gift, by the grace of God alone, without works.
3. Jesus is our Savior.

*Why Mormon salvation is not Christian salvation:*

1. According to Mormonism, everyone and everything – all of creation – has been redeemed and therefore “saved.”
2. This salvation gains, for all human beings, a physical resurrection only – not eternal life. Eternal life is not “salvation”; it is “exaltation.”
3. If you ask a Mormon if he is saved (per Evangelical parlance), he will answer yes.
4. If you ask him if he believes you are saved, he will answer yes. This confuses Christians who do not understand that being “saved” and gaining “eternal life” are not the same thing in Mormon thinking.
5. It is further confused by the Mormon distinction between “immortality” (salvation to physical resurrection) and “eternal life” (exaltation to godhood).
6. The Mormons have a saying: “Salvation without exaltation is damnation.”
7. Therefore, a Mormon can, with a straight face, tell you he believes you are “saved,” while he also believes you are damned!

*Christian Answer:*

1. We define salvation according to what we are saved from. We are saved from sin and from the wages of sin – death.
2. To be saved from sin is to be justified and sanctified. To be saved from death is to receive eternal life (Rom 6:22,23).
3. Being saved, justified, sanctified and given eternal life by the grace of God are all things which are interconnected in the Scriptures. There is no biblical basis for separation them (Rom. 5)
4. Seeking exaltation is contrary to the spirit of Christ. We are rather to humble ourselves, recognize our sinfulness and call upon the Lord for mercy and forgiveness (Js 4:6-10. Final Part IV next week.