

PRAYER STUDY # 48

“Cults”

You should also know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control; they will be cruel and have no interest in what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act as if they are religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. You must stay away from people like that.

2nd Timothy 3:1-5(New Living Translation)

This present-day revolt against parental, moral, and civil authority, ...the world-wide addiction to drugs, the satanic influence of Rock and Roll upon the youth, the contemporary sexual revolution whereby free sex, fornication, and homosexuality have become acceptable forms of behavior(even tolerated by some churches), the increase in social and racial strife, the modern-day agitation for sexual equality, as seen in the Women's Liberation Movement, and the legalization of abortion are just some of the ways in which this prophecy is coming to pass in our time.

Dr. Hobart Freeman 1974

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

The Jehovah Witness movement was founded in 1879 in Pennsylvania by Charles T. Russell. The Headquarters are in Brooklyn, New York. The current key writings include the *Watchtower* and *Awake* Magazines, the *New World Translation of the Bible*, *Reasoning from the Scriptures*, and *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth*.

Errors in Doctrine

1. One person God, called Jehovah. No trinity. Jesus was the first thing Jehovah created.
2. Jesus is not God. Before He lived on earth, He was Michael, the archangel. Jehovah made the universe through Him. On earth He was a man who lived a perfect life. After dying on a stake(not a cross), He was resurrected as a spirit; His body was destroyed. Jesus is not coming again; He returned invisibly in 1914 in spirit. Very soon, He and the angels will destroy all non-Jehovah's Witnesses.
3. The Holy Spirit is not God but rather an impersonal, invisible, active force from Jehovah.
4. To be saved you must be baptized as a Jehovah's Witness. Most followers must earn everlasting life on earth by "door to door work." Salvation in heaven is limited to 144,000 "anointed ones." This number is already reached.
5. After death the 144,000 live as spirits in heaven. The rest of the righteous, "the great crowd," live on earth, and must obey God perfectly for 1000 years or be annihilated.

Jehovah Witnesses are known as the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. The members meet in Kingdom Halls instead of churches. Active members are encouraged to distribute literature door to door. They do not observe holidays or birthdays. They are forbidden to vote, salute the flag, work in the military, or accept blood transfusions.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

Joseph Smith founded the Mormons, or Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, in 1830 in New York. The headquarters are in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, Pearl of Great Price, the King James Version only or Smith's "Inspired Version" of the Bible, and authoritative teachings of Mormon prophets and other LDS 'general authorities are the materials they use.

Errors in Doctrine

1. God the Father was once a man, but he "progressed" to godhood. He has a physical body as does his wife, the Heavenly Mother. There is no Trinity. Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are three separate gods. Worthy men may one day become gods themselves.
2. Jesus is a separate god from the Father and was created as a spirit child by the Father and Mother in Heaven. He is the elder brother of all men and spirit beings. His body was created through sexual union between the Father and Mary. Jesus was married. His death on the cross does not provide full atonement for all sin but does provide everyone with resurrection.
3. The "holy spirit" is different from the "Holy Ghost." The "holy spirit" is not God, but is an influence or electricity-like emanation from God.
4. People are resurrected by grace but are exalted to godhood by works, including faithfulness to church leaders, Mormon baptism, tithing, ordination, marriage, and secret temple rituals. There is no eternal life without Mormon membership.
5. After death, eventually nearly everyone goes to one of three separate heavenly "kingdoms," with some achieving godhood. Apostates and murderers go to "outer darkness."

Mormons take no alcohol, tobacco, coffee, or tea. They recognize baptism on behalf of the dead. A two year missionary commitment is encouraged as is door-to-door proselytizing. Secret temple rituals are available only to members who are in good standing. There is an extensive social network. People of African ancestry were not granted full access to the Mormon priesthood and privileges until 1978.

In summary, Mormons believe in polytheism(Isaiah 44:6, Romans 5:12, 1st Corinthians 15:22), pre-existence of the soul(Genesis 1:26-27 & 2:7), polygamy(Leviticus 18:18, Exodus 21:10-11, Deuteronomy 21:15, 1st Kings 11:1-8), a denial of the Virgin Birth of Christ(Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-35, Philippians 2:5-8), Salvation by works(Ephesians 2:8-9, Galatians 2 & 3, Romans 1:17, 3:20-21, 28). Mormons also put the Book of Mormon on an equal authority with the Bible although it supposedly was translated from golden plates about 400 AD and yet is filled with quotations from the KJV of the Bible published in 1611. It is full of historical inaccuracies(ex. Jesus was born in Jerusalem, and America had an ancient civilization visited by Jesus) and has ridiculous anachronisms such as steel swords, ship's compass which had not been invented yet.