

Sharing Life, Sharing Faith

Discussion #5

I. Law and Gospel - Part II

A. Distinguishing The Law and Gospel in our own Lives

Properly to distinguish between Law and Gospel is a difficult art. Of course, not in theory, for it is easy to say what is Law and what is Gospel; but in practice the difficulty is present, particularly in one's own heart and conscience.¹ **(Francis Pieper)**

The distinction between law and gospel is a particularly glorious light. It serves to divide God's word properly and to explain correctly and make understandable the writings of the holy prophets and apostles. Therefore, we must diligently preserve this distinction, so as not to mix these two teachings together and make the gospel a law. For this obscures the merit of Christ and robs troubled consciences of the comfort that they otherwise have in the holy gospel when it is preached clearly and purely. With the help of this distinction these consciences can sustain themselves in their greatest spiritual struggles against the terror of the law.² **(Formula of Concord V:1)**

The Formula of Concord shows in detail how Law and Gospel are joined in the case of a Christian. First, since the Christian, according to his flesh, still sins daily, but at the same time, according to the same flesh, is inclined not to see the gravity of his sin, rather to imagine "that his work and life are entirely pure and perfect"; and since, as a result the Christian is in constant danger of falling from faith, the Law must continually reveal and reprove the sin in him, while he, on the other hand, must daily appropriate from the Gospel the consolation that for Christ's sake his sins are remitted unto him.³ **(Francis Pieper)**

B. "Rightly Dividing" The Law and Gospel in our Christian Witness

1. Keep in mind that most unbelievers need to hear the Law before they hear the gospel!

Only that sinner whom the Law has brought to a knowledge of his deserved condemnation will in faith accept the remission of sins offered in the Gospel.⁴ **(Francis Pieper)**

I quite agree that the Christian religion is, in the long run, a thing of unspeakable comfort. But it does not begin in comfort; it begins in the dismay I have been describing, and it is no use at all trying to go on to that comfort without first going through that dismay.⁵ **(C.S. Lewis)**

2. Law and Gospel work together in the proclamation of God's Word

Pastor Bolland proclaims the law and gospel to us in every sermon, in every Bible class, and in every individual meeting with us when pastoral care is needed. One of his special gifts as pastor is the ability to discern individual needs, and he does this very well. By listening to him with an ear for this, we

also can learn how this is done, and while this may seem almost impossibly difficult to us, we can learn to apply it in our own witness in simple ways.

The Law is certainly to be preached without diminution, but solely for the purpose of bringing man to a realization of his sinfulness and deserved condemnation. As soon as this purpose is attained, as soon as man asks in contrition, "What must I do to be saved?" **the preaching of the Law should cease.** It is a divine requirement, and not merely a church regulation, that **terrified hearts should hear not the Law but only the Gospel**, which for Christ's sake assures them just as they are of remission of sins and salvation, without the Law and the works of the Law.⁶ **(Francis Pieper)**

When, however, law and gospel are placed in contrast to each other - as when Moses himself is spoken of as a teacher of the law and Christ as a preacher of the gospel - we believe, teach, and confess that the gospel is not a proclamation of repentance or retribution, but is, strictly speaking, nothing else than a proclamation of comfort and a joyous message which does not rebuke or terrify but comforts consciences against the terror of the law, directs them solely to Christ's merit, and lifts them up again through the delightful proclamation of the grace and favor of God, won through Christ's merit.⁷ **(Formula of Concord, Epitome V:7)**

We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. **(2 Corinthians 3:13-16)**

In regard to the disclosure of sin: the veil of Moses (**2 Cor. 3:13-16**) hangs in front of the eyes of all people as long as they only hear the preaching of the law and nothing of Christ, and thus they never learn to recognize the true nature of their sin from the law.⁸ **(Formula of Concord, Epitome V:8)**

3. The Law is to be preached to secure sinners and the Gospel to alarmed sinners.⁹ **(CFW Walther)**

Re: I Tim. 1:8-10 To all people of this description, then, the Law only is to be preached and they should not hear one syllable of the Gospel. As long as a person is at ease with their sin, as long as he is quite unwilling to quit some particular sin, so long only the Law, which curses and condemns him, is to be preached to him. However, *the moment he becomes frightened at his condition, the Gospel is to be promptly administered to him, because from that moment on he can no longer be classified as a secure sinner.*¹⁰ **(CFW Walther)**

4. Being convicted by the Law is not a pleasant thing, and may cause some real distress. While you do **not want to **overly** stress the law in your witness, neither will your witness be effective if you neglect it. It is important that your message contains both law and gospel. Recognize that when someone is in distress**

because of the law, **it is absolutely essential that he or she hear the Gospel message immediately.**

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **(II Corinthians 5:21)**

Christ is the fulfillment of the law, of time, and of all things. Christ is all and has all. Similarly, we all have the same Christ. It doesn't matter if one person has a stronger or weaker faith than another. Both of them still believe in the same Christ and have everything through him.¹¹ **(Martin Luther)**

II. Latter Day Saints (Mormons)¹²

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel--which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we **or an angel from heaven** should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! **(Galations 1:6-8)**

A. Historical Background

Joseph Smith Jr. was born in 1805 in Vermont. At the age of 14, that area of the country was in a religious “revival” where traveling preachers came to expound upon the gospel. He states that he was confused about which “sect” to join, and while praying to God, he was allegedly visited by both God and Jesus (both in bodily form), who told him to join none of them, and that he would restore the original church. He then claims to have been visited by an angel named “Moroni”, who told him where some golden plates were buried, which he was to translate, and which later became “The Book of Mormon”.

Even at this young age, he was known as a bit of a con-man, along with his father. Together they had visited farmers claiming to possess a seer stone, which would allow them to discern the locations of treasure buried on the property. This was a superstitious age, and the Smith’s made quite a lot of money on the gullibility of these farmers.

Joseph Smith was generally uneducated, and had no formal theological training.

Records indicate that he “translated” the Book of Mormon by putting this same seer stone into his hat, and dictating the words that appeared there to a scribe. The church was officially formed in 1830 with a handful of people as members.

After dictating the book, the angel Moroni supposedly returned and took the original plates back to heaven for safekeeping. There were three people who signed a statement that they personally saw these golden plates. Interestingly enough, all three of those people later left the early church in an “apostate” state, although none of them officially recanted their earlier testimony.

The Book of Mormon purports to be the story of Jews who left Jerusalem at approximately the time of King Hezekiah, and took ships to the American continent, where they started the “indigenous” race and culture of the Americas. There was a lot of popular interest and speculation about the native tribes in those days, and several books had been written to explain the recently discovered and mysterious mounds throughout the eastern part of the country.

Aggressive missionary efforts were in place from the very beginning, and continue today. The church grew rapidly, partly due to the interest in the native cultures and their origins. At that time, there was no archaeological digs, the Rosetta Stone had not yet been discovered, and so many of Joseph Smith's claims could be neither refuted nor disproved. Today, of course, there has been absolutely no archaeological evidence to support any detail in the Book of Mormon, the Rosetta Stone has shed light on Egyptian hieroglyphics, and to most of the modern world, the Book of Mormon is viewed as the hoax that it is. However, Mormons continue to insist that it is the inspired word of God, in spite of all evidence to the contrary.

After Joseph Smith died, Brigham Young was "voted" prophet, and he took his followers to what is now the state of Utah, while some dissenters stayed behind in Missouri, forming what is now the Reorganized Church of Latter day Saints.

The church is run by a *President or Prophet*, along with a council of twelve *Apostles*, all of whom are referred to as *General Authorities*. When a current prophet dies, the apostle with the most seniority becomes prophet in his place. This policy has led to the church being run by an elite group of very old men, all hoping to outlive each other and thus someday become prophet. The current prophet is Gordon Hinkley, who is in his late 90's.

There are two *priesthoods*, which all *worthy males* hold. These are the *Aaronic* (lesser) and the *Melchizedek* (greater) priesthoods. They also wear garments under their clothes symbolic of these priesthoods, which incidentally look nothing like the priesthood garments as described in the Old Testament which were actually worn by Aaron. Individual churches are called *wards*, led by a *bishop*. Groups of wards are called *stakes*, with *presidents*, and groups of stakes are integrated into *temple districts* led by a *temple president*. *Wards* meet on Sunday mornings for *Sacrament Meetings* (note that they are never referred to as "Worship"), and several other meetings and study classes. This *sacrament* consists of trays of bread and cups of water being passed around, of which only members may partake. They do not use the Christian words of institution in this sacrament but have their own blessing of "remembrance". (Found in Moroni 4-5) They obviously deny the real presence of Christ, nor do they see the sacrament as a means of grace.

Young men and women are encouraged to go on full time *missions* at the age of 18 for two years. These are generally the young people who will come knocking on your door. Keep in mind that many of them have been born into Mormonism, don't know anything else, are convinced they are right with all the enthusiasm of youth, but in actuality know little of their church's teachings beyond the basic "sales pitch".

B. Overview of Primary Beliefs

1. The Mormons do not have their own translation of the Bible as do the JW's. In fact, they use the King James Version as their official "scripture". However, in addition to the Bible, they have other scriptures, including the "Book of Mormon", "The Doctrine and Covenant", and "The Pearl of Great Price", most of it purported to have been translated from the "Reformed Egyptian" by Joseph Smith. They claim that the Bible is the Word of God, only "as far as it is translated correctly".

In the many instances where one of their other scriptures contradicts a Biblical teaching, the Mormon scriptures take precedence, on the grounds that the Bible is either “mistranslated” or “deliberately tampered with by the early church for its own gain”.

Interestingly enough, much of the Book of Mormon is a direct plagiarism of the King James Version of the Bible, including 18 chapters of Isaiah, copied verbatim.

Joseph Smith is reputed to have translated the entire Bible, but oddly enough, the Mormon church has never adopted this translation as their official Bible, and most members are unaware of its existence.

2. Mormon theology does not use the word “Trinity” to describe God, although they refer to, and baptize in the name of, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. However, to them these are three separate entities or beings -- **three Gods!** They state that God is “one” **only** in “unity of mind, purpose, knowledge, goodness, glory, etc.”
3. God the Father is only the God of this world. There are other Gods of other worlds, an infinite number of them. “To us, speaking in the proper infinite sense, these three are the only Gods we worship. But in addition there is an infinite number of holy personages, drawn from world without number, who have passed on to exaltation, and are thus gods”
(Bruce McConkie, “Mormon Doctrine”, pp 576-77)
4. God the Father was once a mortal, sinful man who lived in a human body on “a planet”. Due to his valiant adherence to “the laws of that world”, he became a God of His own world. He continues to learn and grow in knowledge and power.
5. All people exist first as spirits in the spirit world, and live in the presence of God the Father (and Mother). There they choose to leave God’s presence so that they can go to earth and “prove themselves”, and by so doing earn the right to return to God’s presence. This is called the *Pre-Mortal Existence*.
6. Jesus Christ did come to earth, lived, died on the cross and rose from the dead. However, He was not the incarnation of God, but merely the “firstborn” son of God. Since we are all children of God, Jesus becomes our “older brother”, who came primarily to teach us how to live, and how to be obedient. In reality, Jesus Christ plays a very minor role in the Mormon *plan of salvation*.
7. Mormons believe that there are three levels of heaven, which they base loosely on Paul’s words in **I Corinthians 15:40-42**. These three levels are,
 - a. The Telestial World is for the wicked and ungodly. They will live on a paradise-like earth, but will be denied the presence of God.
 - b. The Terrestrial World is for Christians and other sincere but “misguided” souls who try to live a good life, but reject the teachings of the Mormon church.
 - c. The Celestial World - for Mormons only, and only for those who have kept the commandments and were faithful throughout their lives. There they will be co-equal peers of God, and be gods themselves.

8. Mormons also do not believe in hell. Rather spirits either go to “paradise” or “spirit prison” upon death to await the day of judgment. Nobody stays in “spirit prison” forever, but will at some time be let out and assigned to one of the degrees of heaven.
9. The Mormons deny all the Christian creeds, stating that they were created by the same corrupt church leaders who “tampered with the original Bible” in order to deceive and obtain wealth and power for themselves. Instead, they have a 13-item “Articles of Faith”, to be discussed in a later section. This “Articles of Faith” document is given to prospects. However, their beliefs go far beyond these articles of faith, but the potential converts are generally not told of some of the weirder teachings until they have been baptized and are therefore somewhat committed.
10. Some peripheral and superficial teachings of the Mormon church are contained in what is referred to as the “Word of Wisdom”, which contain the dietary restrictions of which most people have some awareness, such as the proscriptions against drinking alcohol, coffee, or tea, smoking, and eating meat except in “winter and times of famine”. This is contained in “The Doctrine and Covenants”.

Members are also required to tithe ten percent of their gross income and must formally “settle up” at the end of each year with a one-on-one session with their bishop or leader.

C. Other Teachings - Things the Missionaries Won’t Tell You!

1. **The Mormon Temples.** Members will not discuss the temples or what goes on there with anyone, stating that while it is not “secret”, it is “sacred”. Not all members are allowed to go inside the temples. Only those deemed “worthy” based on very strict criteria are given a *recommend*, which they must show in order to be admitted. “Worthiness” criteria involves primarily full tithing and obedience to the “Word of Wisdom” and other rules of the church. During what is called the *Endowment* ceremony Mormons swear not to reveal anything that happens there, upon penalty of death. In this same ceremony, they learn secret handshakes, hand signals, and passwords that God will require of them prior to entry into heaven. Faithful Mormons will receive their own endowment, and then return often to receive an endowment on the behalf of a dead person who was not a Mormon.

In addition to endowments, there is a kind of anointing ceremony using oil and special garments. There is also a baptismal pool where people (usually children and youth of the church) are baptized on behalf of dead people. Your own ancestors may have been posthumously baptized by the Mormons without your knowledge or consent.

Weddings are also performed there, although they are referred to as *sealings*. Being **sealed** to a partner is one of the requirements for entry into the highest level of heaven. Family members who are non-members or for some reason are found to be “unworthy”, are not allowed to attend these weddings/sealings.

2. **Polygamy.** A man can be **sealed** to more than one woman, although a woman can only be sealed to one man. While polygamy is not practiced by most Mormons today because of the legal prohibition, they are prepared to practice it in heaven.

3. **Attaining Godhood.** Mormon men can attain Godhood through continued progression after their deaths, dependent upon their eventual perfection of themselves through obedience to the law. This is called the doctrine of ***Eternal Progression***. Once they have obtained perfection, they obtain Godhood, and are given their own planet, of which they are to be “God”. This is where it would be very useful to have been sealed to many women in mortal life, for all these women will be busy giving birth to innumerable “spirit children” to populate this new planet, which is really the crux of the polygamy question, and why they do not deny the practice.

D. Doctrinal Inconsistencies

1. On one hand they claim that God the Father is the God of this world, and this world alone. Yet, in their Temple Ceremony, they are taught that Lucifer is the “God of This World”. And in fact, Lucifer seems to be portrayed as the “good guy” in the story of the fall, offering the “fruit of the tree” in order to allow man to see good and evil and thus be “like the gods”.

Two conflicting quotes from the Pearl of Great Price regarding this:

“I am the Beginning and the End, the Almighty God; by mine Only Begotten I created these things; yea, in the beginning I created the heaven, and the earth upon which thou standest” (Moses 2:1)

“And then the Lord said, Let us go down. And they went down at the beginning, and they, that is the Gods, organized and formed the heavens and the earth.” (Abraham 4:1)

Question: How can God be both the Creator of Heaven and Earth, and still have been a mortal man, evolved to godhood of this one world only?

2. Two quotes from the Book of Mormon regarding the grace of God as it pertains to salvation:

“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, reconcile yourselves to the will of God, and not to the will of the devil and the flesh; and remember, after ye are reconciled unto God, that **it is only in and through the grace of God that ye are saved**”. (2 Nephi 10:24)

“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 it is by grace that we are saved, **after all we can do**.” (2 Nephi 25:23)

3. Joseph Smith stated that the original gold plates of the Book of Mormon, as well as the papyrus for the “Pearl of Great Price”, were written in “Reformed Egyptian”. This was before the discovery of the Rosetta Stone, and there was no one who could translate Egyptian hieroglyphics. The original gold plates for the Book of Mormon is not in existence, having been returned to the angel. However, after the discovery of the Rosetta Stone, the original manuscript of the “Pearl of Great Price”, which is still in existence, was discovered to be a “common Egyptian burial document”. Some of the strangest doctrines are recorded in this Pearl of Great Price, including the doctrine that God is a man with a physical body who resides on a planet called Kolob, somewhere in the universe, but never actually identified. In spite of the obvious fraud and “mistranslation”, the Mormon church still includes this manuscript in their canon.

4. Mormons deny that there is a hell, and rather state that sinful souls will go to a temporary “spirit prison”. They explain the idea that “eternal” does not **really** mean “eternal” with this interesting twist of logic: (emphasis mine) “Eternal punishment is *God’s punishment*. In other words, it is the *name* of the punishment God inflicts, He being *eternal in His nature*. Whosoever, therefore receives God’s punishment, whether it be endured one hour, one day, one week, one year, or an age”. (Kaiser)

5. On one hand, they deny that Christ was divine in His life on earth, but gained His divinity through His works while on earth. They thus deny that He was truly God incarnate. Yet, the Book of Mormon contradicts this teaching:

“For if there be no Christ there be no God; and if there be no God we are not, for there could have been no creation. But there is a God, and He is Christ, and He cometh in the fulness of His own time.”(2 Nephi 11:7 ...purported to have been written approximately 600 BC)

6. Some quotes from the Book of Mormon which are totally unsupported by archaeological evidence:
 - A. “...fine workmanship of wood, in building, and in machinery, and also in iron and copper, and brass and steel, making all manners of tools..” (Jarom 1:8, 2 Nephi 5:15)

 - B. “...their shipping and their building of ships, and their building of temples and of synagogues and of sanctuaries which were built after the manner of the Jews... a temple like unto Solomon’s temple in Jerusalem, the workmanship of it being exceedingly fine...” (Heleman 3:14, 2 Nephi 5:15-16, Alma 16:13)

 - C. "And they also had horses, and asses, and there were elephants and cureloms and cumoms; all of which were useful unto man, and more especially the elephants and cureloms and cumoms.” (Ether 9:19)

7. Some *revelations* purported to be given to leaders of the church over time:¹³
 - A. “God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man...” (Prophet Joseph Smith)

- B. “As man is, God once was: as God is, man may become” (Prophet Lorenzo Snow)
- C. “Remember that God, our heavenly Father, was perhaps once a child, and mortal like we ourselves, and rose step by step in the scale of progress, in the school of advancement; has moved forward and overcome, until He has arrived at the point where He now is.” (Apostle Orson Hyde)
- D. “When our father Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body, and brought Eve, one of his wives, with him. He helped to make and organized this world. He is MICHAEL the Archangel, the ANCIENT OF DAYS! about whom holy men have written and spoken - HE is our FATHER and our GOD, and the God with whom we have to do.” (Prophet Brigham Young)
- E. “Christ was a preexistent spirit and was the spirit brother of Lucifer. In his life, he celebrated his own marriage to Mary and Martha and the other Mary at Cana of Galilee, whereby he could see his seed, before he was crucified.” (Apostle Orson Hyde)
- F. Brigham Young also categorically stated that the sacrifice made upon the cross by Jesus Christ in the form of His own blood was ineffective for the cleansing of *some* sins. Brigham went on to teach the now suppressed but never officially repudiated doctrine of “blood atonement”
- G. “...I asked the Personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right and which I should join. I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong, and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in His sight...” (Prophet Joseph Smith, speaking of his first “vision” at the age of 14)
- H. “I have more to boast of than ever any man had. I am the only man that has ever been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam. Neither Paul, Peter, nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as I”. (Joseph Smith)

E. Witnessing to Mormons

1. Remember that they are people for whom Christ died, so be prepared to share God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ with them. However, keep in mind that most Mormons are taught that if they follow the laws of the church they will attain their own salvation and godhood. Before they will “hear” the message of the gospel, they also need to hear that, in spite of all their efforts, they are failing to keep God’s law.

2. Do not be afraid to open your heart to these people. Show them that you too are unable to keep the law, and what that means to you in your understanding of the message of the gospel. A degree of intimacy and trust is the most fertile ground for witnessing.
3. Avoid becoming involved in discussions and arguments about peripheral matters, which actually include most of what they like to talk about... ie. the Word of Wisdom, the nature of God, etc. They like to talk about keeping the commandments, so use that as a starting point. As was also the case with the JW's, keep your message focused on the messages contained in law and gospel.
4. Do not be afraid to affirm them, to some extent. If they want to talk about the "Word of Wisdom", you can say that while that might be an admirable form of discipline, you can also point to the Jewish dietary laws, (which are different), and state that while those laws might still be practiced by a Christian, it would be motivated by love and honor for God, and not with the understanding that salvation depends upon it. Return the conversation to the gospel message, and Christ's person as we know it from the Bible, as soon as possible.
5. Since Mormons have no professional clergy and are all expected to have some form of "personal revelation", beliefs can vary widely among individuals. Because of this, many of them have a very shallow understanding of what their church really teaches. Listen to them as they express their understanding. If they have been to the temple, they will have a deeper knowledge of some of the stranger teachings, and will have more invested in those teachings, and may be quite defensive about it. Someone who has not been to the temple, may be quite unaware of some of these stranger teachings, and may actually be quite receptive to the gospel message. Don't be afraid to listen to them, even if it seems like they are trying to convert you!
6. Do not focus on convincing them that their church is wrong. Rather, share the truth of the gospel with them, from God's Word, and let them come to their own conclusions. Make them think! "If the Bible says that, why does the Book of Mormon contradict it?" Since Mormonism borrows so heavily from Christian terminology, many times the disillusionment and anger that accompanies discovering that they've been misled and manipulated carries over into Christianity. These people, being unable to distinguish between Mormonism and Christianity, will therefore reject everything in their anger. Respond with gentleness and concern and do not be personally offended if you see that happening. Try to help them through this very difficult time.
7. Some useful scriptures to know.
 - A. Regarding the doctrine of God's *progression*.... Compare this with the Biblical teaching of God's eternal and unchangeable nature in: (Note in #5 how their own scriptures contradict this teaching!)
 1. Malachi 3:6.
 2. Isaiah 9:6
 3. Ephesians 3:10-11
 4. I Timothy 1:17
 5. **Book of Mormon**, Moroni 10:19

- B. Regarding the Deity of Jesus Christ (useful with both LDS and JW)
1. Phillipians 2:5-8
 2. Colossians 1:19
 3. Colossians 2:9
 4. John 20:28
 5. Mark 4:41

III. Scenarios

A. #1 Differentiating Law and Gospel

Your Mormon neighbors are sitting outside and invite you over for lemonade. You have a pleasant conversation about all the rain we've had lately, when the conversation turns to church. They tell you that the husband has a high position in the local church, similar to the pastor in your church. The wife states that she is very happy to be married to such a worthy man, and he inspires her to keep the commandments better. She says, "When Jesus comes to judge us for all the good and bad that we've done, it's nice to know that we are doing all the right things!". What do you say next?

B. #2 Mormon missionaries come to visit you (see page 75)

C. Readings from LDS Liturature

1. Book of Mormon - 2 Nephi 15 - (compare with Isaiah 5)

And then will I sing to my well-beloved a song of my beloved, touching his vineyard. My well-beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill. And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein; and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard.

2. Book of Mormon - Moroni 10:1-5, 18-19

Now I, Moroni, write somewhat as seemeth me good; and I write unto my brethren, the Lamanites; and I would that they should know that more than four hundred and twenty years have passed away since the sign was given of the coming of Christ. And I seal up these records, after I have spoken a few words by the way of exhortation to you. Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things, if it be wisdom in God that ye should read them, that ye would remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men, from the creation of Adam even down until the time that ye shall receive these things, and ponder it in your hearts. And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you by the power of the Holy Ghost. And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.

And I would exhort you, my beloved brethren, that ye remember that every good gift cometh of Christ. And I would exhort you, my beloved brethren, the ye remember that he is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and that all these gifts of which I have spoken, which are spiritual, never will be done away, even as long as the world shall stand, only according to the unbelief of the children of men.

3. Mormon hymns - see page 78
4. Articles of faith - see page 77

IV. Journal Sharing

V. Next Month

- A. Lutheran Liturgy and Worship**
 - B. Scenarios**
 - C. Journal Sharing**
 - D. Outside Reading**
- Law and Gospel Bible Study, Units 3, 4, and 5**

¹ Pieper, Francis, "Christian Dogmatics", © 1950, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO, Volume III, pg 241

² Book of Concord, © 2000, Augsburg Press, Minneapolis, MN, Formula of Concord Section V:1, pg 581

³ Pieper, Francis, Op. Cit., pg 239

⁴ Pieper, Francis, Op. Cit., pg 236

⁵ Lewis, C.S., "Mere Christianity", © 1952, 1980, Harper Collins Edition 2001, pg 32

⁶ Pieper, Francis, Op. Cit., pp 230-231

⁷ Book of Concord, Op. Cit., Formula of Concord Section V:7, pg 501

⁸ Book of Concord, Op. Cit., Formula of Concord Section V:8, pg 501

⁹ Walther, C.F.W., "The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel, 1897, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO. pg 17

¹⁰ Ibid, pg. 17

¹¹ Luther, Martin, "Faith Alone", © 1998 World Bible Publishers, Iowa Falls, Iowa, pg "Feb. 4"

¹² Kaiser, Edgar P., "How to Respond to the Latter Day Saints" © 1995, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO, various pages

¹³ Walter, Martin, "The Kingdom of the Cults", various pages