

The Book of Mormon Explains Ephesians 2:8-9

Gentiles are Famous for Partial Understanding...

Understanding Scripture is like driving on a Highway...

... as soon as we think we understand, we take the exit ramp and build a doctrine....

Catholicism and Baptism

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

And therefore conclude:

...children must therefore be baptized

Calvinism...and Salvation

Ephesians 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being **predestinated** according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

And therefore conclude:

...therefore God has pre-selected who will be saved.

Jehovah's Witness and Eternity

Revelation 14:3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but **the hundred and forty and four thousand**, which were redeemed from the earth.

And therefore conclude:

... only 144,000 humans will be with God in Eternity...

But the Book of Mormon teaches:

Baptism only for those who can repent...

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Moroni 8:13 But little **children are alive in Christ**, even from the foundation of the world; If not so, God is a partial God, and also a changeable Being and a respecter to persons; For how many little children have died without baptism?

14 Wherefore, **if little children could not be saved without baptism, these must have gone to an endless hell.**

15 "Behold, I say unto you that **he that supposeth that little children needeth baptism is in the gall of bitterness and in the bonds of iniquity**, For he hath neither faith, hope nor charity; Wherefore, should he be cut off while in the thought, he must go down to hell;

But the Book of Mormon teaches:

Salvation is for all...

Ephesians 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being **predestinated** according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

2 Nephi 11:105 ...But **all men are privileged, the one like unto the other, And none are forbidden.**

2 Nephi 11:114 And **He denieth none** that come unto Him - black and white, bond and free, male and female;

But the Book of Mormon teaches:

All Invited to Eternity...

Revelation 14:3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but **the hundred and forty and four thousand**, which were redeemed from the earth.

Helaman 2:26 Yea, we see that **whosoever will lay hold upon the word of God,**

Which is quick and powerful,

Which shall divide asunder all the cunning and the snares and the wiles of the devil,

And lead the man of Christ in a strait and narrow course across that everlasting gulf of misery which is prepared to engulf the wicked,

And land their souls, yea, their immortal souls, at the right hand of God in the kingdom of heaven,

To sit down with Abraham and Isaac and with Jacob and with all our holy fathers to go no more out.

All have exited the knowledge highway with only a partial understanding...

This is true of EVERY GENTILE ORGANIZATION in CHRISTIANITY

Jacob 3:77 But behold, this time (wild branches) it hath brought forth much fruit and there **is none of it which is good;**



The Book of Mormon
says “Keep Driving.”



Famous Mantra for some Gentiles...

Ephesians 2:8

For by **grace are ye saved through faith;**
and that not of yourselves:
it is the gift of God:
Not of works,
lest any man should boast.

And conclude...

- Salvation is all about 'grace' not 'works'
- I just have to 'Believe in Jesus' and I am saved
- Works don't matter regarding salvation

What others say...about us?

(A question in a publication asks)..., **"Is it true that because LDS reject the doctrine of salvation by faith alone, they are not Christians?"**

(Response) **The first mark of a cult is any group that multiplies works to salvation.** Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: Not of works."

This verse of scripture leaves no room for debate. You are saved only because of God's love (grace) for you. Paul adds in Galatians 2:21, "I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."

When we answer this question using the Bible as the sole point of reference, we must say, **"Yes, Mormons, you are not Christians, because you teach that Jesus, the cornerstone of the Christian faith, did not fully atone for our sins with His vicarious death on the cross."**

The material for this article was taken from Jerry Johnson's interview with Dick Baer on the "Cult Awareness Program."

Is it True that Works don't Matter?

Ephesians 2:8-10

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves:
it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

...

Is it True that Works don't Matter?

Ephesians 2:8-10

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 **Not of works,** lest any man should boast.

10 For **we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**

Ephesians 2: 8-9

- Is being read out of context if verse 10 is excluded.

Ephesians 2: The Chapter is a Chiasm...

A: Verses 1–3 (Past state: dead in sin, separated from God)

B: Verses 4–7 (God's grace intervenes, transforms us with Christ)

C: Verses 8–10 (Salvation by His Death instead of the Law of Moses)

B': Verses 11–18 (Reconciliation overcomes past separation, unites us with God and each other)

A': Verses 19–22 (Present state: alive in God, part of His household)

Ephesians 2: The Chapter's Important Parallelism

The parallel compares the **Jewish practice of circumcision** (a human work to join the covenant) **and Christ's death** (God's work in the flesh, unasked for by humanity).

This contrast shows that grace and salvation come not from human efforts (like circumcision) but from Christ's sacrificial act, which unites all into a new covenant without our prompting.

Ephesians 2	Human-works	God's-works
Verses 8-9	No work of man	All Work of God
Verses 10-17	Humans made covenant with the flesh (circumcision)	God made covenant with His death.

The Parallelism Explained

Circumcision (Human Flesh): A physical, human act to enter God's covenant, it divided (Jew vs. Gentile) and relied on human obedience. It's powerless to save or unite.

Christ's Death (God's Flesh): God's unilateral act in Christ's body—unasked for by humanity—abolishes division, reconciles all to God (v. 16), and establishes peace (v. 17). True grace flows from this, not human effort.

In this Hebrew parallelism, **Ephesians 2 contrasts the insufficiency of human works in the flesh with the all-sufficient work of God in Christ's flesh**, culminating in a new, universal covenant of grace.

Paul Taught:

Galatians 2:16

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law
But by the faith of Jesus Christ,
Even we have believed in Jesus Christ
That we might be justified by the faith of Christ
And not by the works of the law
For by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Paul Taught:

Galatians 2:16

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law (i.e. Torah),
But by the faith of Jesus Christ (i.e. faith),
Even we have believed in Jesus Christ (i.e. faith),
That we might be justified by the faith of Christ (brings to Mercy),
And not by the works of the law (salvation not by Law of Moses):
For by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. (summary)

What did Paul teach in the New Testament?

- Obedience to the Law of Moses didn't bring salvation but Obedience to Christ
- Obedience to the Law of Moses (Works)
Obedience to Christ (Faith)

What was 'The Law?'

- Greek: Nomos
- Hebrew: Torah
- 'The Law' was shorthand or Abreviation for 'The Law of Moses' to familiar audience.
- Torah was the Law Given to Moses of rules and regulations for every moment of life for an Old Testament Jew.

The Bible taught that the Law of Moses Pointed to Christ

Galatians 3:24

Wherefore the law (Torah) was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ,
that we might be justified by faith (saved)

What states we have rights to Free Speech and to bear Arms?

- The Constitution.

What states we have rights to Free Speech and to bear Arms?

- The Constitution of the United States of America.
- Saying 'The Law' was a familiar abbreviation for those in the culture who already lived by The Law of Moses.

Many Bible Scriptures Teach this about the Law pointing to Christ AND being done away.

Romans 7:4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are **become dead to the law by the body of Christ**; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

Romans 10:4 For **Christ is the end of the law** for righteousness to everyone that believeth.

Galatians 3:19 ..., the law was added because of transgressions, **till the seed should come to whom the promise was made in the law given to Moses**, who was ordained by the hand of angels to be a mediator of this first covenant, (the law.)

Ephesians 2:15 Having **abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments** (*l.e. Mosaic Law*) contained in ordinances;

II Corinthians 3:13....the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished (referencing the Law of Moses);

Paul Taught This but Many Jews Rebelled.

Christians today also rebel by taking Ephesians 2 out of context.

Acting on part of the story,
without understanding the whole story.

What Does the Book of Mormon Teach?

Nephi understood Grace.

We first have to be Reconciled to Christ for Grace to be ‘applied.’

2 Nephi 7:42

And remember, that after ye are reconciled unto God,
That it is only in and through the **grace** of God that ye are saved;

What Does the Book of Mormon Teach?

Lehi understood Grace.

Salvation is only by the gift of God to die on the cross

2 Nephi 1:73

Wherefore, how great the importance to make these things known unto the inhabitants of the earth,

That they may know that there is no flesh that can dwell in the presence of God, save it be **through the merits and mercy and grace of the Holy Messiah**

What Does the Book of Mormon Teach?

Nephi explains Grace.

2 Nephi 1:72

Behold, **He offereth Himself a sacrifice for sin (this is Grace)**
to answer the ends of the law (law of Moses) unto all those which
have a broken heart and a contrite spirit,
And unto none else can the ends of the law be answered.

What Does the Book of Mormon Teach?

Nephi explains Grace.

2 Nephi 8:7-12

7 Behold, my soul delighteth in proving unto my people the truth **of the coming of Christ,**

8 For, **for this end hath the law of Moses been given;**

9 And all things which have been given of God from the beginning of the world unto man are the typifying of Him.

10 And also my soul delighteth in the covenants of the Lord which He hath made to our fathers;

11 Yea, my soul delighteth in His grace and His justice and power and mercy, In the great and eternal plan of deliverance from death.

12 And my soul delighteth in proving unto my people that save Christ should come, all men must perish;

What Does the Book of Mormon Teach?

Nephi explains the Mosaic Law was Dead. Life came through Jesus.

2 Nephi 11:45-57

And notwithstanding we believe in Christ, We keep the **law** of Moses and look forward with steadfastness unto Christ until the **law** shall be fulfilled, For, for this end was the **law** given;

Wherefore, **the law hath become dead unto us**, And we are made alive in Christ because of our faith;
Yet we keep the **law** because of the commandments;

Wherefore, we speak concerning the **law**, that our children may know **the deadness of the law**;

And they, by knowing the **deadness** of the law,
may look forward unto that **life** which is in Christ and know for what end the **law** was given;

And after that the **law** is fulfilled in Christ, that they need not harden their hearts against Him when the **law** had ought to be done away.

For the right way is to believe in Christ and deny Him not, For by denying Him ye also deny the prophets and the law.

And inasmuch as it shall be expedient, ye must keep the performances and ordinances of God until the law shall be fulfilled which was given unto Moses.

The Book of Mormon teaches Grace properly Applied.

Mosiah 8:9 "And now, did they understand the **law**?

Mosiah 8:10 I say unto you, nay, they did not all understand the **law**, and this because of the hardness of their hearts, For they understood not that there could not any man be saved, except it were through the redemption of God.

Mosiah 8:90 Therefore, if ye teach the **law** of Moses, also teach that it is a shadow of those things which are to come;

Alma 14:75 But notwithstanding the law of Moses, they did look forward to the coming of Christ, **considering that the law of Moses was a type of His coming**, And believing that they must keep those outward performances **until the time that He should be revealed unto them**.

Alma 14:76 Now **they did not suppose that salvation came by the law of Moses, but the law of Moses did serve to strengthen their faith in Christ**;

The Book of Mormon puts Grace in Perspective:

Moroni 10:29-30

Yea, come unto Christ and be perfected in Him and deny yourselves of all ungodliness,

And if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness and love God with all your might, mind and strength, Then is His **grace** sufficient for you,

that by His **grace** ye may be perfect in Christ;

And if by the **grace** of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in no wise deny the power of God.

And again, if ye by the **grace** of God are perfect in Christ and deny not His power, Then are ye sanctified in Christ by the **grace** of God through the shedding of the blood of Christ,

Which is in the covenant of the Father unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy without spot.

The Book of Mormon puts Grace in Perspective,

Grace is applied after we are reconciled to Christ. This by repentance and change of Heart.

Then Grace is applied according to our life (i.e. by our works)

Helaman 4:71

And may God grant in His great fullness
That men might be brought unto repentance and good works,

That they might be restored unto grace
For grace according to their works.

So...Ephesians 2:8-9 Teaches

- Salvation is not by the works of the Law of Moses but by the Works of Christ
- Humanities 'works' didn't bring us to salvation, but God's 'work'— which is freely choosing to die on our behalf. This is Grace.
- We were created to do Good works and for these we will be judged.
- Belief requires obedience, a heart changing and repentance from sin. This brings brokenness and contrition. THEN Grace is applied.