

A Study of Mormonism

"The History of Mormonism" **GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST** **SUNDAY EVENING MESSAGE (November 27, 2011)** **Sermon by Ray Reynolds**

Introduction: When we have our doors knocked by the L.D.S. (Mormons), we are often caught off guard. Have you every studied about Mormonism? If we are to give an adequate defense of our own faith (**I Peter 3:15**), wouldn't it help to discuss what others believe? Let's study together

Discussion:

I. When Did Mormonism Begin?

- A. The founder of Mormonism is Joseph Smith (12/23/05 in Sharon, VT).
- B. The beginnings of the Latter Day Saints in Palmyra, NY.
- C. The revival of Methodists and Baptists 1820 (really 1823).
- D. The revelation of the angel Moroni on September 21, 1823.
- E. The checkered past of the self-proclaimed prophet.
- F. The influence of Sidney Rigdon and the various names of the religious movement.

II. Where Did Mormonism Spread?

- A. The spread of Mormonism in Ohio.
- B. The spread of Mormonism in Missouri.
- C. The spread of Mormonism in Illinois.
- D. The spread of Mormonism in Utah.
- E. The spread of Mormonism around the United States.
- F. The spread of Mormonism around the world.

III. What About The Bible?

- A. The LDS church embraces the King James Version of the Bible.
- B. The LDS church embraces the works of their prophets and their own doctrines.
- C. The LDS church teach that the Book of Mormon is inspired of God.

IV. What About The Book of Mormon?

- A. The Book of Mormon can be seen in overview for its content.
- B. The Book of Mormon contains some strange teachings and coincidences.
- C. The Book of Mormon has made nearly 4,000 changes since the 1830 edition.
- D. The Book of Mormon has been examined for 175 years, what do we know?

V. What Can We Learn From The Mormons?

- A. The need for better teaching of our youth.
- B. The passion for missions and outreach.
- C. The blessing of historical record and genealogy.

Conclusion: In our next lesson, we will consider other sources of authority for the LDS church besides the Book of Mormon. Our final lesson will compare their own doctrine/teachings with their own Scriptures and contrast those to the Holy Bible. We need to seek the Bible for answers. Do you have faith in God or men? Are you a New Testament Christian? Will you stand up for what you believe?

WORD OF THE DAY = "Faith"