## A Vital Word Jo Mormons

My dear Mormon friend, do you realize that you are a sinner in the sight of God? "Well, after all, no one is perfect." This reply I have heard many times when speaking with you about your condition before God, and with this excuse you dismiss the subject of your sin and guilt before a holy God — and your need of salvation.

But you are right! Indeed, every one is imperfect. It is our nature to sin. "All," says the Bible, "have sinned and come short of the Glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). Also in the same book (Rom. 3:10), it says of the whole of mankind, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one." Man is a child of disobedience and wrath by nature (Eph. 2:1-3). Solomon, the wisest man of his day, said: "There



is not a just man upon the earth, that doeth good and sinneth not" (Eccl. 7:20). The Lord Jesus Christ, Himself, said: "That which cometh out of the heart of man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts . . . All these evil things come from within, and defile the man" (Mark 7:20-23).

These solemn statements from God's Holy Word, which we must admit are true by our own experience, should cause us to be ashamed of ourselves and bring us to confess that we are lost, guilty, condemned—and hopeless sinners.

And-none of us can do anything by ourselves to change our condition. Our good works cannot wipe out the sin that is in our nature. When we try to save ourselves by doing good deeds, it is like whitewashing a decaying and crumbling structure; this only covers the outside and does nothing about the deplorable condition on the inside. Our Lord, while on earth, called such ones "whited sepulchres", and said they "outwardly appear righteous unto men" but that within they were sinful and iniquitous. Our own "good works" are no better than their sinful source-that wicked heart. God calls all our own righteousness "filthy rags" (Isa. 64:6) and makes it very clear in His Word that as we are, we cannot do any "good works" which will be pleasing and acceptable to Him.

"Oh," you say, as you consider these passages from God's Word, "what a hopeless condition." And now, friend, you can see yourself as God sees you.

But wait-God has good news for you. It is one of the marvels of God's grace that there should ever be any good news for the sinner - that God should care enough to make provision for him. God knew that man could never save himself, "lift himself up by his own boot-straps," so to speak, and so God in his boundless love and mercy, purposed and planned the sinner's salvation through the death and resurrection of His beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul, who reveled in God's wonderful grace, said: "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (I Tim. 1:15). And then, as we marvel the more, we read in Roman's 5:8, "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

This is the glorious good news—that God loves sinners! And it was for those who rebel and sin against Him that God gave his own precious and beloved Son to die on the Cross of Calvary—to suffer wrath in the sinners' stead. Christ, the Just, died for the unjust, that He might bring us to God. And now God can be just and yet justify the sinner who believes in His Son (Rom. 3:26). Oh, my dear Mormon friend, this is truly GOOD NEWS.

Now listen carefully—because God has finished and completed the work of redemption through the death and resurrection of Christ, salvation is free. Yes, salvation is a gift of God and so, even though we are sinners and guilty before

Him, we can be given a perfectly righteous standing in His sight, through His wonderful grace. "For by grace are ye saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the girt of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8, 9).

Your "no one is perfect" is very true. And that means you too are a lost sinner. But God loves you and Christ died for you. You can be saved right now, if you will believe God's Word that salvation is free, apart from your works, and receive His Son, Jesus Christ, as your own and only Saviour. Salvation is as free as the air which God gave you to breathe, because Christ, God's eternal Son, paid the price and penalty for your sin on the cross

Will you not believe and settle it now? Give up trying to offer God your own puny works in exchange for salvation and thankfully accept His matchless gift of eternal life through "... His dear Son, in Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Col. 1:13, 14 and Eph. 1:7).

E. M. B.

Dear Reader, if you desire further information or help concerning Mormonism, or if this tract has been a blessing to your heart write:

UTAH CHRISTIAN TRACT SOCIETY
P. O. Box 725
La Mesa, California 92041