

Do Mormon “Scriptures” Pass the Tests for Divine Inspiration?¹

Let us examine the Mormon “scriptures” to determine if they pass the tests of divine inspiration. In order to qualify as inspired, a text must pass *all* the tests for inspiration:

1. Be spoken from, and in the name of, the Lord (Jeremiah 30:2, 1 Peter 1:21).
2. Exalt and glorify God (John 5:39 & 17:4-10; Ephesians 1:13-14).
3. Directs the love of men toward God (Colossians 3:16; Revelation 19:10).
4. Draw men to repent of their rebellion against God and to submit fully to Him (Psalms 19:17; 2 Timothy 3:16).
5. Prophecies come to fulfillment with 100 percent accuracy (Deuteronomy 18:20-22²).
6. Support the laws, precepts, and principles set forth in the rest of Scripture-without contradiction (Isaiah 8:20; Matthew 5:17; John 10:35³).
7. Communicate only truth, in all disciplines of knowledge (Psalms 119:160; Hebrews 6:18⁴).

Upon examination, one finds all the Mormon “scriptures” fail one or more of the last three tests.

5. Prophecies come to fulfillment with 100 percent accuracy.

The Bible warns us regarding false prophecy: “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1). In addition, we are told to “examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good;” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Contrary to Mormon teachings, which encourage prayer to receive a “burning in the bosom,” the Bible tells us to test truthfulness of prophecy by seeing if the prophecy comes to pass. This test for a prophet is found in Deuteronomy 18:20-22:

“And you may say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?’ When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.” (*Deuteronomy 18:20-22*)

In addition, Jesus said, “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.” (Matthew 7:15) Thus, we were told to expect false prophets, especially in the last days. For the most part, prophecies in the Mormon scriptures are either very

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³To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn. (*Isaiah 8:20*)

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.” (*Matthew 5:17*)

“If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),” (*John 10:35*)

⁴The sum of Thy word is truth, And every one of Thy righteous ordinances is everlasting. (*Psalms 119:160*)

In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, in order that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us. (*Hebrews 6:17-18*)

general, open-dated, self-fulfilling, or conditional, all of which make them untestable. In contrast, prophecies in the Bible include names, dates and specific details.

For example, Joseph Smith predicted in 1835 that, "The coming of the Lord, which was nigh - even fifty-six years should wind up the scene."⁵ The Lord did not return by 1891, but the prophecy said "should" as opposed to "will."

Another example of an untestable prophecy occurs in section 130 of Doctrine and Covenants:

I was once praying very earnestly to know the time of the coming of the Son of Man, when I heard a voice repeat the following: Joseph, my son, if thou livest until thou art eighty-five years old, thou shalt see the face of the Son of Man; therefore let this suffice, and trouble me no more on this matter. (*D&C: Section 130:14-15*)⁶

If God were the one sending the message (which seems likely, since Joseph Smith was praying), there would be no need of making the prophecy conditional, since God would have known when Joseph Smith was to die. If this were the case, then the prophecy would be considered false, since Joseph Smith died at the age of 39, a little over one year after the prophecy was given. In addition, Jesus did not return in 1890, the year in which Smith would have turned 85.

However, there are at least four prophecies in the Doctrine and Covenants that are either very specific or both close-dated and unconditional. Although relatively few of Joseph Smith's prophecies are of this type they are extremely important because they make it possible to put Joseph Smith to the biblical test of a prophet.

Unfulfilled Prophecy Example #1: Remembrance of Oliver Granger

On July 8, 1838, Joseph Smith foretold that the name of Oliver Granger would be remembered "from generation to generation, forever and ever." It is clear even few Mormons remember the name of Oliver Granger:

And again, I say unto you, I remember my servant Oliver Granger; behold, verily I say unto him that his name shall be had in sacred remembrance from generation to generation, forever and ever, saith the Lord. (*D&C: Section 117:12*)

Unfulfilled Prophecy Example #2: Temple in Independence

On September 22 and 23, 1832, Joseph Smith foretold of an LDS temple to be built in Independence, Missouri:

A revelation of Jesus Christ unto his servant Joseph Smith, Jun., and six elders, as they united their hearts and lifted their voices on high. Yea, the word of the Lord concerning his church, established in the last days for the restoration of his people, as he has spoken by the mouth of his prophets, and for the gathering of his saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city of New Jerusalem. Which city shall be built, beginning at the temple lot, which is appointed by the finger of the Lord, in the western boundaries of the State of Missouri, and dedicated by the hand of Joseph Smith, Jun., and others with whom the Lord was well pleased. Verily this is the word of the Lord, that the city New Jerusalem shall be built by the gathering of the saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the

⁵Joseph Smith, *History of the Church*, Vol. 2, p. 182.

⁶This and all Mormon scriptures were obtained from *LDSView*, a computer program published by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

temple, which temple shall be reared in this generation. For verily this generation shall not all pass away until an house shall be built unto the Lord, and a cloud shall rest upon it, which cloud shall be even the glory of the Lord, which shall fill the house. (*D&C: Section 84:1-5*)

The prophecy specifies that the city of "New Jerusalem" including the temple was to be constructed, "beginning at the temple lot which is appointed by the finger of the Lord, in the western boundaries of the State of Missouri" (verse 3). Verses four and five add that the "temple shall be reared in this generation. For verily this generation shall not all pass away" before the temple will be built.

Over one hundred and sixty years later, there is still no LDS Temple in the entire state of Missouri much less on the "temple lot" specified in the revelation. Early Mormon leaders made it quite clear that the word "generation" meant those that were alive when the revelation was given in 1832. Before they all died, the Independence temple was to be built. Obviously, no one who was alive in 1832 is alive today. Therefore, the prophecy is false.

Unfulfilled Prophecy Example #3: David W. Patten

A second example of a close-dated unconditional prophecy is found in Doctrine and Covenants Section 114, which was given April 17, 1838:

Verily thus saith the Lord: It is wisdom in my servant David W. Patten, that he settle up all his business as soon as he possibly can, and make a disposition of his merchandise, that he may perform a mission unto me next spring, in company with others, even twelve including himself, to testify of my name and bear glad tidings unto all the world. For verily thus saith the Lord, that inasmuch as there are those among you who deny my name, others shall be planted in their stead and receive their bishopric. Amen. (*D&C: Section 114:1-2*)

The prophecy are instructions to David W. Patten, one of the twelve LDS Apostles, who was to prepare to go on a mission with the other eleven apostles into "all the world." According to the revelation, the mission was to take place "next spring" which would give the prophecy a "closed-date" somewhere around April or May of 1839.

Less than three months later, the "twelve" were given a specific date to leave (April 26, 1839)⁷ and one of the apostles, Thomas Marsh, was instructed to stay behind to "publish my word."⁸ The date of April 26, 1839 came and Joseph Smith, recorded, "The Brethren arrived at Far West, and proceeded to transact the business of their mission".⁹

However, David W. Patten was not part of that mission. David Patten was not present because he had died in October of 1838. History of the Church reports: "Captain Patten was carried some of the way in a litter, but it caused so much distress that he begged to be left by the way side...he died that night."¹⁰ So, rather than going on a mission with the Twelve next spring, as Joseph Smith had prophesied in 1838, Patten died before the next year even came.

⁷Doctrine and Covenants Section 118:5.

⁸Doctrine and Covenants Section 118:3.

⁹Joseph Smith, History of the Church, Vol. 3, p. 336.

¹⁰History of the Church, Vol. 3, p. 171

This could not be a reference to a "mission" in the spirit world after death because Joseph Smith was specific that he was to go "unto all the world" (not the "spirit" world) and he was to be with the other eleven.¹¹

Some Mormons have suggested that David Patten could have apostatized from his calling. In other words, God called him to go on the mission but because of sin or unfaithfulness he fell from the calling. There are two problems with this explanation. The God of the Bible is all-knowing and He knew that Patten was going to die. In addition, Patten did not fall away from the Church, since after Patten's death, Joseph Smith wrote, "Brother David Patten was a very worthy man, beloved by all good men who know him. He was one of the Twelve Apostles, and died as he had lived, a man of God, and strong in the faith of a glorious resurrection."¹²

Unfulfilled Prophecy Example #4: Civil War Prophecy

Mormons tend to view Joseph Smith's prophecy of the Civil War beginning in South Carolina as a sign of the validity of Joseph Smith as a prophet of God. However, trouble began brewing in South Carolina in July, 1832, when Congress passed a tariff that South Carolina declared unacceptable. Joseph Smith's prophecy occurred on December 25, 1832, five months after the beginning of trouble. Few Mormons have actually read the entire text, much of which never took place. Here is a copy from Doctrine and Covenants (emphasis added):

Verily, thus saith the Lord concerning the wars that will shortly come to pass, beginning at the rebellion of South Carolina, which will eventually terminate in the death and misery of many souls; And the time will come that *war will be poured out upon all nations*, beginning at this place. For behold, the Southern States shall be divided against the Northern States, and the Southern States will call on other nations, even the nation of Great Britain, as it is called, and they shall also call upon other nations, in order to defend themselves against other nations; and then *war shall be poured out upon all nations*. And it shall come to pass, after many days, slaves shall rise up against their masters, who shall be marshaled and disciplined for war. And it shall come to pass also that the remnants who are left of the land will marshal themselves, and shall become exceedingly angry, and shall vex the Gentiles with a sore vexation. And thus, with the sword and by bloodshed the inhabitants of the earth shall mourn; and with famine, and plague, and earthquake, and the thunder of heaven, and the fierce and vivid lightning also, shall the inhabitants of the earth be made to feel the wrath, and indignation, and chastening hand of an Almighty God, *until the consumption decreed hath made a full end of all nations*; (D&C: Section 87:1-6)

Although the Civil War did occur, it was never "poured out upon all nations." In addition, this war did not lead to "a full end of all nations." The prophecy, although given in the name of the Lord, was not a message from God, since it was false.

When objectively examining the prophecies of Joseph Smith in the Doctrine and Covenants it must be concluded that he made false prophecies. One should not expect a prophet to be perfect since they are human. However, when they speak in the name of the Lord, Deuteronomy 18 demands 100 percent accuracy.

It is clear from this information that the Mormon "scriptures" called the Doctrine and Covenants cannot be scripture from God, since they contain false prophecies.

¹¹Doctrine and Covenants Section 114:1

¹²History of the Church, Vol. 3, p. 171

6. Support the laws, precepts, and principles set forth in the rest of Scripture without contradiction.¹³

Both Doctrine and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price contradict not only Old and New Testament scriptures, but also theology found in the Book of Mormon. (See the paper, "Contradictions in Mormon Doctrines," which cites all the verses involved and lists them). The following crucial Christian doctrines are contradicted by Mormon scriptures:

What the Bible Says	Book of Mormon	D & C/PoGP
1. One God	One God	Plural Gods
2. God is Unchangeable	God is Unchangeable	God has progressed
3. God is a Spirit	God is a Spirit	God has a body
4. God dwells in the heart	God dwells in the heart	God doesn't dwell in heart
5. Creation: One God	Creation: One God	Creation: Plural Gods
6. God Cannot Lie	God Cannot Lie	God Commands Lying
7. God's Word Unchangeable	God's Word Unchangeable	God's Word Can Change
8. No Pre-existence of Man	No Pre-existence of Man	Man Pre-existed
9. Death Seals Man's Fate	Death Seals Man's Fate	Chance after Death
10. Saved without baptism	Saved without baptism	Baptism for dead
11. Heaven or Hell	Heaven or Hell	3 Kingdoms in Heaven only
12. Murder can be forgiven	Murder can be forgiven	Murder cannot be forgiven
13. Polygamy Condemned	Polygamy Condemned	Polygamy Commanded
14. For Paid Ministry	Against Paid Ministry	For Paid Ministry
15. Money cannot save you, Jesus: the <u>only</u> way	Wicked Promise Forgiveness For Money	Tithed - Not Burn

Please take the time to examine the paper "Contradictions in Mormon Doctrines," to determine for yourself if the Doctrine and Covenants and Pearl of Great Price contradict what is stated in the Bible. A critical examination of the verses will reveal a vast difference between Christian theology, as revealed in the Bible, compared to the theology of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, most of which comes from the Doctrine and Covenants and Pearl of Great Price.

The Book of Mormon also suffers from a lack of consistency with scriptures in the Bible. It takes a different stand on the subject of paid ministry (see "Contradictions in Mormon Doctrines"). There are several other areas that contradict what is stated in the Bible. For example, the Bible tells us that Jesus was to be born,¹⁴ and, in fact, was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea.¹⁵ However, the Book of Mormon clearly states that the Messiah was to be born in Jerusalem:

¹³To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn. (Isaiah 8:20)

"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill." (Matthew 5:17)

"If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken)," (John 10:35)

¹⁴"But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity." (Micah 5:2)

¹⁵Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, (Matthew 2:1)

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, (Luke 2:4)

"Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and from Bethlehem, the village

And behold, he shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall be overshadowed and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost, and bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God. (*Alma 7:10*)

Since this was a prophecy, it may also be considered a false prophecy, since Jesus was not born in Jerusalem. There are many more examples of how the Book of Mormon conflicts with previously revealed scripture.

It is clear from the biblical scriptures that none of the Mormon "scriptures," the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants nor the Pearl of Great Price are in agreement with previously revealed scriptural precepts and therefore cannot be part of God's scripture.

7. Communicate only truth, in all disciplines of knowledge.¹⁶

Although the Book of Mormon reflects theology close to that found in the Old and New Testaments, it fails the test for communicating truth in many disciplines of science. Since Joseph Smith received no higher education, he didn't know many of the facts about anthropology and archeology in the New World at the time during which the events of the Book of Mormon were said to have taken place. For this reason, he made many errors in his descriptions of metals, crops, fabrics, and livestock which were not to be found in the Americas prior to their introduction by the Europeans after the voyage of Columbus (i.e., after 1492 A.D.) (See the paper, "Archeological/Antropological Problems in the Book of Mormon" for details and provably false verses). Items that did not exist in the Americas and, therefore, could not have been used by peoples in the Americas during the Book of Mormon include:

False Science in the Book of Mormon

Item	Examples	Book of Mormon
Metals:	iron, steel, or brass	2 Nephi, Jarom, Mosiah, Ether
Crops:	wheat, barley, oats, or millet.....	Mosiah, Alma
Fabric:	Silk:	Alma
Livestock:	Pigs, cattle, horses, donkeys or chickens.....	1 Nephi, 3 Nephi, Ether

These ideas are not just my ideas, but are confirmed by the Smithsonian Institution. They have produced a paper they send out regarding their view of the reliability of the Book of Mormon in the area of archeology in the Americas. If you write them, you can get a copy of this paper sent directly from them.

The Pearl of Great Price fails to correctly reveal astronomical knowledge. The third chapter of the book of Abraham says that the Lord's home planet, Kolob, has a rotation period of 1000 years:

And the Lord said unto me: These are the governing ones; and the name of the great one is Kolob, because it is near unto me, for I am the Lord thy God: I have set this one to govern all those which belong to the same order as that upon which thou standest. And the Lord said unto me, by the Urim and Thummim, that Kolob was after the manner of the

where David was?" (*John 7:42*)

¹⁶The sum of Thy word is truth, And every one of Thy righteous ordinances is everlasting. (*Psalms 119:160*)

In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, in order that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us. (*Hebrews 6:17-18*)

Lord, according to its times and seasons in the revolutions thereof; that one revolution was a day unto the Lord, after his manner of reckoning, it being one thousand years according to the time appointed unto that whereon thou standest. This is the reckoning of the Lord's time, according to the reckoning of Kolob. (*PoGP:Abraham 3:3-4*)

In addition, Kolob is the planet around which the other planets and Sun revolve, placing it in the center of our galaxy:

And thus there shall be the reckoning of the time of one planet above another, until thou come nigh unto Kolob, which Kolob is after the reckoning of the Lord's time; which Kolob is set nigh unto the throne of God, to govern all those planets which belong to the same order as that upon which thou standest. (*PoGP:Abraham 3:9*)

Fig. 5. Is called in Egyptian Enish-go-on-dosh; this is one of the governing planets also, and is said by the Egyptians to be the Sun, and to borrow its light from Kolob through the medium of Kae-e-vanrash, which is the grand Key, or, in other words, the governing power, which governs fifteen other fixed planets or stars, as also Floeese or the Moon, the Earth and the Sun in their annual revolutions. This planet receives its power through the medium of Kli-flos-is-es, or Hah-ko-kau-beam, the stars represented by numbers 22 and 23, receiving light from the revolutions of Kolob. (*PoGP:Facsimile 2:5*)

There are several scientific problems with this information. First, a rotation period of one thousand years would make Kolob extremely temperature variable. The side that remained in darkness for 500 years would be extremely cold (near absolute zero). Likewise, the opposite side would become very hot (likely several hundred degrees minimum). If the Earth had a rotation period of 1000 years life would be impossible due to these large temperature variations. In fact, if the rotation period of the earth were greater than 25 hours, we would all die.¹⁷

The other problem is the location of Kolob in our galaxy. Since it is the point around which planets, the Earth the Moon, and the Sun revolve, it must be at the center of our Milky Way Galaxy. However, the center of our galaxy, like all other galaxies, consists of a black hole surrounded by a high density of stars. This combination produces extremely high levels of radiation, so much so that life cannot exist there. Since Mormons believe that both the Father and Son have a "body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's,"¹⁸ they would be subject to this radiation and would have died. In contrast, the Bible states that God is not contained by this universe¹⁹, but is transcendent.

It is clear from the biblical scriptures that neither the Book of Mormon nor the Pearl of Great Price are in agreement with the facts of nature, as revealed through the sciences of astronomy, archeology and anthropology, and therefore cannot be part of God's scripture.

¹⁷Dr. Ross, Hugh. 1996. Personal communication.

¹⁸The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's; the Son also; but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us. (*D&C: Section 130:22*)

¹⁹Behold, heaven and the highest heavens cannot contain Thee... (*1 Kings 8:27*)
The Almighty is beyond our reach. (*Job 37:23*)

Summary

Why I don't accept the Book of Mormon, the Pearl of Great Price, and the Doctrine and Covenants as scripture.

Mormon book	Prophecy Fulfillment	Agreement with Scripture	Truth in all areas of knowledge
Book of Mormon	Fails	Fails	Fails
Pearl of Great Price		Fails	Fails
Doctrine and Covenants	Fails	Fails	

Mormons state the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is Christ's "covenant church," which church fell way for over 17 centuries. However, Jesus stated that the church would not fall away, but would prevail:

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (*Matthew 16:18*)

Based upon the facts presented in this and other papers, I would like to propose another scenario, that is, that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is apostate, which was prophesied in the New Testament.²⁰ This church has preached another Jesus²¹ and another gospel,²² different from the one preached in the Bible. The gospel from the Bible is simple and direct:

1. God is Holy (without sin, and will not tolerate the presence of *any* sin).²³
2. I am a sinful person (I cannot live up to God's holy standards).²⁴
3. Jesus is God's *only* provision to cleanse me of all my sin (He died for my sins).²⁵
4. I am *declared* righteous by faith alone if I accept Jesus as Lord and Savior.²⁶

²⁰But what I am doing, I will continue to do, that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting. For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds. (*2 Corinthians 11:12-15*)

²¹But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him. (*2 Corinthians 11:3-4*)

²²I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed. (*Galatians 1:6-9*)

²³"Since the Lord your God walks in the midst of your camp to deliver you and to defeat your enemies before you, therefore your camp must be holy; and He must not see anything indecent among you lest He turn away from you." (*Deuteronomy 23:14*)

And the men of Beth-shemesh said, "Who is able to stand before the Lord, this holy God? And to whom shall He go up from us?" (*1 Samuel 6:20*)

²⁴for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (*Romans 3:23*)

as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one;" (*Romans 3:10*)

"The wages of sin is death" [spiritual separation from God] (*Romans 6:23*)

²⁵"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (*Romans 5:8*)

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me'" (*John 14:6*).

A person is saved by faith through the grace (free gift) of God, not by works²⁷ or belonging to any particular church. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is a religious system of works righteousness, similar to that of the Pharisees, which cannot save any person from the righteous wrath of God. Jesus did not come to Earth to establish a religion, but to restore the personal relationship between a holy God and sinful mankind. You and any other person can establish this relationship through a personal relationship with and obedience to Jesus Christ. I pray you will consider the gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed in God's inerrant word, the Bible, and commit your life to the true Jesus.

Notes:

1. All verses taken from King James Version Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price using LDS View computer software published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Compiled by Richard Deem. Permission given to freely distribute.
2. Verses from the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price are given to show the discrepancy between the Mormon scriptures and Mormon teachings. I do not accept any of these books as the inspired Word of God.

²⁶“As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name” (*John 1:12*)

“By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast” (*Ephesians 2:8-9*).

²⁷how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (*Hebrews 9:14*)