

# Recognizing the Need For a Savior



## Witnessing Window

Mormonism is a religion of rules. In fact, it lays down so many rules that it is impossible for anybody to keep them all. By necessity, even the most faithful Mormons fudge on some of them.

Their inability to keep all the rules are windows of opportunity for witness. Many times, however, Christians don't make use of these opportunities. Many Christians, when they see their Mormon friends breaking one of Mormonism's rules, let them "off the hook". Instead of asking their LDS friends why they aren't following all the requirements of their religion, Christians often excuse them because they view those rules as being unreasonable anyway.

Whether or not this or that rule is reasonable or unreasonable is not the point. The point is that if they believe Mormonism is true, then they should be following all the rules. What Christians need to do is to "keep their feet to the fire". By urging them to do **everything** Mormonism teaches, we hopefully will be able to show them their need for a Savior. After seeing their need for a Savior, they will be more eager to listen to us telling them about their Savior.

Keeping the Sabbath is one area where many Mormons struggle to do everything Mormonism demands. According to the priesthood manual, **Lay Hold Upon the Word of God**, they should not do the following activities on Sunday: gardening or doing odd jobs around the house; visiting friends socially; wasting time, engaging in sports or recreation; going to the movies; shopping; and eating out. Other manuals list other activities that are forbidden including watching TV.

In the past couple years, the LDS church has switched focus and has not listed as often what they shouldn't be doing, but rather has emphasized things that qualify as wholesome Sabbath activities. One such place they have done that is in the April 2001 issue of **Ensign**. There are seven pages filled with various stories of proper Sabbath keeping. Following is one small example.

"I have my own personal checklist of things that are to be done before I go to bed Saturday night: have the house clean, have my lesson prepared, make sure there is gas in the car, plan dinner and prepare as much of it as possible ahead of time, wash and lay out church clothes, and pack my church bag." (p. 47)

Very few Mormons will be able to consistently keep the Sabbath as the LDS church says they should. If you see your LDS friends working in their yard on Sunday, or if they talk about watching the Sunday football



game at work the next week, or if you see them eating out on Sunday, ask them about it. Tell them that you got the impression from that article in the *Ensign* that they were not to do such things on Sunday.

If this approach seems somewhat harsh, read again Jesus' encounter with the rich young man in **Matthew 19:16-22**. Notice how the young man wanted to know what he had to **do** to get eternal life. Jesus answered him on that basis and on that basis alone. Especially note that Jesus didn't reveal himself as this man's Savior. Jesus knew that this young man first had to see his sin before he could see his Savior. Therefore Jesus concentrated on showing him that he couldn't do enough to get eternal life; that he couldn't be perfect, that he needed a Savior!

That is also what we need to do with our Mormon friends. Showing them their inability to follow all of Mormonism's laws hopefully will show them their need for help. Then we can have the great joy of telling them that Jesus was perfect for them.

<p><b>Matthew 19:16-22 (NIV)</b> Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"</p> <p><sup>17</sup> "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments."</p> <p><sup>18</sup> "Which ones?" the man inquired.</p> <p>Jesus replied, "'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, <sup>19</sup> honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'"</p> <p><sup>20</sup> "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?"</p> <p><sup>21</sup> Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."</p> <p><sup>22</sup> When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.</p>	<p><b>Matthew 19:16-22 (KJV)</b> And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? <sup>17</sup>And he said unto him, <i>Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.</i> <sup>18</sup>He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, <i>Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,</i> <sup>19</sup>Honour thy father and <i>thy</i> mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. <sup>20</sup>The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? <sup>21</sup>Jesus said unto him, <i>If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.</i> <sup>22</sup>But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.</p>
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