

## Building Bridges Series III

### Tentative Schedule

1. 10/17 God
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### The Heart of the Series

**Galatians 1:6–10** - I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a **different** (Gk/*heteros*) gospel, **7** which is not **another** (Gk/*allos*); but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert (Gk/*metastrepho* = *to turn around*) the gospel of Christ. **8** But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you **than** (Gk/*para*) what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. **9** As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. **10** For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

**2 Timothy 2:24–25** - And a servant of the Lord must **not quarrel** but **be gentle** to all, able to teach, **patient**, **25** in **humility** correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

## Building Bridges Series III

### Salvation, Grace & Atonement

#### LDS Doctrine of Salvation

##### \* LABORS TOWARD SALVATION IN PRE-EXISTENCE.

We had an existence before we came to this world. We lived in the spirit, and were in the presence of our Father in heaven, who is the Father of the spirits of all men; and there we walked by sight, for we were in his presence. It was necessary, in order that we might receive a fulness of blessings and opportunities and become like unto our Father, for us to pass through this mortal probation. Hence, this earth was prepared; and we were sent down here to receive bodies of flesh and bones and to be quickened by blood; and to partake of all the vicissitudes of life as we find them here on this earth, that we might, through obedience to the principles of the gospel, know good from evil. It was necessary that we have the privilege of suffering temptation and experiencing pain and tribulation as well as pleasure; and, if faithful, pass on to our exaltation and become the sons and daughters of God, having gained knowledge, wisdom, and understanding in this mortal life that could not be obtained in any other way. That is why we came here. We took these mortal bodies; they were granted to us because of our obedience in the world before this, when we dwelt in the spirit and in the presence of God; and we now are suffering the sorrows as well as receiving the pleasures of the flesh. (Doctrines of Salvation, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol 2, pg 1-2)

##### \* TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PLAN OF SALVATION.

The primary and fundamental principles of this plan of salvation are:

- 1 — Faith in God the Father, in his Son Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost. We must accept them as the presiding authority in the heavens, who govern and control all things, who are omnipotent, just, and true.
- 2 — We must accept the infinite atonement of Christ, believing that he is the Redeemer of the world, both from Adam's transgression and from our individual sins on condition of our repentance.
- 3 — We must repent of all our sins, giving our hearts to God with the full intent of serving him.
- 4 — We must be baptized in water for the remission of our sins, by one who is called of God and clothed with divine authority to administer in the ordinances of the gospel.
- 5 — We must have the hands of those holding authority placed upon our heads, and through their ministrations receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost — the Spirit of truth and prophecy that guides us in all truth.
- 6 — We must be willing to serve the Lord with all our heart, mind, and strength, keeping his commandments even unto the end.

Upon these laws salvation is based, and the promised blessings are unto all men. These conditions are not severe, or grievous, and are within the power of the weakest of the weak, if they will only place their trust in their Redeemer. All who repent and obey these laws, will be redeemed and saved from the sins of the world; but they who refuse and repent not will have to suffer for their own sins. (Doctrines of Salvation, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol 2, pg 3-4)

## \* KINDS OF SALVATION

### SALVATION: CONDITIONAL AND UNCONDITIONAL.

Christ's sacrifice and death did two things for us: it brought unto us unconditional salvation and conditional salvation. Sometimes we refer to these as general salvation and individual salvation. (Doctrines of Salvation, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol 2, pg 9)

\* **REDEMPTION: CONDITIONAL AND UNCONDITIONAL.** "Conditional redemption is also universal in its nature; it is offered to all but not received by all; it is a universal gift, though not universally accepted; its benefits can be obtained only through faith, repentance, baptism, the laying on of hands, and obedience to all other requirements of the gospel.

"Unconditional redemption is a gift forced upon mankind which they cannot reject, though they were disposed. Not so with conditional redemption; it can be received or rejected according to the will of the creature. But the conditional redemption is the redemption which will place us as sons and daughters of God in the kingdom of God. (Doctrines of Salvation, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol 2, pg 10-11)

### \* PROGRESS TOWARD SALVATION BEYOND THE GRAVE.

Salvation does not come all at once; we are commanded to be perfect even as our Father in heaven is perfect. It will take us ages to accomplish this end, for there will be greater progress beyond the grave, and it will be there that the faithful will overcome all things, and receive all things, even the fulness of the Father's glory. (Doctrines of Salvation, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol 2, pg 18)

\* **CELESTIAL SALVATION.** Those who keep the full law and obey all the commandments of God are heirs of full salvation in the celestial kingdom, the glory of which the sun is spoken of as being typical. These overcome all things and receive a fulness of the blessings, power, and glory of the Father. All who have died without a knowledge of the gospel, or the opportunity to receive it, who would have accepted it had the opportunity been presented to them while living, are also heirs of this kingdom.

\* **TERRESTRIAL SALVATION.** Into the next, or terrestrial, shall enter all those who die without law; "they who are the spirits of men kept in prison, whom the Son visited, and preached the gospel unto them, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh; Who received not the testimony of Jesus in the flesh, but afterwards received it"; "honorable men of the earth, who were blinded by the craftiness of men"; those who were not willing to receive a fulness of his glory; and those who were not valiant in the testimony of Jesus: "wherefore, they obtain not the crown over the kingdom of our God. "

\* **TELESTIAL SALVATION.** Those who enter into the telestial kingdom, where their glories differ as do the stars of heaven in their magnitude, and who are innumerable as the sands of the seashore, are the ungodly, the filthy who suffer the wrath of God on the earth, who are thrust down to hell where they will be required to pay the uttermost farthing before their redemption comes. These are they who receive not the gospel of Christ and consequently could not deny the Holy Spirit while living on the earth. They have no part in the first resurrection and are not redeemed from the devil and his angels until the last resurrection, because of their wicked lives and their evil deeds. Nevertheless, even these are heirs of salvation, but before they are redeemed and enter into their kingdom, they must repent of their sins, and receive the gospel, and bow the knee, and acknowledge that Jesus is

the Christ, the Redeemer of the world. In both the terrestrial and the telestial glories the inhabitants thereof will be limited in their powers, opportunities, and progression, because, like the sons of perdition, "they were not willing to enjoy that which they might have received."

\* **TELESTIAL DAMNATION.** All who have been filthy and who would not receive the truth and have not had the testimony of Jesus Christ, must suffer the torments of the damned until they are purged from their iniquity, for the blood of Jesus Christ will not cleanse them from their sins without their own individual suffering. Nevertheless they shall come out of the prison eventually. These are the rest of the dead, spoken of by John, who do not live during the millennial reign, but afterwards; and these are assigned to a kingdom known as the telestial kingdom, and they are denied the privilege of dwelling with the Father and the Son, "worlds without end." The Lord will do for them the best he can under the circumstances, but since they have denied his power and have dwelt in iniquity, they cannot receive the blessings of the kingdom of God. (Doctrines of Salvation, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol 2, pg. 21-23)

### **Unforgivable Sin** - Murder & 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense of Adultery

\* And now, behold, I speak unto the church. Thou shalt not kill; and he that kills shall not have forgiveness in this world, nor in the world to come. And again, I say, thou shalt not kill; but he that killeth shall die. (D&C 42:18-19)

\* Thou shalt not commit adultery; and he that committeth adultery, and repenteth not, shall be cast out. But he that has committed adultery and repents with all his heart, and forsaketh it, and doeth it no more, thou shalt forgive; But if he doeth it again, he shall not be forgiven, but shall be cast out. (D&C 42:24-26)

\* **FULL OBEDIENCE LEADS TO JOINT-HEIRSHIP.** Now if we want to become heirs, joint-heirs with Jesus Christ, possessing the blessings of the kingdom, there is only one thing required of you and of me, and that is that we keep the whole law, not a part of it only. Do you think it would be fair, just, proper, for the Lord to say to us: "I will give unto you commandments; you may keep them if you will; you may be indifferent about the matter if you will; keep some, reject others; or, partially keep some; and I will punish you, but then I will make it up to you, and all will be well." (Doctrines of Salvation, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol 2, pg. 37)

### \* **THE CHURCH OF THE FIRSTBORN**

#### **EXALTED BEINGS BELONG TO CHURCH OF FIRSTBORN.**

Those who gain exaltation in the celestial kingdom are those who are members of the Church of the Firstborn; in other words, those who keep all the commandments of the Lord. There will be many who are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who shall never become members of the Church of the Firstborn. The higher ordinances in the temple of God pertain to exaltation in the celestial kingdom. . . In order to receive this blessing, one must keep the full law, must abide the law by which that kingdom is governed; for, "He who is not able to abide the law of a celestial kingdom cannot abide a celestial glory. (Doctrines of Salvation, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol 2, pg. 41-42)

### **LDS Doctrine of Grace**

\* The Topic of Grace is not in the INDEX TO LESSON TOPICS of **Gospel Principles.**

\* “For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.” (The Book of Mormon, 2 Nephi 25:23).

\* “One of the most fallacious doctrines originated by Satan and propounded by man is that man is saved alone by the grace of God; that belief in Jesus Christ alone is all that is needed for salvation” (Spencer W. Kimball, The Miracle of Forgiveness, p. 206.)

\* **Salvation by Grace.** Because of the Fall, everyone will experience temporal death. Through grace, made available by the Savior’s atoning sacrifice, all people will be resurrected and receive immortality (see 2 Nephi 9:6–13). But resurrection alone does not qualify us for eternal life in the presence of God. Our sins make us unclean and unfit to dwell in God’s presence, and we need His grace to purify and perfect us “after all we can do” (2 Nephi 25:23). The phrase “after all we can do” teaches that effort is required on our part to receive the fulness of the Lord’s grace and be made worthy to dwell with Him. The Lord has commanded us to obey His gospel, which includes having faith in Him, repenting of our sins, being baptized, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end (see John 3:3–5; 3 Nephi 27:16–20; Articles of Faith 1:3–4). (True to the Faith, A Gospel Reference, pg. 77)

\* 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 nowise deny the power of God. (The Book of Mormon, Moroni 10:32)

\* **Grace.** It is through the grace of the Lord Jesus, made possible by His atoning sacrifice, that mankind will be raised in immortality, every person receiving his body from the grave in a condition of everlasting life. It is likewise through the grace of the Lord that individuals, through faith in the Atonement of Jesus Christ and repentance of their sins, receive strength and assistance to do good works that they otherwise would not be able to maintain if left to their own means. This grace is an enabling power that allows men and women to lay hold on eternal life and exaltation after they have expended their own best efforts.

Divine grace is needed by every soul in consequence of the Fall of Adam and also because of man’s weaknesses and shortcomings. However, grace cannot suffice without total effort on the part of the recipient. Hence the explanation, “It is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do” (2 Ne. 25:23). It is truly the grace of Jesus Christ that makes salvation possible. (LDS Bible Dictionary, “Grace”)

## **LDS Doctrine of Atonement**

### **\* The Atonement and Resurrection Bring Resurrection to All**

Christ thus overcame physical death. Because of His Atonement, everyone born on this earth will be resurrected (see 1 Corinthians 15:21–22). Just as Jesus was resurrected, our spirits will be reunited with our bodies, “that they can die no more . . . , never to be divided” (Alma 11:45). This condition is called immortality. All people who have ever lived will be resurrected, “both old and young, both bond and free, both male and female, both the wicked and the righteous” (Alma 11:44). (Gospel Principles, pg. 74)

### **\* The Atonement Makes It Possible for Those Who Have Faith in Christ to Be Saved from Their Sins**

We accept Christ's Atonement by placing our faith in Him. Through this faith, we repent of our sins, are baptized, receive the Holy Ghost, and obey His commandments. We become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. We are forgiven and cleansed from sin and prepared to return and live forever with our Heavenly Father.

The Savior tells us, "For behold, I, God, have suffered these things for all, that they might not suffer ... even as I" (D&C 19:16–17). Christ did His part to atone for our sins. To make His Atonement fully effective in our lives, we must strive to obey Him and repent of our sins. President Boyd K. Packer of the Council of the Twelve gave the following illustration to show how Christ's Atonement makes it possible to be saved from sin if we do our part. (Gospel Principles, pg. 74-75)

\* Our sins are our spiritual debts. Without Jesus Christ, who is our Savior and Mediator, we would all pay for our sins by suffering spiritual death. But because of Him, if we will keep His terms, which are to repent and keep His commandments, we may return to live with our Heavenly Father. (Gospel Principles, pg. 78)

## **Biblical Doctrine**

### **LDS "Salvation" Doesn't = Resurrection from the Dead (Everyone will be Resurrected)**

**John 5:24-29** "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth— those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

### **LDS "Salvation" Doesn't = Immortality (Eternal Life)**

**Revelation 20:11-15** Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

**Celestial, Terrestrial & Telestial** - Are not Biblical & a twisting of the teaching of Paul

**1 Corinthians 15:35–44** - But someone will say, “How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?” **36** Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. **37** And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other grain. **38** But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body. **39** All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds. **40** There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. **41** There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. **42** So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. **43** It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. **44** It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

**1 Corinthians 15:46** - However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.

### **Wages of Sin is Death**

**Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**John 8:23-24** And He said to them, “You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”

### **Salvation = Being Saved From Our Sins (Death) by Jesus Christ**

**Matthew 1:21** And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

**John 1:29** - The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

**Matthew 26:27-28** <sup>27</sup>Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. <sup>28</sup>For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”

**Hebrews 9:27-28** <sup>27</sup>And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, <sup>28</sup>so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

**Unpardonable Sin** – Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

**Mark 3:28–29** –“Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; **29** but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation”—

**Psalms 32:1–5** - Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. **2** Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit. **3** When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. **4** For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah **5** I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

### **We Are Freely Forgiven our Debts (Sins)**

**Luke 7:42** <sup>42</sup>And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?”

**Romans 3:23-24** <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

**Romans 8:32** - He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

**Revelation 21:6** - And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.

**Revelation 22:17** - And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

### **Believing in Jesus = Salvation & Everlasting Life**

**John 3:16-17** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

**John 6:27-29** <sup>27</sup>Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.” <sup>28</sup>Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

**Acts 16:30-31** And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

**Romans 10:9–10** - that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

**Romans 10:13** For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

### **Salvation = Being with God the Father & Jesus Christ**

**John 14:1-3** “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

**Colossians 1:19-20** For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

**1 Peter 3:18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-18** - For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**Revelation 21:22-24** But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.

### **Salvation (Heaven w/God & Jesus) IS By Grace Alone!**

**Ephesians 2:4-10** But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

**Romans 4:2-7** - For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. **3** For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” **4** Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. **5** But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, **6** just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: **7** “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered;

**Romans 11:5-6** - Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. **6** And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

**2 Timothy 1:9-11** - who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, **10** but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, **11** to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

### **Faith & Works**

**James 2:18-26** <sup>18</sup>But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. <sup>19</sup>You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! <sup>20</sup>But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? <sup>21</sup>Was not Abraham our father justified by

works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? <sup>22</sup>Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? <sup>23</sup>And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God. <sup>24</sup>You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. <sup>25</sup>Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? <sup>26</sup>For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

**Summary** - Faith, Works & Salvation

LDS Doctrine: Grace = Salvation (from Grave) + Faith + Works (to the end) = Exaltation/  
Godhood

Biblical Doctrine: Grace + Faith = Salvation (Heaven w/God & Jesus) = Good Works