



Systematic Theology

A row of white classical columns receding into the distance under a bright sky. The columns are fluted and have decorative capitals. The perspective is from a low angle, looking down the length of the colonnade.

Systematic Theology

Session 10: Heresy

Part 3



HERESY TODAY

A perspective view of a long, receding row of classical columns, likely from a Roman or Greek temple. The columns are light-colored and feature decorative capitals and bases. The scene is brightly lit, with long shadows cast on the ground, suggesting a low sun position. The background is a clear, bright sky.

ROMAN CATHOLICISM



AUTHORITATIVE STANDARD

- The Roman Catholic Church holds to three main sources of authority
 - Scripture
 - Apostolic Succession (Tradition)
 - The Magisterium
- In theory, each source holds equal weight
- In practice, church tradition and the decrees of the Magisterium determine authoritative doctrine



DOCTRINE OF SALVATION

- The Ultimate Means of Grace is the Church Herself
- The Methods of Grace include Faith and Obedience to the Sacraments
 - Baptism
 - Confirmation
 - Eucharist
 - Penance
 - Anointing of the Sick
 - Anointing of the Sick
 - Holy Orders
 - Matrimony



DOCTRINE OF SALVATION

- The Ultimate Means of Grace is the Church Herself
- The Methods of Grace include Faith and Obedience to the Sacraments
- The Catholic Church teaches that before salvation can be completed, many (almost all) believers must have their unconfessed sins purged by fire in purgatory



DOCTRINE OF GOD

- Generally, the Roman Catholic Church holds to biblical doctrines regarding God.
- However, they elevate and venerate Mary on an almost equal realm with God
 - Mary's Immaculate Conception
 - Mary's Intercession for the Saints
 - Mary's Perpetual Virginity
 - Mary as "the Mother of God"
 - Mary as the Mother of the Church



PROTESTANT HERESIES

A decorative background on the left side of the slide featuring several classical columns with intricate capitals and bases, set against a light, airy background.

HEALTH AND WEALTH

- Movement arose from within the Charismatic Movement
- Believes that Salvation brings freedom from ALL of sin's consequences
- The Health and Wealth of a believer is directly correspondent to their faith
- Faith is often activated through the power of positive thinking and words



PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY

- Progressive Christianity is a repackaging of Christian Liberalism
- It is made up of individuals who have “deconstructed” their faith
- Doctrines they Find Objectional
 - Inspiration and Inerrancy
 - Penal Substitution
 - Eternal, Conscience Torment
 - Biblical, Sexual Ethics

A perspective view of a long, receding row of classical columns, likely Corinthian or Ionic, set against a bright, overexposed sky. The columns are light-colored and feature decorative capitals and bases. The ground is a flat, light-colored surface, possibly a walkway or plaza, with long shadows cast by the columns.

CULTIC HERESIES



CHARACTERISTICS OF CULTS

- No Regard to Scriptural Context
- Authoritarian Interpretative Grid
- Exclusive Access to Truth
- Isolationism and Secrecy

A row of white classical columns receding into the distance under a bright sky. The columns are fluted and have decorative capitals. The scene is brightly lit, with long shadows cast on the ground.

MORMON HERESY



AUTHORITATIVE STANDARD

- The LDS (Latter Day Saints) accept two authoritative standards
 - The Bible (KJV & Joseph Smith Version)

Romans 8:28-30 (JSV)

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For him whom he did foreknow, he did also predestinate to be conformed to his own image, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, him whom he did predestinate, him he also called; and him whom he called, him he also sanctified; and him whom he sanctified, him he also glorified

Romans 8:28-30 *(KJV)*

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.



AUTHORITATIVE STANDARD

- The LDS (Latter Day Saints) accept two authoritative standards
 - The Bible (KJV & Joseph Smith Version)
 - The Book of Mormon
- The Book of Mormon is said to be “the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.”



AUTHORITATIVE STANDARD

- However, most Modern, LDS doctrine is derived from the writings and interpretations of their prophets
- These teachings are compiled into their “Doctrine and Covenants”
- These “Doctrine and Covenants” can be reinterpreted by current church councils and the current president.



DOCTRINE OF GOD

- Mormons do not believe in the Trinity
- They principally view the Father and the Son as physical beings and the Spirit as wholly Spiritual
- They believe that God was an entirely physical being at one time and existed on another planet
- He gained divinity by following the rules and ordinances of that planet's god



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DOCTRINE OF GOD

- God took a wife from that planet and through her produced spirit children
 - The Son is the First Spirit Child
 - The Devil is the Second Spirit Child
- They do not place any spiritual nature upon Jesus and claim he only has a physical nature.
- Some taught that Christ was the result of physical copulation between the Father and Mary

The image features a decorative background on the left side, showing several classical columns with intricate carvings and capitals. The columns are light-colored, possibly white or light blue, and are set against a bright, slightly blurred background. The main content of the image is a list of bullet points on a white background, with the title 'DOCTRINE OF SALVATION' at the top.

DOCTRINE OF SALVATION

- Mormons believe that everyone preexisted spiritually before their physical birth
- Mormons have no doctrine of original sin
- Salvation is only available to those who:
 - Accept Joseph Smith as a prophet of God
 - Receive the Ordinance of Baptism
 - Believe in Christ and keep “gospel law”



DOCTRINE OF SALVATION

- Those who die apart from Christ are sent to hell where they are given a second chance to turn to Christ
- They believe that the hope of salvation is the ability to become a god themselves
- Most individuals will ascend into heaven but there will be a small few who will suffer in hell eternally



JEHOVAH'S WITNESS HERESY

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AUTHORITATIVE STANDARD

- The JW's were started by Charles Taze Russell, a “pastor” of a small Bible study in Pittsburgh that held to the teachings of William Miller (Millerites)
- Miller claimed that Jesus would come back in 1844.
- When that did not occur, Russell said it would happen in 1914 and that WWI would be Armageddon



AUTHORITATIVE STANDARD

- After Russell's death, the leaders of the JW movement had to recon with Russell's wrong predictions.
- They claimed that Jesus did not physically come back but that a new era of his "presence" was ushered in.
- Today, they claim to hold to the Bible *as interpreted by the Watchtower Society* as their authoritative standard

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AUTHORITATIVE STANDARD

- They believe that the New World Translation best reflects early Christianity and significantly edits the text to “avoid the snare of religious traditionalism”
- They believe that the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society is the only source of correct interpretation of scripture
- *Reasoning from Scripture* is their major doctrinal document



DOCTRINE OF GOD

- They do not believe in the Trinity but in a Triunity.
- They believe that Jesus was the first created being and was known as Michael the Archangel before his incarnation and after his ascension
- They believe that Jesus is not Jehovah, but us rather one of many “gods,” Jehovah being the supreme God.

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Revelation 1:17-18

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

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Isaiah 44:6

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.



DOCTRINE OF SALVATION

- They believe that Jesus' death only pays the penalty for original sin making salvation possible for all who have faith *and* do good works
- These works include
 - Taking knowledge of God by studying the Bible
 - Obeying God's Laws
 - Associating with God's Channel, i.e Watchtower
 - Participating in the JW's preaching work

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DOCTRINE OF SALVATION

- They do not believe in eternal, conscious torment but in annihilationism
- They believe that in the end all humanity will fall into three categories
 - The little flock (144,000) will reside in heaven and will be little gods, like Christ
 - The Great Crowd will reside on the paradise earth, serving the 144,000
 - Those who live wickedly will be annihilated



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