

Are there any free passes?

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: “if those who die without the law are saved, then are we doing anyone a favor by sharing the gospel with them, thereby basically giving them the law and taking away their free pass?”

I'm sure this question stems from the scriptures regarding those who have “ignorantly sinned”.

Deuteronomy 19 : 4 And this is the case of the slayer, which shall flee thither, that he may live: Whoso killeth his neighbor ignorantly, whom he hated not in time past;

Rom 4:15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.

Mosiah 1 : 107 For behold, and also his blood atoneth for the sins of those who have fallen by the transgression of Adam, who have died, not knowing the will of God concerning them, or who have ignorantly sinned.

III Nephi 3: 20 Now they **did not sin ignorantly**, for they knew the will of God concerning them, for it had been taught unto them; **therefore they did willfully rebel against God.**

I Timothy 1 : 13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it **ignorantly in unbelief.**

I think we would all agree that if someone didn't know they were doing something wrong, it would be unjust to punish them. In most of the world, we have exceptions such as this for the mentally challenged or for someone who is very young. The real questions to ask ourselves are what laws are the scriptures talking about, are not all given understanding and who are truly ignorant.

What is the Law, and who are the ignorant?

SIN – harmartia 266G 1) d) to miss or wander from the path of uprightness and honour, to do or go wrong e) to **wander from the law of God, violate God's law, sin** 2) that which is done wrong, sin, an offence, a **violation of the divine law** in thought or in act

2 Nephi 6:47-56 And he suffereth this, that the resurrection might pass upon all men, that all might stand before him at the great and judgment day. And he commandeth **all men that they must repent, and be baptized in his name, having perfect faith in the Holy One of Israel, or they cannot be saved in the kingdom of God. And if they will not repent and believe in his name, and be baptized in his name, and endure**

to the end, they must be damned; For the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, hath spoken it; Wherefore, he hath given a law; and **where there is no law given there is no punishment**; And where there is no punishment, there is no condemnation; And where there is no condemnation, the mercies of the Holy One of Israel have claim upon them, because of the atonement: For they are delivered by the power of him: for the atonement satisfieth the demands of his justice upon all those who have not the law given to them, that they are delivered from that awful monster, death and hell, and the devil, and the lake of fire and brimstone, which is endless torment; And they are restored to that God who gave them breath, which is the Holy One of Israel. But wo unto him that hath the law given; yea, that hath all the commandments of God, like unto us, and that transgresseth them, and that wasteth the days of his probation; for awful is his state!

Moroni 8:25-29 For behold that all little children are alive in Christ, and **also all they that are without the law**. For the power of redemption cometh on all they that have **no law**; wherefore, he that is not condemned, or he that is under no condemnation, **can not repent; and unto such baptism availeth nothing**. But it is mockery before God, denying the mercies of Christ, and the power of his Holy Spirit, and putting trust in dead works. Behold, my son, this thing had not ought to be; for repentance is unto them that are under condemnation, and under the curse of a broken law. **And the first-fruits of repentance is baptism; and baptism cometh by faith, unto the fulfilling the commandments; and the fulfilling the commandments bringeth remission of sins; and the remission of sins bringeth meekness, and lowliness of heart; and because of meekness and lowliness of heart, cometh the visitation of the Holy Ghost, which Comforter filleth with hope and perfect love, which love endureth by diligence unto prayer, until the end shall come, when all the saints shall dwell with God.**

None are Ignorant of Sin

Gen 3: 5, 7, 10 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, **knowing good and evil**... And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons....And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, **because I was naked**; and I hid myself.

Moroni 7: 14 - 13 For behold, my brethren, **it is given unto you to judge, that ye may know good from evil**; and the way to judge is as plain, that ye may know with a perfect knowledge, as the daylight is from the dark night. **For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that they may know good from evil**; wherefore I shew unto you the way to judge: for everything which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ;

Gal 3:22 But the **scripture hath concluded all under sin**, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

Rom 1: 18-25- 2:2; 2:5-9,13-16; 3:9-10, 20 For the **wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men**, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is **manifest in them**; for God hath **shewed it unto them**. For the **invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God**, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the **creature more than the Creator**, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto **vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly**, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; **Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.** Therefore **thou art inexcusable, O man**, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. But we are sure that the **judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things..** But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man **according to his deeds**: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are **contentious**, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;... (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. For when the Gentiles, **which have not the law**, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, **having not the law**, are a

law unto themselves: **Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness,** and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;) In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.... What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are **all under sin**; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:... Therefore by the **deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**

II Peter 3 : 3-7 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this **they willingly are ignorant of,** that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, **reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.**

So we see that all mankind is given the divine law of the **knowledge of good and evil**. By this can be sure that heaven is not a place for murderers or thieves. Mankind is **not** free to sin. Back to the question of "sharing the gospel" I.E the **Gospel Law** (Faith, Repentance, Baptisms, Laying on Hand for the Gift of the Holy Ghost, Resurrection of the Dead, Eternal Judgment and the endurance of Faith, Hope and Charity until one passes on to their reward). Of this, **is it** better not to know it **or,** to know less of it?

Luke 12 : 47-48 And that servant, which **knew his lord's will**, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But **he that knew not**, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be **beaten with few stripes**. For unto **whomsoever much is given of him shall be much required**: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Although more is expected as our knowledge is increased, from many scriptural examples we can see that it is far, far better to be given greater knowledge than the alternative.

1 Nephi 4:17-19, 33 And at that day shall the remnant of our seed know that they are of the house of Israel, and that they are the covenant people of the Lord; And then shall they **know and come to the knowledge of their forefathers, and also to the knowledge of the gospel of their Redeemer**, which was ministered unto their fathers by him; Wherefore, they shall come to the knowledge of their Redeemer, and the **very points of his doctrine, that they may know how to come unto him and be saved...And after that they are restored, they shall no more confounded neither shall they be scattered again.**

Alma 9 : 15-21 And now Alma began to expound these things unto him, saying, It is given unto many to know the mysteries of God; Nevertheless they are laid under a strict command, that they shall not impart only according to the portion of his word, which he doth grant unto the children of men; according to the heed and diligence which they give unto him; And therefore he that will harden his heart, the same receiveth the lesser portion of the word; And he that will not harden his heart, to him is given the greater portion of the word, until it is given unto him to know the mysteries of God, until they know them in full; And they that will **harden their hearts, to them is given the lesser portion of the word, until they know nothing concerning his mysteries; And then they are taken captive by the devil, and led by his will down to destruction.** Now this is what is meant by the chains of hell; and Amulek hath spoken plainly concerning death, and being raised from this mortality to a state of immortality, and being brought before the bar of God, to be **judged according to our works.**

Alma 14 : 80-89, 93; 102-104 And now I ask, What great blessings hath he bestowed upon us? Can ye tell? Behold, I answer for you; for our brethren, the Lamanites, were in darkness, yea, even in the darkest abyss; but behold, how many of them are brought to behold the marvelous light of God! And this is the blessing which hath been bestowed upon us, that we have been made instruments in the hands of God, to bring about this great work. Behold, **thousands of them do rejoice, and have been brought into the fold of God.** Behold, the field was ripe, and blessed are ye, for ye did thrust in the sickle, and did reap with your mights, yea, all the day long did ye labor; And behold the number of your sheaves, and they shall be gathered into the garners, that they are not wasted; yea, they shall **not be beaten down by the storm, at the last day;** Yea, neither shall they be harrowed up by the whirlwinds; but when the storm cometh, they shall be gathered together in their place, that the storm can not penetrate to them; yea, neither shall they be driven with fierce winds, whithersoever the enemy listeth to carry them. But behold, they are in the hands of the Lord of the harvest, and they are his; and **he will raise them up at the last day.** Blessed be the name of our God; let us sing to his praise, yea, let us give thanks to his holy name, for he doth work righteousness for ever. **For if we had not come up out of the land of Zarahemla, these our dearly beloved brethren, which have so dearly beloved us, would still have been racked with hatred against us, yea, and they would also have been strangers to God...**Behold, **how many thousands of our brethren hath he loosed from the pains of hell;** and they are brought to sing redeeming love; and this because of the power of his word which is in us; therefore have we not great reason to rejoice?... And now behold, my brethren, what natural man is there, that knoweth these things? I say unto you, there is none that knoweth these things, save it be the penitent; Yea, he that repenteth and exerciseth faith, and bringeth forth good works, and prayeth continually without ceasing: unto such it is **given to know the mysteries of God;** yea, unto such it shall be given to reveal things which never have been revealed; Yea, and **it shall be**

given unto such, to bring thousands of souls to repentance, even as it hath been given unto us to bring these our brethren to repentance.

Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world**, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

2 Nephi 11: 25-31 Wherefore, the Jews shall be scattered among all nations; yea, and also Babylon shall be destroyed; wherefore, the Jews shall be scattered by other nations; And after that they have been scattered, and the Lord God hath **scourged them by other nations**, for the space of many generations, yea, even down from generation to generation **until they shall be persuaded to believe in Christ**, the Son of God, and the atonement, which is infinite for all mankind; And when that day shall come, that **they shall believe in Christ**, and worship the Father in his name, with **pure hearts, and clean hands**, and look not forward anymore for another Messiah, then, at that time, the day will come that it must needs be expedient that they should believe these things, And the Lord will set his hand again the second time to **restore his people from their lost and fallen state**. Wherefore, he will proceed to do a marvelous work, and a wonder among the children of men. Wherefore, he shall bring forth his words unto them, which words shall judge them at the last day; For they shall be given them for the **purpose of convincing them of the true Messiah**, who was rejected by them;

2 Nephi 2: 19-31 Wherefore, the fruit of my loins shall write; and the fruit of the loins of Judah shall write; And that which shall be written by the fruit of my loins, and also that which shall be written by the fruit of the loins of Judah, shall grow together, Unto the **confounding of false doctrines, and laying down of contentions, and establishing peace among the fruit of thy loins**, And bringing them to the knowledge of their fathers in the latter days; And also to the knowledge of my covenants, saith the Lord. And out of weakness he shall be made strong, in that day when my work shall commence among all my people, unto the restoring thee, O house of Israel, saith the Lord. And thus prophesied Joseph, saying: Behold, that seer will the Lord bless; And they that seek to destroy him, shall be confounded: For this promise, of which I have obtained of the Lord, of the fruit of thy loins, shall be fulfilled. Behold, **I am sure of the fulfilling of this promise**. And his name shall be called after me; and it shall be after the name of his father. And he shall be like unto me; for the thing which the Lord shall bring forth by his hand, **by the power of the Lord shall bring my people unto salvation**; Yea, thus prophesied Joseph, I am sure of this thing, even as I am sure of the promise of Moses: for the Lord hath said unto me, I will preserve thy seed forever.

4 Nephi 1:11-14; 17-21 And now behold it came to pass that the people of Nephi did **wax strong**, and did **multiply exceeding fast, and became an exceeding fair and**

delightful people. And they were married, and given in marriage, and **were blessed according to the multitude of the promises which the Lord had made unto them.** And they did not walk any more after the performances and ordinances of the Law of Moses, but they did walk after the **commandments which they had received from their Lord and their God,** continuing in fasting and prayer, and in meeting together oft, both to pray and to hear the word of the Lord. And it came to pass that there was **no contention among all the people,** in all the land, but there were **mighty miracles** wrought among the disciples of Jesus...And it came to pass that there was no contention in the land, because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people. And there **were no envyings, nor strifes, nor tumults, nor whoredoms, nor lyings, nor murders, nor any manner of lasciviousness; And surely there could not be a happier people among all the people which had been created by the hand of God: There were no robbers, nor murderers,** neither were there Lamanites, nor any manner of ites; but they were in one, the children of Christ, and heirs to the kingdom of God; And how blessed were they, for the Lord did bless them in all their doings; yea, even they were blessed and prospered, until an hundred and ten years had passed away; and the first generation from Christ had passed away, and there was no contention in all the land.

Alma : 73-76; 83-84; 91; 98-100 Do not suppose, because it has been spoken concerning restoration, that ye shall be restored from **sin to happiness.** Behold, I say unto you, **Wickedness never was happiness.** And now, my son, all **men that are in a state of nature, or I would say, in a carnal state, are in the gall of bitterness,** and in the bonds of iniquity; they are without God in the world, and they have gone **contrary to the nature of God; therefore they are in a state contrary to the nature of happiness.** And now behold, is the meaning of the word restoration, to take a thing of a natural state, and place it in an unnatural state, or to place it in a state opposite to its nature?... Now we see that the man had become as God, **knowing good and evil;** and lest he should put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever, that the Lord God placed cherubim, and the flaming sword, that he should not partake of the fruit; And thus we see, that there was a time granted unto man, **to repent, yea, a probationary time,** a time to repent and serve God....Therefore as they had **become carnal, sensual and devilish, by nature, this probationary state became a state for them to prepare;** it became a preparatory state....Now repentance could not come unto men, except there were a punishment, which also was as eternal as the life of the soul should be, affixed **opposite to the plan of happiness,** which was as eternal also as the life of the soul. Now, how could a man repent, except he should sin? **How could he sin, if there was no law?** How could there be a law, save there was a punishment? Now there was a punishment affixed, and a just **law given,** which brought **remorse of conscience** unto man.

Small Children

A small child who dies is, by definition, in the perfect condition of what God is looking for to live with Him in His Kingdom. The price has been paid on the cross and there is no molding process for these to go through. Therefore, when they die, as with righteous Adult's when they pass, they are given spiritual body. This new body, unlike our present body, desires the things of His spirit therefore they cannot ever loose their reward.

Matt 18: 2-5 And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and **become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven**. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

Moroni 8: 9-11 Behold, I came into the world not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance; the whole need no physician, but they that are sick; wherefore **little children are whole**, for they are **not capable of committing sin**; wherefore the curse of Adam is taken from them in me, that it hath no power over them; and the law of circumcision is done away in me. And after this manner did the Holy Ghost manifest the word of God unto me; wherefore my beloved son, I know that it is solemn mockery before God, that ye should baptize little children. Behold I say unto you, that this thing shall ye teach, repentance and baptism unto they which are accountable and capable of committing sin; yea, teach parents that they must repent and be baptized, and humble themselves as their little children, and they shall all be saved with their little children: and their little children need no repentance, neither baptism.... Behold, I speak with boldness, having authority from God; and I fear not what man can do; for perfect love casteth out all fear; and **I am filled with charity**, which is everlasting love; **wherefore all children are alike unto me**; wherefore **I love little children with a perfect love; and they are all alike**, and partakers of salvation.

Mosiah 1 : 119-123 For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been, from the fall of Adam, and will be, for ever and ever; But if he **yieldeth to the enticings of the Holy Spirit**, and putteth off the natural man, and becometh a saint, through the atonement of Christ, the Lord, and becometh as a **child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him**, even as a child doth submit to his father. And moreover, I say unto you, that the time shall come, when the knowledge of a Savior shall spread throughout every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. And behold, **when that time cometh, none shall be found blameless before God, except it be little children, only through repentance and faith on the name of the Lord God Omnipotent; And even at this time, when thou shalt have taught thy people the things which the Lord thy God hath commanded thee, even then are they found no more blameless in the sight of God**, only according to the words which I have spoken unto thee.