



A few months ago I attended a funeral service provided by the Mormon church. I was saddened, as I listened to an elder of the church discuss the spiritual journey of the deceased. First, the sermon detailed the need for Mormon's to keep the 10 commandments found in the Old Testament in addition to the 2 commandments in the New Testament--Love the Lord and Love thy neighbor. The sermon also included how the deceased was in a placed called "paradise" working to achieve his eternal body for the next phase of eternal life. I have to admit I was exhausted and saddened by all the work the Mormons are required to do to achieve eternal life. It also grieved my soul to be reminded how people devoted to God can truly believe their hard work will bring them to eternal life.

Yet, at the same time, I was overwhelmed with gratefulness for the grace and mercy of God. For the Lord loved and saved me from a life of worthless devotion and meaningless work. See, I was Mormon until the age of 19. Then, after a period of rejecting God and the Mormon church, I responded to the call of Holy Spirit. Weary and heavy laden I accepted the wonderful free gift of salvation found in Jesus Christ. This salvation secured my righteousness found in the Messiah or God's other name Yahweh Tsidkenu—The LORD our Righteousness.

The name Yahweh Tsidkenu was first used by the prophet Jeremiah when he said, "The days are coming," declared the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness (Jeremiah 23:5-6). This was the anticipated Messiah for the Israelites and for us.

As we meditate upon the name of God, Yahweh Tsidkenu and celebrate our unearned righteousness, don't forget to pray for the unsaved. Keep in mind, there are millions of people who have been led away from the free gift of salvation by the Deceiver.

More information on Mormonism at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mormonism>

Blessings,
Carrie