

Recovery from Mormonism (RfM) discussion forum.

Recovery Board : RfM

[Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...](#)

Posted by: **CA girl** ( )

Date: January 18, 2017 01:34AM

if you aren't rich, you are not as righteous. Maybe even a sinner. That's why they take such delight in seeing us fail. Because it validates this whole, toxic belief system that the "unrighteous" fail.

As far as the gospel of prosperity, I want to share something I've shared a couple of times before, for those who missed it. One of the last activities I participated in before leaving the church was one of those Lehi's Journey's, where the youth go off to a camp and "re-enact" the fictional first part of the Book of Nephi, the way they go on pioneer trek. One Saturday morning, they gathered at the Stake Center to get on buses to go to the camp. The kids showed up in what they imagined to be ancient middle Eastern clothes. Booths were set up around the cultural hall where different stake members would pretend to be merchants or tradespeople and had fun activities they could participate in - as well as middle Eastern food they could sample. After an hour or so of this, the kids gathered in front of the stage for a program, which included the bishops of all the wards in the stake having a dramatic reading. They each would read their lines and then read some lines in unison. One said "I promise you, as you live the gospel standards, you will prosper in the land." Then all of them chimed in to chant together "You will prosper in the land." It was creepy as hell - the bishops chanting solemn-faced in their dark suits and ties.

But what stood out is that these men were teaching these teenagers that righteousness and prosperity are the same and, by ready transfer, that the less prosperous must somehow be less righteous - yea even unworthy. Toxic stuff. Tying your worth before God to how much prosperity you show. If you were righteous - really living the gospel - then you'd get ahead in life. It's a gospel principle. No wonder members put so much energy into their image and their finances teeter on the brink. Because they want to appear worthy, they have to appear prosperous following the rules of a church that makes handicaps their ability to prosper.

[Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...](#)

Posted by: **thinking** ( )

Date: January 18, 2017 01:51AM

All the while being too stupid to actualize their own scripture about the pride cycle. Very hypocritical because so much of what they do and how they think is emblematic of the zenith of the pride cycle.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **may log in later ( )**  
Date: January 18, 2017 02:05AM

And TSCC wants to have it both ways. They preach the prosperity gospel from the pulpit, but at the same time want to claim that they don't.

So the church gets people like Dallin Oaks to write stuff like this:

Dallin H. Oaks, "Pure in Heart," pp. 73, 75-76:

"The Book of Mormon tells of a time when the church of God 'began to fail in its progress' because 'the people of the church began to... set their hearts upon riches and upon the vain things of the world' (Alma 4:8,10). Those who set their hearts upon the things of the world usually focus on some combination of that worldly quartet of property, pride, prominence, and power. When attitudes or priorities are fixed on the acquisition, use, or possession of property, we call that condition materialism...

"Those who preach the gospel of success and the theology of prosperity are suffering from 'the deceitfulness of riches' and from supposing that 'gain is godliness' (1 Timothy 6:5). The possession of wealth or the acquisition of significant income is not a mark of heavenly favor, and their absence is not evidence of heavenly disfavor. Riches can be among the blessings that follow right behavior – such as the payment of tithing (Malachi 3:9-12) – but riches can also be acquired through the luck of a prospector or as the fruits of dishonesty."

TSCC gets to preach both sides of the issue, giving it plausible deniability – but notice how Oaks is still able to put in a plug for good ol' tithing while downplaying the importance of wealth.

Dallin Oaks, of all people, discussing "the pure in heart" – oh, the irony.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **smirkorama** ( )  
Date: January 20, 2017 03:21PM

I got to the point when I was still a MORmON that I openly noted that the best explanation for how MORmON doctrine operates is: that is ALWAYS the way it is !!!!!!! .....UNLESS IT IS NOT !!!!!!!

That was probably a pretty good indication that I was on my way OUT of MORmONISM.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **poopstone** ( )  
Date: January 18, 2017 06:32AM

In another thread that follows this topic of "young beautiful tbms" and the Mormon-prosperity-fanaticism, in it a poster asked this question:

<<What business does a 23 year old that makes 25K a year have  
<<having a 300k house and 5 kids?

In my observation, these beloved and well favored members of society are in over their heads. Everyone wants the good life and they'll use religion to even justify it, And no one wants to work hard for the assets especially tbms. Subtly they believe or seem to believe that they are more pure and delightful and should live off of other kinds of people. Mormons usually don't accept manual labor, they despise uncredentialed work (like what I do). Those that hold Mormon leadership tend to be engineers, lawyers, and HR kinda folks, that sit comfortably on those that do the actual work on the factory floor in industry.

And they testify that they can sit on everyone else because the lord blessed them, because they refuse to work on sundays, because they put the temple first. I heard one credentialed gentrified member say that he bargained with god that if god would give him lots of money in "white" collar work he would have as many kids as possible, and keep his wife pregnant. (And it seemed to work in his case?)

The Prosperity Christian movement has taken hold of today's mainstream religion all across America. 30 years ago there was a clearer focus on the actual new-testament-gospel in preaching, it's not so clear today, with these mega churches and all this talk of "be wonderful today" because you "deserve" it (the charlatans Olstien,

Benny Hinn, and Meyers come to mind)

Edited 1 time(s). Last edit at 01/18/2017 06:32AM by poopstone.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **ificouldhietokolob** ( )

Date: January 18, 2017 09:37AM

poopstone Wrote:

- 
- > ...engineers, lawyers, and HR
  - > kinda folks, that sit comfortably on those that do
  - > the actual work on the factory floor in industry.

As an engineer, who's worked his butt off all his life, I take great exception to your characterization.

Just as I don't look down on "non-credentialed" work, seeing it for the value it has, maybe you should stop whining that people with more education and responsibility make more money than you do, and making snide swipes at them.

Like you, we engineers work hard and are responsible for our own lives. We don't "sit on" anyone.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **poopstone** ( )

Date: January 18, 2017 02:14PM

well perhaps your the exception in this world a world made of money and prestige :^) but most engineers tend to live very well and living very well is usually at the expense of someone else. Especially if the wage is over \$70,000 a year, (Utah economy)

Granted if there are higher expectations like longer hours, harder work, or recourse liability, people should get a bigger piece of the pie (such as business owners), But I can't think of a good reason why a doctor should make \$200,000 a year?

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **Serge ( )**

Date: January 18, 2017 03:06PM

At the expense of someone else? Is there an example of an engineer being paid a high salary that resulted in someone else receiving a lower salary as a result? You state that doctors should never be paid \$200,000. It sounds like you are arguing that workers should only be paid what their respective work output is worth. I guess society can give communism another try.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **MCR ( )**

Date: January 21, 2017 01:46AM

It IS off the expense of someone else. That is unavoidable. Money gets its value from the number of people who don't have it. By definition, that's how a property right works.

No one could make \$200,000 a year--as a doctor, sports figure, business owner, or anything else--unless many, many more people make far less. Globalism has allowed us offshore a large number of the poor we rely on to allow us to have more. Same with illegal immigrants--they are completely necessary to keep commodity prices low, vacations affordable, and new construction affordable.

Now it is true that with expanded, world wide resources, and higher productivity from automation and technology, the worldwide capacity is huge, so there is more money. Fewer people live on less than a dollar a day. Still, though, many live on little more than a dollar a day, while a bare handful are billionaires. Saying "well lets go back to communism then," as a response to the real challenge of income disparity in a global world, is a simple refusal to engage with the problem.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **ificouldhietokolob ( )**

Date: January 18, 2017 04:23PM

poopstone Wrote:

- 
- > well perhaps your the exception in this world a
  - > world made of money and prestige :^) but most
  - > engineers tend to live very well and living very
  - > well is usually at the expense of someone else.
  - > Especially if the wage is over \$70,000 a year,
  - > (Utah economy)

I make considerably more than that, but it's not "at the expense of someone else" (and I don't live in Utah). That's the premise you're going off of that's completely flawed.

- > Granted if there are higher expectations like
- > longer hours, harder work, or recourse liability,
- > people should get a bigger piece of the pie (such
- > as business owners), But I can't think of a good
- > reason why a doctor should make \$200,000 a year?

Doctors are generally paid well because they invest years and years of time in getting education and training, invest considerable money in setting up a practice, and are highly skilled.

Same for engineers, and all sorts of other professionals who invest years into learning and perfecting complicated, difficult career tasks.

There's nothing wrong with not having a college degree, and doing work that doesn't require it. It's good, honest work. But it doesn't pay as much because it doesn't require as much, plain and simple. I don't see any reason to be upset at the people who saw that an advanced education was a good investment, and are benefiting from it. It's not at anyone else's expense -- it's earned.

Edited 1 time(s). Last edit at 01/18/2017 04:25PM by ificouldhietokolob.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper  
so obviously ...**

Posted by: **CA girl ( )**  
Date: January 18, 2017 10:32PM

Yeah, I disagree with the "at the expense of someone else." Most people with money worked hard to earn it, despite the popular belief that they somehow don't deserve it. If you train yourself to do something that people are willing you to pay a lot for you to do, then you deserve what you earn and rather than taking advantage of them, you are providing something they need.

Furthermore, people who earn money spend money, creating jobs. I'm not favoring a trickle down economics a la Reagan, but it's still true that rather than taking advantage of others, when you have money you spend pass it on and pay someone else to do something they have trained for.

I know there are people who cheat and cut corners and businesses that don't treat their employees right but there are many educated, successful people with integrity that do good in the world and help others get ahead too.

**His worldview comes across a bitterly  
condescending and envious**

Posted by: **Itzpapalotl ( )**

Date: January 19, 2017 10:37AM

It's kinda sad and there are times when I genuinely feel pity for him. It reminds me of a former friend that I cut off ties with who will lash out any anyone he perceives as smarter, more successful, or happy than him, but don't you dare ever turn it around on him. It's the world that's the problem, not him.

If I remember correctly, he either tried to get a business degree or actually graduated with one and it didn't do him any good for whatever reasons. The problem is, you can't graduate with a degree and expect the world to hand you a good job unless you have excellent connections. Everyone deserves a living wage, but people who put in the work, time, and education into their degree absolutely deserve to make a good amount of money to compensate them for their efforts and time. BF is a good example of this.

He graduated a little over 10 years ago from UVU with an earth sciences degree. You know what he had to do out of the gate? Measure and pour concrete for the BoR for the first part of his career so far. We often joked how he went 4 years to college to do something he already knew how to do.

We moved all over the southwest to wherever he was asked to transfer, I worked various jobs in service industries until we settled here for now in the Corners. Not once did I hear him whine or cry about his degree going to waste because he KNEW he had to put in the work to advance. Guess what all that time, work, and inconvenience did? He was promoted to a geologist position and I get to graduate this spring with my first degree.

It's not always enough to be smart, work hard, or have a degree; Sometimes you have to start at the very bottom again to obtain higher status in your field. Doctors and engineers know that the first decade or two is pure hell because of all the work they need to put in the beginning, but it pays off if you keep at it.

I want to be a doctor and I wish I had known this 20 years ago. I know that this will require a hell of a lot more schooling, work, time and effort. It may not happen till I'm in my early 60s and I accept that it may not even happen at all. It's not the money or prestige that entices me, it's the platform to help others that I find so seductive. Money is nice, but working to make the world a bit better is much nicer. :)

**Re: His worldview comes across a  
bitterly condescending and envious**

Posted by: **ificouldhietokolob** ( )  
Date: January 20, 2017 09:51AM

itz -- keep working towards being a doctor. Even if you never make it. Whatever comes of it, your empathy will win out, and you'll help a lot of people.

Best. :)

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so  
obviously ...**

Posted by: **beyondashadow** ( )  
Date: January 20, 2017 03:20PM

I also am an engineer who is "failing retirement" as we speak.

Last time I checked, my butt has not yet returned ... after going missing years ago.



It's human nature to feel like those who appear to have "more" must be enjoying ill gotten gains. To be sure, there is no shortage of ill gotten gainers on the planet. Washington DC is full of them, as are the hillsides above SLC.

When I was a kid, my little brother prayed one day during family prayer, "Heavenly Father, we ask thee to bless those who are more unfortunate than we are."

Nonetheless, let the word go forth from this time and place, that there is such a thing as well gotten gains.

One of my PollyAnna maxims is: Focus on adding value, and the money will hunt you down.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **donbagley** ( )

Date: January 18, 2017 06:56AM

Oh yeah, CA girl, they watch and hope for any financial failure from exMormons. If there's no real trouble, they'll stir some up.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **allegro** ( )

Date: January 18, 2017 08:38AM

Also callings are attached to finances most of the time. Then you have the wives that rely on their husbands callings to elevate them in the ward and stake hierarchy. Even if a woman has her own credentials, she is still relying on her husband's calling to be "in the clique." Many times the result is debt, MLMs, dishonesty, etc. to appear prosperous and holy.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **wwjd my butt** ( )

Date: January 18, 2017 08:43AM

On the double standard -

Is TSCC in the real estate business? Most definitely.

Do they fund mortgages for their in-over-their-head members, then tell them to skip rent in favor of tithing?

Aren't mortgages and lease agreements civil contracts, enforced by the laws of our land, resolved by courts if obligations are ignored?

These members are led by people living in free housing who have a very generous salary (no matter the symantics to evade taxes) and many other benefits - all provided by tithing.

Prosperiy gospel = the love of money, not "god," and certainly not "god's children."

An appearance of prosperity is not equal to actual prosperity, and anyone with either a mountain of money or a mountain of debt has a profound grasp of the concept.

**Ancient religions ...**

Posted by: **weeder** ( )

Date: January 18, 2017 09:52AM

Ancient religions sacrifices human lives on an altar for the promise of their gawd's divine providence (prosperity) in the coming year.

Nothing has changed very much. All religions are prosperity religions.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **hatmagic** ( )

Date: January 18, 2017 10:28AM

Recently in the stake which my TBM wife and my two daughters go, they have started a program to help members become self reliant by "helping" members get a better job or more education, manage finances, etc. I am all for these ideas, but this church program is a thinly veiled effort to get members to make bigger donations to the corporation. My daughter and her husband are taking the one for personal finances. That is the one my wife wants us to take.

One of the first things you "learn" is that the temporal and spiritual are one. I quote..."God can and will provide a way for his righteous children to become self-reliant." Meaning: if you are righteous, you will be blessed financially.

Step one for getting on god's payroll is to pay your tithing and fast offerings above

all else. You need to give god seed money before he can bless you. So if you have to choose between paying tithing or paying rent, the church wants you to pay tithing first, and pinky promises, somehow, magically, your rent will get paid. If you don't have enough money to pay tithing and buy food, pay tithing. Then you get a jump start on fasting.

If you want proof that the church equates riches with righteousness, take a look at this BS on Ids.org.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **Amos90** ( )

Date: January 18, 2017 10:47AM

In my own TBM life, the iteration of the prosperity gospel was the good-living-and-pretty-wife connection to your obedience and performance on a mission.

My MP, who was otherwise a very sensible and kind person, quoted this anecdote several times in zone conferences:

Some GA said at some time something to the effect of "you'll never do better in life than how you did on your mission".

My MP stated it as an explicit warning against disobedience and complacency.

He told the anecdote of an RM who served a lackluster mission and then had a disappointing life. Years later he asked a church leader to "lift the curse". The church leader supposedly said it's not a curse it's just a law of God.

Otherwise, to me, there was a very explicit philosophy in the church that how you did in life depended on your own obedience and faithfulness.

It wasn't so much that the gospel made you rich, it was that the gospel removed barriers to prosperity, which is then automatic.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **smirkorama** ( )

Date: January 18, 2017 10:52AM

Yah, well that fucking ass hole MORmON Jesus has never paid out an obedience dividend to any one in MORmONISM yet that was not first STOLEN from some other person in His name. IF anyone is waiting for MORmON Jesus to just bless them outright with out having to screw over some one else to get the pay out, then they might as well be waiting for Lame Ass Jesus to get on with actually doing His second coming.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **hatmagic** ( )  
Date: January 18, 2017 11:27AM

It is easy to say, but impossible to prove that everyone that is obedient and faithful are automatically becoming prosperous.

It is also ridiculous to say that those who are not prospering are somehow disobedient or unfaithful.

I know quite a few humble, faithful Mormons that are living hand to mouth.

I hope TBM's would not point to the wealth of someone like our president-to-be and claim he among the obedient and faithful.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **Chicken N. Backpacks** ( )  
Date: January 18, 2017 12:07PM

Hey, it's Gods money, and he loves us so much that he only wants 10% of it back.

That's not me making a wry joke; that's an actual church quote.

Its insidious that church leaders want members to prosper, not for prosperity's sake, but for the potential revenue they expect the members to kick back to the church-- and convince the member that God is responsible for it all, despite the toil and sweat of the member.

Marks, not members.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **ificouldhietokolob** ( )  
Date: January 18, 2017 12:08PM

Of the 100 richest people in the world, none are mormons.  
Just like, despite the "promises" of the "word of wisdom," none of the top 100 marathoners in the world are mormons.

Mormon promises never pan out. Ever.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **smirkorama** ( )  
Date: January 20, 2017 03:12PM

Excellent points

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **TXRancher** ( )  
Date: January 20, 2017 10:28PM

"....run and not be weary" LOL

Took a second, but when I got it wow that was funny.

**Way back many moons ago in my freshman year of college**

Posted by: **schweizerkind** ( )  
Date: January 18, 2017 02:06PM

I attended a lecture at the U of U's Mo student center. The guest lecturer was a newly-minted BYU prof of economics. The theme of his lecture was that the laws of economics didn't always jibe with Mo doctrine.

His main illustration was the story of his acquaintance who had owned a store and had given a stout testimony one Sunday of how he had prospered mightily by keeping the store closed on the Sabbath, even though his competitors didn't.

According to the prof, two months later the guy had declared bankruptcy.

I've often wondered since how long the prof lasted at BYU.

It-wasn't-exactly-a-faith-promoting-story-ly yrs,

S

**Prosperity is measured by blessings**

Posted by: **Honest TBM** ( )

Date: January 18, 2017 03:42PM

Mormons are so blessed with blessings and this makes them have prosperity. But prosperity is not measured in the way the world measures it. Its measured according to how the Lord measures it which means however the Priesthood leaders say it is. So what is prosperity - having lots of blessings.

1. The Brethren need to have clear minds and be relaxed so they can receive revelations to better get us all assimilated and oversee our responsibilities to assimilate as many possible to the marvelous Kingdom. Thus its vitally important for them to have access to as much money and luxurious living as possible.
2. The gospel teaches that sacrifice brings blessings so members get blessed so much through the sacrifices they make to have #1 be possible. It really helps strengthen loyalty to be reminded by your poverty and tiredness to get more deeply entrenched in obeying the Brethren and giving the church even more. And the more loyal/entrenched we are in making very deep sacrifices then the more blessed we feel we shall become.
3. The greatest blessings of course are being able to assimilate as many people into the glorious gospel so they in turn can assimilate many more. More children = more blessings. More converts = more blessings. And thus this marvelous work goes forward.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **Really** ( )

Date: January 18, 2017 10:52PM

I'm a Doctor and can't believe people still think they don't deserve 200,000+ income. (Poopstone). Perhaps after you spend 15 years in school studying 10 hours a day after classes, then working 100 hours a week in residency for 4 years. Then graduate 250,000 in debt and spend another 300,000 to buy into a practice or set up your own. Then fight to get paid for for every procedure just to have some insurance guy tell you hat your covered procedure is not medically necessary, even though it's a

covered benefit on your patients policy. To be forced to be on call 24/7 and not to get paid for it. Your right, we are over paid.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **Anonagain ( )**  
Date: January 19, 2017 12:35AM

I'm feeling the same about my engineering degrees. It put me into significant debt and took 9 years to get my civil and electrical engineering degrees, and I've had to work long and hard to claw my way up a very male dominated industry in the area I live in. I will never feel bad for making \$90,000+ a year. I worked my butt off for it and most people don't understand the level of responsibility that an engineer takes on, or the fact that if an error in our design causes injury or loss of life, we can be held accountable and go to jail. That's a lot of responsibility to take on. I guarantee that the person putting the equipment together in the factory has taken on nowhere near that level of accountability and potential liability.

Poopstone, you have a very limited view of the working world and the actual big picture.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **CA girl ( )**  
Date: January 20, 2017 10:59AM

Amen. Doctors work so hard and know so much - they deserve the pay they get and thank goodness they are willing to do what they do to get where they are.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **summer ( )**  
Date: January 20, 2017 11:15AM

I don't begrudge any professional his or her salary, although I might quibble with some CEO salaries.

I think that the issue is that the working and middle classes were squeezed very hard by the recession, and never fully recovered. And when you are at the lower to middle end of earnings, pretty much everything you earn goes to necessities. It is not unusual for parents in my urban school district to be working two or even

three jobs, doing tasks that we all benefit from. So at what point will they get frustrated? When even that isn't enough?

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **smirkorama** ( )  
Date: January 20, 2017 03:28PM

Really Wrote:

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- > I'm a Doctor and can't believe people still think
- > they don't deserve 200,000+ income.

I had the impression that many / most people DO think that they deserve a 200,000+ income ..... they just can not figure out how to get it.

**\$200k is low end of net compensation**

Posted by: **FIRE** ( )  
Date: January 22, 2017 09:30AM

Funny that people associate \$200,000 with physicians. In reality, that figure is probably a bit low as a representation of average annual compensation even for primary care physicians who work full time. Even after subtracting malpractice premiums, etc.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **seekyr** ( )  
Date: January 19, 2017 10:58AM

I tell you, that Joseph Smith was one crafty son of a gun. To act righteously you needed to PAY TITHING/HIM and he promises that if you are really really righteous, you'll prosper in the land. Now because everyone paid HIM, HE prospered more than everyone else, so HE appeared to be the most righteous. Since everyone else fared worse financially due to giving away their money to HIM, they needed to be MORE RIGHTEOUS THAN EVER, so they do more, pay more . . . AND the WEALTHY just get WEALTHIER. What a SCAM!

The LDS church is just a televangelist scam minus the corny deep southern accent.



**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **Puli ( )**  
Date: January 20, 2017 12:11PM

It's actually a double standard because while I agree that Mormons who are supposed to be righteous are supposed to be prosperous, non-Mormons who are prosperous may have achieved their prosperity by colluding with the devil.

In my case, some Mormon relatives used this prosperity concept you explain out to justify some awful terrible behavior. One SIL slandered her sisters to isolate their widower father from everyone else and then convinced him to change his will to significantly benefit her and disenfranchise her sisters. She also cheats on her taxes and mistreated her patients (she is an MFP or whatever the equivalent is in Utah) also gouging insurance and Bishops who referred patients and at times paid for their counseling. It was watching her operate and mistreat her sisters when their father had originally planned to divide up his property evenly and experiencing first hand the lack of discernment (another so called perk of being Mormon) from other Mormon family and friends. It was a period of time when I found a great deal more support and concern from non-Mormon family and friends who seemed to have a better grasp on the reality of the situation. It began my period of questioning which eventually led to my leaving.

From the Bible, the concept of the Prosperity of the righteous is both supported and countered. The OT tells of periods the Israelites were punished with disasters when they were unrighteous - a common explanation for the loss in wars. The most notable counter argument is the story of Job whom God tested with the complete loss of prosperity in order to prove to Satan that certain people would be faithful even without being prosperous.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **ificouldhietokolob ( )**  
Date: January 20, 2017 12:39PM

Puli Wrote:

- 
- > The most
  - > notable counter argument is the story of Job whom
  - > God tested with the complete loss of prosperity in
  - > order to prove to Satan that certain people would
  - > be faithful even without being prosperous.

Agreed that the "double standard" is standard operating procedure for mormons.

I just thought I'd point out that after all his tribulations, and remaining faithful, the Job story has Job "prospering" even more than before his trials, as a reward for remaining faithful. So I don't think it's a very good counter-argument to the "faith brings prosperity" idea :)

(Job 42)

12 The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the former part. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. 13 And he also had seven sons and three daughters. 14 The first daughter he named Jemimah, the second Keziah and the third Keren-Happuch. 15 Nowhere in all the land were there found women as beautiful as Job's daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance along with their brothers.

**Yes, but . . .**

Posted by: **schweizerkind** ( )

Date: January 20, 2017 01:23PM

that makes wives and children fungible like, say, wheat. In reality, Job would still grieve for his lost, first family. And anyway

some-scholars-think-the-last-2-verses-are-later-add-ons-ly yrs,

S

**Re: Yes, but . . .**

Posted by: **ifcouldhietokolob** ( )

Date: January 20, 2017 01:44PM

schweizerkind Wrote:

-----  
> that makes wives and children fungible like, say,  
> wheat. In reality, Job would still grieve for his  
> lost, first family.

Clearly they were "fungible." OT "god" didn't seem to have any problem whatsoever having them killed off in the first place, only Job mattered -- not wife or kids.

> some-scholars-think-the-last-2-verses-are-later-ad  
> d-ons-ly yrs,

So later fiction added to earlier fiction in order to support the idea that faithfulness brings prosperity? :)

**Re: Yes, but . . .**

Posted by: **Puli** ( )

Date: January 20, 2017 02:49PM

ificouldhietokolob Wrote:

>  
> So later fiction added to earlier fiction in order  
> to support the idea that faithfulness brings  
> prosperity? :)

That is the story I heard also that the latter part of the story of Job's return to prosperity was a later add-on. I have no reference however.

The points about Job's wife and family being expendable is one I hadn't thought of before - they were merely "things" for Job to enjoy and not real people.

It's been a long time since I read through Job, but I recall at one point Job asked God why he was made to suffer so much and God told him that he had no right to question God; Job's life wasn't his own and God would do with him as God chose. Job was no less a sort of play thing of God's just as his family was treated when they were taken away from him; and, so much for God's promises of prosperity if God chooses you to serve as some kind of example as he chose Job to be.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **cludgie** ( )

Date: January 20, 2017 01:18PM

Now you're just making Mormons sound weird.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **op47** ( )

Date: January 20, 2017 02:52PM

I am guessing that Donald Trump (for example) must be extraordinarily righteous.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **Betty G ( )**

Date: January 20, 2017 03:58PM

I would argue that doctors in the US are overpaid.

Many professions are. People try to say they deserve it and then try to state they spent so many years in education or residency or any number of other things...and yet...they'll put down others who worked just as long and as hard but don't make those salaries.

I suppose one would say I would be more liberal in that category, some may even accuse one of socialism, but to be honest, the ONLY reason doctors are paid MORE is due to the laws of supply and demand.

People in the medical field over the past 100 years were smart. Fortunately, the ones who set up the system were SMARTER than many doctors I've known (it's amazing how many doctors don't know how to spend money or even to be thrifty...sort of like ex-CEO's and rich guys that move onto being clergy and think 120K is a modest stipend).

They made it so that there is a guaranteed shortage. In otherwords, though there COULD be more doctors and nurses trained, the way they set up HOW it is accomplished artificially limits the number that are out there.

This is successful, and it is because there is a LOWER supply vs. a Higher demand, that doctors can demand such a high price.

On the otherhand, if you look at teacher, one that has a PHD, and spent hundreds of hours in "residency" errr...I mean teaching various classrooms and classes until they are an expert at it and are the head of their department in a highschool. After MORE years in "residency" errr...I mean...learning the ropes to be that expert and just as many years as the basic doctor (8 years...though for the real expertise you'll spend another 2 for a total of 10 years in post doc), at a high school, you'll be getting somewhere in the range of 50K to 90K.

Once again, it's a matter of supply and demand (or misogyny and unfair labor wages for woman...as there are more males in Medical Doctorates vs. woman in Education doctorates). The wages are lower for the High School Teacher, even the expert teacher who everyone would want teaching their kid because there are MORE of them.

Anyone who states they earn more money in a Capitalist society because they "deserve" it because of all the hours of education and training they have...is full of it. It has NOTHING to do with how much education you have (which is why many various different fields that have the same education requirements, pay so vastly differently once in the job market...another example would be the difference in pay between someone who has a bachelor's of engineering but a P.E. and someone who has a Masters of Engineering, but NO P.E).

It basically boils down to supply and demand. If you had a market flooded with doctors, doctors would be lucky to make minimum wage. At the same time, if you had almost no teachers (as is in some nations) the wages for an adequate teacher would be sky high relative to others.

A good recent example of this was petroleum engineers. At one time, I would be looking at being lucky to get 40 to 50K a year. NOW...especially in the past 10 years with the oil boom, getting less than 6 figures is an insult. It's taken a beating somewhat in the past two years, but compared to what it was a while ago...they can't find enough petroleum engineers these days. They've even offered these positions to Civil and Mechanical engineers due to how hard it is to find enough for these positions!

In fact, some Petroleum engineers these days probably make more than many doctors...and with LESS education and time. That's more of a factor of supply and demand rather than that they didn't deserve it 25 years ago, but now, suddenly they do.

Of course, that really doesn't go hand in hand with the prosperity gospel...at all.

The only thing I think of though, and I fear at time whether I fall into this boat or not...

Is the Lord stated, it is harder for a rich man to get to heaven than for a camel to fit through the eye of a needle.

Even if one doesn't believe in Christianity, one could look at that as an interesting part of ancient thought in comparison to what the lower 99% thought of the top 1%.

Another interesting note on our Western society today. We have far more comfort and luxury in a middle class home (and in many areas, in a lower class home) than kings and emperors had in their palaces and castles (AC for starters...and flushing toilets!). I wonder if we'd have been considered the ultra rich in ancient times if they saw the luxury we live in today...and do we really deserve this luxury more than they did 2000 years ago...because we...work harder?

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: summer ( )

Date: January 20, 2017 07:54PM

Wages for teachers are currently so bad that I think a shortage will definitely develop in the coming years. We historically have lost half of all new teachers within the first five years. Currently that average is dropping to half within the first 3-4 years. My urban school district used to be able to retain new teachers by paying better than the suburbs. But now the pay differential is not enough to compensate for the workload and student behavior. We are losing our new teachers at a fast clip.

My bachelors and masters degrees took a combined 6 and 1/2 years. Figure another year at least for continuing credits. So I've put the time in school as well. And we work nights and weekends along with other professionals.

If you talk to teachers, what they will tell you is that they love to teach. But we are spending too much time giving and scoring tests, filling out paperwork, attending meetings, etc. We are watched like bugs. And honestly, the money is terrible. I would not choose teaching again as a profession based on the pay alone. There is too little money, and not enough reward. Everything that has made teaching gratifying and fun in the past has been sucked out.

I didn't go into teaching to get rich. But neither did I expect to be poor. People who invest the time and money to get an education do expect some sort of payoff for it.

**For what it's worth**

Posted by: **Itzpapalotl** ( )

Date: January 20, 2017 08:06PM

I don't think teachers are paid enough and deserve a higher standard of living, especially after being knee-deep in what they deal with for the last year.

One of my former profs agrees that there will be a teacher shortage in a few years because of all the issues surrounding the profession these days and I agree with him and you. The students have often asked me why I'm not a teacher and I gently explained that as much as I love being around them and teaching them about various subjects they ask me about, it's not something I am willing to do at this time...especially in this current cultural climate.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **Babyloncansuckit** ( )

Date: January 20, 2017 11:12PM

summer Wrote:

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- > Wages for teachers are currently so bad that I
- > think a shortage will definitely develop in the
- > coming years. We historically have lost half of
- > all new teachers within the first five years.
- > Currently that average is dropping to half within
- > the first 3-4 years. My urban school district used
- > to be able to retain new teachers by paying better
- > than the suburbs. But now the pay differential is
- > not enough to compensate for the workload and
- > student behavior. We are losing our new teachers
- > at a fast clip.
- >

I'd blame the NEA for that. For political gain, they put out rhetoric that there aren't enough teachers. Then kids major in education and the glut of teachers drives down the price. They should have stayed awake in economics class.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **summer** ( )

Date: January 21, 2017 01:20AM

The NEA has nothing to do with it. Kids major in education because they have this fantasy of what teaching will be like. Then they find that the fantasy does not match the reality.

There are several factors at work in the current situation. One is the anti-teacher rhetoric that has been prevalent in certain quarters in the past dozen years or so. That has created a climate of disrespect for teachers and the work that we do.

A much bigger factor has been a series of federal laws going all the way back to "No Child Left Behind." These laws have weakened teacher unions and collective bargaining. Most teacher unions were never that strong to begin with, but they are currently stripped of any meaningful ability to negotiate decent salaries. Also, federal law dictates that teacher salaries be tied to teacher evaluations. This sounds good in theory, doesn't it?-- because that is the way private industry operates. But what this did was to weaponize the evaluations. The standards for the highest rating (which gets an automatic raise,) have gotten so outlandish that the rating is virtually unattainable. School districts gleefully use this to put a damper on salaries. My students got rather stunning test scores last year, so you would think I got the highest rating, right? Wrong. I did not. All I can say is that when I worked in private industry (which I did for many years,) I never had this degree of difficulty in getting a decent raise.

And finally, there is the public perception that teachers work only seven hours a day, get lots of time off, and sit at our desks surfing the internet all day. In reality we put in tons of unpaid overtime. When I've tracked my weekly hours it's been in the 54-64 hour a week range. This is typical. New teacher put in even more hours. Our work is brutally hard. It's like asking a Broadway performer to do a seven hour show every day. I typically take a 15-20 minute lunch, and for most of the rest of the day, I'm up and moving. And yes, we do get a lot of time off, but we are contract workers. We only get paid for time worked. And after teaching two dozen kids or more all day, exhaustion is your daily companion.

So that's what's been happening in my profession. Most teachers who have been in the game for a while are looking for a way out. And the young teachers look at us with bewildered eyes. They can't keep up with the workload, and what really frightens them is that they see that the experienced teachers can't



keep up with it, either. We are all working for masters who will never be pleased.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **MCR** ( )

Date: January 21, 2017 02:09AM

Everything you say is true. And the reason is that you are paid by tax money, which means every person begrudges every dollar you earn and would make you earn even less if they could get away with it. Taxes are theft and smart patriots don't pay them.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **summer** ( )

Date: January 21, 2017 09:06AM

Yes. (chuckle)

What really bites is that there are a lot of other professionals who work in the public schools. You have school social workers, pupil personnel workers, counselors, speech pathologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, librarians, etc.

Yet if you listen to the media, you will hear a lot of rants against teachers (Teachers are stupid! Teachers are lazy! Teacher unions are evil!) but never any rants against, say, the speech pathologists. No, those workers are assumed to be well educated and credentialed professionals who put in a solid work day and who deserve whatever they are paid.

I never would have gone into teaching if I had realized that the profession is such a political football.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **Gentle Gentile** ( )

Date: January 20, 2017 08:28PM

Without getting into all the gory details of the workplace bullying I've experienced:

I wanted a part-time job on the side...because I felt like it. I've been a cashier and

event security and have been bullied by many co-workers and superiors because I've completed a lot of formal education. The bullying was unjustified and unprovoked and sometimes began BEFORE I started working. It sometimes continued even after I had proven myself to be a stellar employee.

Poopstone is undoubtedly someone who would bully a more educated co-worker without cause.

**Re: Mormons think the righteous prosper so obviously ...**

Posted by: **midwestanon** ( )  
Date: January 20, 2017 11:29PM

People make what society is collectively willing to pay them. In the end, it has nothing to do with what is ethically wrong or right about how much or little someone makes.

I will make a comment about doctors, though because it is a subject near to my heart. Doctors go through a mandatory 8 years schooling, and then go through a minimum of three years of post Medical School residency. If you want to go into a specialty, this can grow to up to 7 and sometimes even 8 and 9 years depending on how much you want to specialize. For example, I don't know for sure, but I'm guessing a pediatric heart surgeon probably requires at least six or seven years of post medical school training.

So you're in your mid-thirties, and now you are fully qualified to be a doctor. Assuming you pass state certification exams, and you become board-certified, because not becoming board certified in your specialty essentially ensures that you have no ability to work in your specialty. There is a ton of credentialing, continued education, and oversight involved in being a doctor. It is a bureaucratic mess, and although as far as I know, it works as efficiently as it is able to, maybe it could be better.

I'd also like to comment on the generalization that doctors are overpaid. Just the statement in and of itself is asinine. There is a huge variety of doctors. An allergist probably makes less than half as much as an orthopedic surgeon. Surgeons generally make more than Physicians. In general pediatricians and internal medicine specialties are the lowest paid kinds of doctors. All of this varies based on your schooling, where you did your residency, tons of different factors. Let's not forget what part of the country you live in. Being a country doctor in South Carolina is going to be way

different than being a doctor in Midtown Manhattan no matter what kind of specialty.

My dad has been a doctor for almost 20 years. He wanted to specialize (I think), maybe do a fellowship in geriatrics, something like that. He was also offered chief resident, which at least back then, I don't know now, is an extra year of residency. He passed up all that and became a hospitalist. He had already gone to business school, and then after that went to medical school, so he was almost 40, and I'm pretty sure was sick of school and training. However, he makes tons of money, somewhere in the 350-475,000 dollar range. He has few, if any regrets.

His job is extremely stressful, always has been, and his work weeks are typically, in a relaxed week something like 55 to 60 hours, and then in an insanely busy week, closer to 90 hours. I don't know if it's ever that busy anymore, but I know in his life it has been that way. When you're a doctor, you're on call so sometimes you're literally working for days straight, even if you get time off to sleep or go home, because you know that phone (or at one time, beeper) could go off at any second and you could have to go into the hospital for another 10 hours. Or sometimes nothing happens, and technically you're working for days straight, but it's like you have time off, even though you're pretty much confined to not doing anything that won't let you immediately go back into work.

That's what I have to say about being a doctor. I think he deserves every penny he makes. And what he does now is more administrative and is part of the reason he makes the salary he does, and it might even have something to do with his business degree, I'm not really sure. His role is unique and he is in charge of dozens of other doctors, both hiring and firing, sitting in on M and M's, etc. To reiterate, I can't imagine the stress.

You know what though, he is a TBM, and he probably believes that his salary, and his temporal benefits are a gift from God, either in part or in whole. He probably sees his life as some kind of Rich tapestry and a gift bestowed from God. In some ways he is an incredibly humble man and, if asked, he would literally consecrate everything he had to the church. I don't know if he is insanely humble or just insane. It's just the kind of man he is. He has always told me that he would do whatever the church asked him to do.

Don't rag on doctors. They save your life.