

The World's Need Of The Gospel Principles

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Definition of Gospel — The World's need of a Knowledge of God—Conception of Deity a High Ideal of the Latter-day Saint—Importance of Gospel Principles—Necessity of Ordinances for the Dead—The Marriage Covenant—The Law of Tithing.

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We have assembled this afternoon for the purpose of worshipping the Lord, of hearing beautiful music, and something pertaining to the Gospel. This suggests to my mind a definition that was given by the Apostle Paul, recorded in the New Testament, wherein he said: "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." And I think he might have said, unto all men.

The Apostle Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. It would be a serious thing for any man to be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for he would then be ashamed of the author, and he has said that if we are ashamed of him, he who is our mediator with the Father will be ashamed of us before the Father in the day of judgment.

Defines Gospel

We are not only not ashamed of the Gospel, as Latter-day Saints, but we are very grateful indeed for it, for it is the plan for man's salvation and exaltation. If I were to give a definition of the Gospel that is not written in the code of the Holy Scriptures, I would say that it is the plan of the Gods, from before the creation of this world, for this earth's existence and for man's existence upon the earth for the fall of man through disobedience, and the fall of the earth, for the redemption of man, through obedience, and the redemption of the earth, or the glorifying of the earth, for we believe it is to be renewed and receive its paradisaical glory, also for the eternal life and exaltation of man upon the earth thus glorified.

This is a part of the Gospel plan, but it involves also the acceptance of certain principles and ordinances, obedience unto certain laws and commandments. It involves sacrifice, self-denial, service to God and to our fellowmen, denying ourselves things which are ungodly, unchristlike, which are evil, debasing and degrading. This constitutes the straight and narrow way that leads unto life everlasting in contradistinction to the broad way in which so many travel that leads to destruction and everlasting disappointment.

Acceptance Involved

Now, this definition, I said, involves the acceptance of certain principles of necessity if we would be saved in the kingdom of God, and I take it that we all are candidates for salvation and exaltation, which is the greatest gift of God to man. For example, the Scriptures tell us that "without faith it is impossible for us to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

I may say here that the faith of all intelligent beings is centered in God, and inasmuch as there is no much required of the individual in the way of sacrifice and service, the keeping of the commandments, the obedience to law, etc., in order to obtain the goal of our existence, our aim being eternal life, we should have a perfect and correct conception of God, understanding him, his personality, his powers and attributes, the relationship we sustain to him, etc.

The world of mankind today is in great spiritual darkness with respect to this one important principle so necessary for men to understand, to believe in, in order to obtain salvation.

Gives Example

For example, and I think perhaps this is as good an example as I could give, I will quote to you the first article of religion of the great evangelical church, the Church of England, which has a following of many millions of people, in reference to God, his personality, etc., and leave you to judge for yourselves as to the correctness or otherwise of their conception. It reads as follows:

"There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body, parts or pas-

sions; of infinite power, wisdom and goodness; the maker and preserver of all things visible and invisible; and in the unity of this Godhead there are three persons, of substance, power and eternity, the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost."

Analyze that article of religion for a moment.

It is the declaration of three in one, three personages of one substance, having no body, no parts, no passions, consequently no form—a formless God—yet they would ascribe to him supreme power. I am sure it is displeasing to our Heavenly Father, in the light of all the revelations he has given of himself in the various dispensations down to the present time, and the declarations of the prophets which are of record and preserved unto us in the Holy Bible, for men to be so in the dark with respect to him. The person who worships the sun or the moon or the stars or who makes a golden calf to kneel down to and worship, I am sure does that which is displeasing to the Lord, and I do not know how much less displeasing it would be for a person to believe in a substance having no body, no parts, no passions, in the light of the truth that has come to us in this and in other dispensations.

Shows Need

There has never been, I am sure, a greater need for anything among the children of man than the need, at the opening of this Gospel dispensation, of the revelation of the Father and the Son given to the boy Joseph Smith, a revelation to the world, a revelation to him because he was raised up of the Lord to accomplish a mighty work and it was necessary that his faith be correctly grounded, that he should have a correct understanding of God the Eternal Father and his Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost as well.

This knowledge of the Holy Ghost was later reviewed to him that his faith might never waver, whatever trials might come into his life. We know from his history that he was tried, from the time of his receiving the first manifestation and revelation of the Father and the Son, until the day of his death. He needed that knowledge to buoy him up; he never faltered.

A Foundation of Faith

The children of men need that knowledge, the foundation of which is faith, and their acceptance of and obedience unto it are necessary unto man's salvation. Incidentally I might say that in the restoration of this Gospel through the instrumentality of the Prophet Joseph comes to the Latter-day Saints the tremendous responsibility to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom in all the world as a witness before the end shall come, which thing—the appearing of our Lord and Savior—all good Christian people are looking for. And in the preaching of this Gospel it is our responsibility to bear witness of the fact of the visitation

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Priesthood and Womanhood

By Leah D. Widdsoe

THIS week our discussion is a continuation of question number ten regarding possible sex-rivalry—a subject which is troublesome in certain parts of the world.



An understanding of the Priesthood and its proper use precludes all feeling of any possible jealousy by either men or women.

Where women choose to magnify their motherhood, either direct or vicarious, progress and happiness is the sure result. Indeed, a woman who would sacrifice the greatest of all earth professions, that of motherhood, which is hers by right of sex, for the silly reason of proving that she can do a man's work as well as any man, or for any other reason, is something less than a true woman, and is to be pitied as well as condemned.

While on the other hand, it is but a small and puny-souled man who could wish to humiliate woman as a class and keep her as the inferior sex; for men can never rise superior to the women who bear and nurture them. The man who fears the dominance of woman or suspects that she is now attempting to take revenge on man for the centuries that her sex had been held in thralldom before the law—such a man admits his own inferiority and condemns the mother who gave him life.

Women Recognized as Equal

When women are recognized as the equal and partners of men in the good game of life and given the privilege of traveling side by side with them, while sharing equally the load, they will be more than willing to accord men the presidency of all domestic councils and will always look up to them as leaders—when, only when, they are worthy leaders.

The history of family life in this Church is ample proof of that statement. The normal woman is glad to be led—in righteousness, she craves the companionship of a man, a real man, one whom she may honor and respect and on whose wise judgment she may lean. There are times when a man desires the same support from a good wife. So that in the last analysis, life to be complete must be shared by well matched "teammates," each one carrying a full share of life's responsibility, but with a comfortable understanding that man is the leader, for his is the final responsibility for family integrity. When this relation is understood and practiced, there can be no room for sex-rivalry; it is just crowded out of the picture—where it belongs.

Here the thinking woman may remark, "All this is very well, if all men were righteous and natural leaders, and all women were rath-

er shrinking by nature and glad to lean on some one and be led. But what about the countless cases where unquestionably women possess greater powers of leadership than their husbands, or where the husband is unable to lead or even provide for himself, to say nothing of the family?"

It is undeniable that there are weak men as well as weak women, and it is equally true that such men are often attracted to and marry strong, capable women; and vice versa. What then? Brigham Young partly answered the question when he said, on one occasion:

"I have counselled every woman of this Church to let her husband be her file leader; he leads her and those above him in the priesthood lead him. But I never counselled a woman to follow her husband to hell!... I am sanguine and most emphatic on that subject.... If a man is determined to 'expose the lives of his friends, let that man go to the devil and to destruction alone.'" (Discourses of Brigham Young, p. 211).

Families in such cases must make their own adjustments.

Woman's First Claim

The wise woman, however, will place her motherhood above every claim and not allow it to become secondary to anything. The wise man will accept the situation and be content to be the titular head of the family only, giving his best so far as his capacity allows. If a man is vicious or unwilling to do right, that brings in another factor, and is not within the scope of this discussion. Women are weak and fall into error, also; but that too is beside the question.

In the Church, however, it is different. There no adjustment can be made. The Priesthood always presides and must, for the sake of order. The women of a congregation or auxiliary—many of them—may be wiser, far greater in mental powers, even greater in actual power of leadership than the men who preside over them. That signifies nothing. The Priesthood is not bestowed on the basis of mental power but is given to good men and they exercise it by right of divine gift, called upon by the leaders of the Church. Woman has her gift of equal magnitude, and that is bestowed on the simple and weak as well as upon those who are great and strong. Sex enters here and is indispensible. It is eternal, so why quarrel with it? A wiser power than any on earth understands why a spirit in the far off beginning was male or female. On earth there is waiting work for each to do.

Women Given Own Field

The important thing to consider here is that there is scope in this Church for every woman to exercise all her greatest powers and talents. If she is a natural leader then in her own field may she demonstrate and use her powers to the utmost. No one could or would hold her back.

Never in history have women enjoyed the freedom of thought and action accorded the women of this Church. In the temples and sacred buildings of the past women were not permitted to go beyond the outer court. In the Jewish synagogues to this day women are not permitted to worship with the men; they are separated by a distinct wall or barrier. While in this Church from the day of its restoration women have been accorded their full religious franchise and in the temples of the restored gospel a man may not partake of the highest ordinances without his wife by his side. In all life pursuits she is given her entire independence.

This gives to women a mighty responsibility which, if she honors the uses, will be increased in power upon her; but if she ignores it or treats it lightly or fails to magnify it, she may lose that which she now possesses and thereby forfeit her birthright. For this great privilege women in this Church should be eternally grateful and willing to use and cherish this precious and priceless relationship. Where much is given, much is expected.

Tooele Vanguard's Organization Forms

Organization of Vanguard work in the Tooele district was affected last Tuesday night at a meeting in Grantsville.

A total of 55 boys 15 and 16 years of age attended the organization meeting also attended by district and troop officers.

Both wards in Grantsville, and the Tooele North ward, have troops organized and others are in the process of organization. The work in the stake is definitely launched after several years of preparation.

The Hearts of the Children

Fulfillment of Prophecy in the 'Third Reich'

Germany's "new deal" under Hitler has brought about some unusual situations in genealogical and family research. In this series of ten articles, President Oliver H. Budge, of the German-Austrian mission, gives some interesting sidelights on this new German activity.

ONE of the greatest wholesale fulfillments of prophecy that I have ever witnessed is being carried on right in front of our eyes here in the present day "Reborn Germany." Those ringing words of Malachi in the last two verses of the Old Testament have had a great influence in the "Third Reich."

Genealogy and anthropology are one of the most far-reaching of the recent developments in this country. They are not hobbies nor matters of choice, but realities. Public officials of every class are required to present a certificate (pedigree chart) of their ancestors in order to retain their positions. Commissions have been instituted by the government for the purpose of preserving all old documents. Archives are being built up, societies are being organized and the newspapers and periodicals are full of such material.

The genealogical fever has transplanted itself not only into the hearts of the specialists in this line, but also into the very being of the laymen.

Our members who were before active now have the opportunity to visit special classes provided by the city schools and colleges where they live. In Berlin, our Berlin Genealogical society has made special arrangements with the Technical Academy whereby it can send fifteen or twenty of its members there for instruction. Those who were already engaged in the work are working harder. Those who didn't know what genealogy was, are now learning.

The fact that every official has to have his pedigree charts, causes the government to make it more easy for these persons to obtain them.

Our members have taken advantage of this opportunity and have received much valuable information in regards to the same. Entrance into the various parishes has been made easy. Writing to pastors has been successful because they have been obliged to answer letters written for genealogical information. Thus one whole nation and a world power has turned with one mind toward its fathers.