



The Gospel Doctrine Class



Doctrine & Covenants - Lesson 9

The Only True and Living Church

“The rise of the Church of Christ in these last days, ...it being regularly organized and established agreeable to the laws of our country, by the will and commandments of God” (D&C 20:1)

D&C 20:1–36, 68–69, 75–79; 21; 27; 115:1–4

A study of this lesson will help us learn about the restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ through the Prophet Joseph Smith, help us appreciate the blessings of Church membership, and encourage us to show the Lord our gratitude for membership in His Church.

President Gordon B. Hinckley: "This day of organization was, in effect, a day of commencement, the graduation for Joseph from ten years of remarkable schooling. It had begun with the incomparable vision in the grove in the spring of 1820, when the Father and the Son appeared to the fourteen-year-old boy. It had continued with the tutoring from Moroni, with both warnings and instructions given on multiple occasions. Then there was the translation of the ancient record, and the inspiration, the knowledge, the revelation that came from that experience. There was the bestowal of divine authority, the ancient priesthood again conferred upon men by those who were its rightful possessors—John the Baptist in the case of the Aaronic Priesthood, and Peter, James, and John in the case of the Melchizedek. There were revelations, a number of them, in which the voice of God was heard again, and the channel of communication opened between man and the Creator. All of these were preliminary to that historic April 6." (Ensign, Apr 1980, pp11-12)

President Harold B. Lee: "April 6, 1973, is a particularly significant date because it commemorates not only the anniversary of the organization of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in this dispensation, but also the anniversary of the birth of the Savior, our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ." (Conference Report, Apr 1973)

President George Q. Cannon: "The organization was made on the day and after the pattern dictated by God in a revelation given to Joseph Smith. The Church was called after the name of Jesus Christ; because he so ordered. Jesus accepted the Church, declared it to be his own and empowered it to minister on earth in his name." (Life of Joseph Smith the Prophet, p74)

Joseph Fielding Smith: "The brethren at times called it the Church of Christ and at other times the Church of the Latter-day Saints, and this was becoming a fixed custom throughout the

Church. On this occasion the Lord called the attention of all the councils to the fact that he had given the Church its name and by that name it should be called. It is a very easy matter for us to adopt some other title, apparently for convenience, as the correct name is rather lengthy. For instance we have, in these later days, fallen into the habit of speaking of the Church as the 'Mormon Church,' or as 'the Restored Church,' setting aside the correct titles. It is true that even back in the days of the Prophet the Church was at times called the 'Mormon Church,' but this was rare, although we were quite generally referred to as 'Mormons,' and we answered to that title. Since the Lord felt it important to remind the councils of the Church of its correct name and inform them that by that name it should be known in the last days, we should endeavor to carry out this commandment more nearly than it is the custom for many of us to do." (Church History & Modern Revelation, 3:114-15)

President Ezra Taft Benson: "The most important prophet, so far as we are concerned, is the one who is living in our day and age. This is the prophet who has today's instructions from God to us. God's revelation to Adam did not instruct Noah how to build the ark. Every generation has need of the ancient scripture, plus the current scripture from the living prophet. Therefore, the most crucial reading and pondering that you should do is of the latest inspired words from the Lord's mouthpiece." (New Era, May 1975, p16)

Elder Melvin J. Ballard: "No man goes away from this Church and becomes an apostate in a week, nor in a month. It is a slow process. The one thing that would make for the safety of every man and woman would be to appear at the sacrament table every Sabbath day. We would not get very far away in a week-not so far away that, by the process of self-investigation, we could not rectify the wrongs we may have done. If we should refrain from partaking of the sacrament, condemned by ourselves as unworthy to receive these emblems, we could not endure that long, and we would soon, I am sure, have the spirit of repentance. The road to the sacrament table is the path of safety for Latter-day Saints." (quoted in Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon, 4:121)

Next Week's Reading Assignment
D&C 25

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