



The Gospel Doctrine Class



Doctrine & Covenants - Lesson 19

The Plan of Salvation

“For they shall be judged according to their works, and every man shall receive according to his own works, his own dominion, in the mansions which are prepared” (D&C 76:111)

A study of this lesson will help us understand the grand scope of the plan of salvation and to encourage us to live according to our knowledge of the plan.

Joseph Smith: "All men know that they must die. And it is important that we should understand the reasons and causes of our exposure to the vicissitudes of life and death, and the designs and purposes of God in our coming into the world, our sufferings here, and our departure hence. What is the object of our coming into existence, then dying and falling away, to be here no more? It is but reasonable to suppose that God would reveal something in reference to the matter, and it is a subject we ought to study more than any other. We ought to study it day and night, for the world is ignorant in reference to their true condition and relation. If we have any claim on our Heavenly Father for anything, it is for knowledge on this important subject." (Teachings, 324)

Joseph Smith: "The great plan of salvation is a theme which ought to occupy our strict attention, and be re- garded as one of heaven's best gifts to mankind." (Teachings, p68)

Brigham Young: "From the spirit and tenor the ancient Scriptures and revelations which we have received, it is plainly set forth that there are men preappointed to perform certain works in their lifetime, and bring to pass certain ends and purposes in the economy of heaven." (Discourses of Brigham Young, p55)

Joseph Smith: "Every man who has a calling to minister to the inhabitants of the world was ordained to that very purpose in the Grand Council of heaven before this world was. I suppose that I was ordained to this very office in that Grand Council. It is the testimony that I want that I am God's servant, and this people His people." (History of the Church, 6:364)

Joseph Smith: "Happiness is the object and design of our existence; and will be the end thereof, if we pursue the path

that leads to it; and this path is virtue, uprightness, faithfulness, holiness, and keeping all the commandments of God. But we cannot keep all the commandments without first knowing them, and we cannot expect to know all, or more than we now know unless we comply with or keep those we have already received." (Teachings, p255)

Elder Sylvester Q. Cannon: "We are eternal beings spiritually. We have received through the blessing of the Lord the opportunity to come here upon the earth in mortality, to live and to accomplish our mission; and after we leave here we will go into the spirit world. The day will come when we will be resurrected and become immortal beings and will have to account for our deeds. We will receive the blessings that we merit according to our deeds here in the flesh and our preparations for immortality." (CR, April 1941)

We are blessed in our day, as members of the Church to have trail markers, maps, and trail guides to lead us to our ultimate destiny, eternal life.

- **The Map:** The Holy Scriptures. We have been blessed with additional scripture that provides us with a unique knowledge of the plan of salvation. The Book of Mormon, Pearl of Great Price, and the Doctrine and Covenants reveal much about our eternal destiny and the path that we must follow.
- **Trail Markers:** Prophets, Apostles, and other church leaders. They stand as sentinels at critical points along the path. They point us in the right direction. They warn us of paths that lead away from righteousness.
- **The Trail Guide:** If we live worthy, we are blessed to have the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost to guide us as we wend our way up the path to the summit of the mountain, eternal life with God.

Next Week's Reading Assignment

D&C 76; 131; 132:19–24; 137