



The Gospel Doctrine Class



Doctrine & Covenants - Lesson 23

Seek Learning

“And as all have not faith, seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith.” (D&C 88:118)

A study of this lesson will encourage us to learn “by study and also by faith” throughout our lives (D&C 88:118).

Joseph Smith: "A man is saved no faster than he gains knowledge." (TPJS, p217)

Elder John A. Widtsoe: "We believe in education, the gathering of knowledge and the training of the mind. The Church itself is really an educational institution. Traditionally, we are an education-loving people." (Conference Report, Oct 1944)

President John Taylor: "We ought to foster education and intelligence of every kind; cultivate literary tastes, and men of literary and scientific talent should improve that talent; and all should magnify the gifts which God has given unto them. ... If there is anything good and praiseworthy in morals, religion, science, or anything calculated to exalt and ennoble man, we are after it. But with all our getting, we want to get understanding, and that understanding which flows from God." (The Gospel Kingdom, p277)

President Gordon B. Hinckley: "You know that your children will read. They will read books and they will read magazines and newspapers. Cultivate within them a taste for the best. While they are very young, read to them the great stories which have become immortal because of the virtues they teach. Expose them to good books. Let there be a corner somewhere in your house, be it ever so small, where they will see at least a few books of the kind upon which great minds have been nourished." (Conference Report, Oct 1975)

President Gordon B. Hinckley: "I should like to suggest that you follow that injunction given by the Son of God. With all of your learning, learn of him. With all of your study, seek knowledge of the Master. That knowledge will complement in a wonderful way the secular training you receive and give a fulness to your life and character that can come in no other way." (Conference Report, Oct 1964)

Elder Dallin H. Oaks: "The things of God cannot be learned solely by study and reason. Despite their essential and beneficial uses, the methods of study and reason are insufficient as ways

of approaching God and understanding the doctrines of his gospel." (The Lord's Way, p56)

President Marion G. Romney of the First Presidency said: "I believe in study. I believe that men learn much through study. ... I also believe, however, and know, that learning by study is greatly accelerated by faith." (Learning for the Eternities, p72)

Joseph Fielding McConkie: "The eyes of faith enable us to see much that otherwise goes unobserved, whereas those who refuse to see and feel the things of the Spirit eventually become blind to such things and beyond feeling." (Answers: Straightforward Answers To Tough Gospel Questions, p174)

Elder John A. Widtsoe: "The temple is a place of instruction. Here the principles of the gospel are reviewed and profound truths of the kingdom of God are unfolded. If we enter the temple in the right spirit and are attentive, we go out enriched in gospel knowledge and wisdom." (quoted in Ensign, Jan 1972, pp56-57)

Elder Boyd K. Packer: "The temple is a great school. It is a house of learning. In the temples the atmosphere is maintained so that it is ideal for instruction in matters that are deeply spiritual. ...

"The temple ceremony will not be fully understood at first experience. It will only be partly understood. Return again and again and again. Return to learn. Things that have troubled you or things that have been puzzling or things that have been mysterious will become known to you. Many of them will be the quiet, personal things that you really cannot explain to anyone else. But to you they are things known. ...

"So look toward the temple. Point your children toward the temple. From the days of their infancy, direct their attention to it, and begin their preparation for the day when they may enter the holy temple.

"In the meantime, be teachable yourself, be reverent. Drink deeply from the teachings—the symbolic, deeply spiritual teachings—available only in the temple." (The Holy Temple [pamphlet, 1982], pp6-8)

Next Week's Reading Assignment
D&C 26; 28; 43:1–7; 50; 52:14–19