

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

TO RECEIVE A FULLNESS

"But behold all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things. Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy. And the Messiah cometh in the fullness of time, that he may redeem the children of men from the fall. And because that they are redeemed from the fall they have become free forever, knowing good from evil; to act for themselves and not be acted upon, save it be by the punishment of the law at the great and last day, according to the commandments which God hath given. Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man. And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life through the great Mediator of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil; for he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself. (*Book of Mormon 2 Nephi 2:24-27*)

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is not just a *part way* Gospel. It is a Gospel of a fullness of blessings and of perfections. Unless we prepare for perfection, through the Gospel, it is not useful to us. In the scripture just mentioned from the Book of Mormon we are informed that we are to gain joy and that the way has been prepared for us to receive that joy. Lehi tells us that **"all things are given which are expedient unto man."** We are given sufficient instructions and commandments to work out our own salvation and return to God to receive salvation and perfection in the Kingdom of God.

Many people consider the Gospel to be an easy road of many paths, which we can follow if we wish, and refuse to follow if we wish. These people profess to believe in God and they claim that because God is merciful, He will forgive them their little sins and shortcomings and in the end will permit them to enter the Kingdom of God. This idea is false and is a dangerous idea to have. The prophets of God have called this idea **"being led into carnal security"**, or in other words, being deceived into thinking that we will be saved through the mercy of God and not through our good works. Those who believe this will lose their place in God's Kingdom if they do not repent and return to the true meaning of the Gospel.

The Gospel is a way of life and a means to an end. This, Christ clearly taught. He said, **"I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no man cometh to the Father, but by me."** (*John 14:6*) We can compare the Gospel with a contract in which we make an agreement with God to obey all His commandments. He then makes an agreement to cleanse us of our sins, forgive us of all our evil deeds and make it possible for us to enter His Kingdom. It is necessary for both parties to keep their part of a contract. Our requirements are to first, obey the commandments and then we can receive the rewards of the contract. In fact, God has promised us more than just entrance into His Kingdom. He has promised to share with us all that He possesses. Let us read from the scriptures, some of the promises which God makes to those who fulfill their part of the Gospel contract. **"The spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ: if it so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."** (*Romans 8:16-17*) Speaking about those who keep God's commandments, the Lord said this to the Prophet Joseph Smith. **"For he**

that receiveth my servants receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth my Father; and he that receiveth my Father receiveth my Father's kingdom; therefore, all that my Father hath shall be given unto him." (Doctrine and Covenants 84:36-38) However, the Lord added, **"And no man receiveth a fullness unless he keepeth the commandments, He that keepeth the commandments receiveth truth and light until he is glorified in truth and knoweth all things." (Doctrine and Covenants 93:27-28)**

We have no reason to suppose that we can willingly and knowingly, sin a little bit today and tomorrow, and break a few of God's little laws now and repent tomorrow. There is no reason to suppose that God will receive the repentance of one who knowingly and willfully disregards His commandments. The law of repentance was provided as a means for those who have sinned without knowledge, or those who were momentarily deceived by the temptations of Satan, to receive forgiveness for their wrongdoings.

None of the commandments of God can be considered small. They are all important and necessary in keeping the commandments of God. It is easy to say, **"A cup of tea today and a cigarette tomorrow will not keep me out of the Kingdom of God."** Or perhaps we may justify our failure to an honest tithing by telling ourselves, **"I can't really afford to pay tithing so the Lord will not consider it wrong if I do not pay tithing."** Some may even say, **"Because it is raining today, God would not expect me to go to Church and partake of the Sacrament."**

There are many excuses for disobeying God. However, these excuses are not given by God but by man. Can we really say that God will accept these excuses for our disobedience. Let us read what He has told us about these excuses we make up when we disobey Him. **"For I the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance." (Doctrine and Covenants 1:31)**

We all know that the Gospel gives us a fullness of blessings. Everything that God has, will be shared with us through the Gospel. However, to receive this fullness of blessings, we must have a fullness of obedience.

While Christ was on the earth he established the Gospel among the people and told them that the purpose of this Gospel was not to bring earthly power or wealth to the people, but to lead them to the road of life and in the way of the Lord. Probably the most beautiful words which Christ spoke to the people are about God's love for them and his willingness to protect them and bless them. **"And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after; and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the Kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." (Luke 12:29-32)**

This is a beautiful message, to learn that God is anxiously awaiting our compliance to the requirements of salvation so that he may give us the blessings of His Kingdom. We often read that **"God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son..."** These beautiful words also tell us of God's desire to lead us to salvation.

With this knowledge of God's desires toward us, how can we do anything but completely obey His commandments. We who know of God's great work among the children of men since the

time of Adam, have more reason than any other people to obey the Gospel and work our own salvation.

In conclusion, let us remember the great blessings which God has given us through the restoration of the Gospel in these latter days. We are recipients of these great blessings. Our testimony of the Gospel has been given us through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. With this in mind let us give attention to these words of Christ, "**For unto whomsoever much is given, of him be much required: . . .**" (*Luke 12:48*)

May God bless us to be 100 percent faithful to our covenants with Him that we will receive a fullness of the blessing which He has promised. Only by receiving this fullness can we gain eternal salvation in God's Kingdom.

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