

Zion's Advocate

*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;"*

1 Nephi 3:187

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Wings of Praise

*Lift up your voice as birds toward heaven
In praise to His holy name
Let your thoughts and your prayers be unending
And your actions will follow the same*

*Be willing to give Him first place in your heart
The promise is that He'll be there
And then when you're tempted, he'll lift you up
So you won't be caught in a snare.*

*It is said where your treasure is settled
There will your heart also be
And if it is here on the things of this life
Your soul is in bondage, not free*

*We tend to want something for nothing
Or hurry to buy all that we see
But salvation is ours just for asking
If we come to Him on bended knee*

*For after all we can do toward salvation
It cannot be purchased, just learned
It is by His grace He redeemed us
It's not something that we somehow earned*

*So lift up your voice toward the heaven
Let it soar on the wings of a dove
And join in the heavenly chorus
With anthems of God's Holy Love.*

—Melissa McGhee

—In This Issue—

EDITORIAL—Cherishing What We
Already Have - *Elder Robert Dewaele*. . . . 177

RESTORATION TEACHINGS
EXAMINED—A Treatise on the Book
of Commandments, The Evening &
The Morning Star, and the Doctrine &
Covenants - *Apostle William A. Sheldon*. . . 178

DEVELOPING A ZIONIC ATTITUDE—

An Eye Single to the Glory of God -
Apostle Smith Brickhouse 183

ARTICLE—A Call to Repentance—
Elder Arthur G. Smith 186

QUESTIONNAIRE - *Harvey E. Seibel* . . . 189

PATHLIGHTS—Testimony -
Velma J. Wheaton 191

NEWS 192

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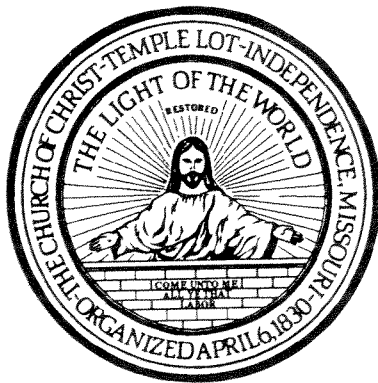
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ALL-CAPS, and italics. The most important thing, though, is to send the material—the staff can arrange for typing or otherwise preparing anything you send.

Word Processors/Computers: We can utilize text files on IBM or compatible computer floppy disk of any size or format and nearly any word processor. If you have this capability, it is a big help to our process.

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Articles published in this paper do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church, nor the opinions of the editorial staff. Declarations and notices authorized by the General Conference reflect the practices and beliefs of the General Church.

ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

To promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour;
To promote His Teachings & His Church, the Church of Christ
To be a voice of warning to His people; to be Zion's advocate.

Cherishing What We Already Have

By Elder Robert Dewaele

This last April Minister's Conference impressed upon me the need to carefully consider what our Church stands for, and what the restored Gospel truly means to us all.

From Christ's ministry until the year 1830, it became increasingly clear that the Gospel, which had been given out in its pure form, had become increasingly imperfect through the hand of men.

We need to reflect upon what first drew us to the restored Gospel. Most of our membership have some very specific testimonies as to why they joined the Church of Christ, Temple Lot.

There are certain aspects of the restored Gospel that are quite unique. Modern day revelation and a belief in the need for Zion are but two of the many differences from other beliefs. Another item which sets us apart is the multiple scriptures that we believe in, namely the Bible, Book of Mormon, and the Book of Commandments.

The frequent use of these scriptures can act as a solid guide to help us find our way through life's difficulties. This multiplicity of scriptures can also act as a check and balance

system to help keep us from developing false beliefs.

As a church, and as individuals, we need to become more firm in our core beliefs, and cast aside divisive issues that could be resolved through prayer and meditation.

Chapter 5 of III Nephi, vv. 36-42, probably best conveys what I am attempting to express. It begins:

"Verily, verily I say unto you, that this is my doctrine; and I bear record of it from the Father; and whoso believeth in me, believeth in the Father also; And unto him will the Father bear record of me; for he will visit him with fire and with the Holy Ghost; And thus will the Father bear record of me; and the Holy Ghost will bear record unto him of the Father and me; for the Father, and I, and the Holy Ghost, are one. And again I say unto you, Ye must repent, and become as a little child, and be baptized in my name, or ye can in no wise receive these things. And again I say unto you, Ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little child, or ye can in no wise inherit the kingdom of God. Verily, verily I say unto you, that

this is my doctrine; and whoso buildeth upon this, buildeth upon my rock; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them. And whoso shall declare MORE or LESS than this, and establish it for my doctrine, the same cometh of evil, and is not built upon my rock, but he buildeth upon a sandy foundation, and the gates of hell standeth open to receive such, when the floods come, and the winds beat upon them."

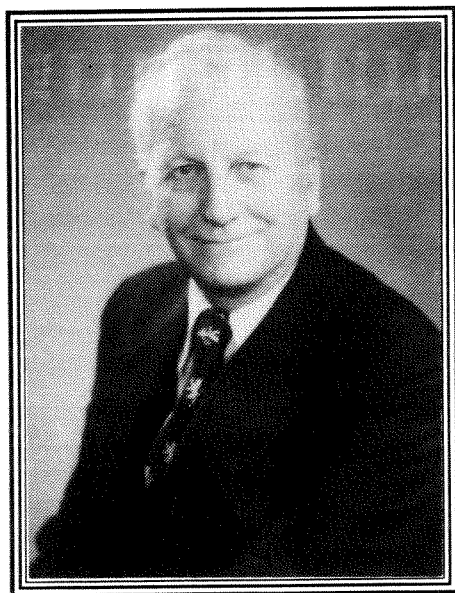
With these scriptures as a backdrop, it is most clear that any initiative taken, or declaration made, be in accordance with all that the scriptures have presented on a given subject.

If we begin to twist the meaning of the scriptures or commandments, we will surely pay a high price for ignoring these simple instructions.

Just as Joseph Smith relied upon divine guidance at a time when he was unsure about certain steps that he needed to take in his life, we also need to heed the direction of the Holy Spirit.

RESTORATION TEACHINGS EXAMINED

A Treatise on the Book of Commandments, The Evening & The Morning Star, and the Doctrine & Covenants



By Apostle
William A. Sheldon

This treatise is intended as a defense of the *Book of Commandments* published in 1833, and its relevance to revelations published in *The Evening & The Morning Star*, but more so to the same revelations as published in the *Doctrine & Covenants*. In this we have had access to photo-mechanical copies of each of these books, so the arrangement, the wording and punctuation are identical with

original copies. Hereafter, for the sake of brevity, we will reference these books as BkC, E&M Star and D&C, respectively.

A booklet published in March 1996 seeks to degrade the BkC in relation to the D&C, both of which were produced as publications of revelations to the Church during the life of Joseph Smith, a latter day prophet of God. The booklet is entitled *A Recurring Issue: the authenticity of the BkC*, written by Thomas R. Beil. In it is reproduced reviews having been made by Joseph Smith III and by his brother, Israel A. Smith, former presidents of the RLDS Church, and also by Seventy Delbert D. Smith of that church. Incidentally: this present effort was not instigated by the booklet mentioned.

The booklet is interesting and plausible from the standpoint of the RLDS Church, if positions taken go unchallenged. However, recorded historical events are not always based on facts, and often reflect a bias based on traditional con-

Suggestions by anyone that the BkC as printed was grossly in error from the manuscript prepared by Joseph Smith and approved by a conference of four days held in Hiram, Ohio, in November 1831, is absurd to say the least.

cepts in which rehearsal, repeated again and again, may give a coloring of truth which will not stand under close scrutiny.

It is not our purpose to engage in a protracted discussion regarding erroneous conclusions reached by the above-named Smiths, though it might well be done. ALL the objections to the BkC as an approved, authorized book have been exploded long ago, as may be seen

by reading Apostle Dan McGregor's booklet, *Changing Of The Revelations* and also Apostle Clarence Wheaton's booklet, *The BkC Controversy Reviewed*. That the revelations had been circulated in book form, essentially as approved by Joseph Smith and others is well established in these two booklets. Nevertheless, the old maxim holds true: "A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still." This is especially true if the man has an "ax to grind", so to speak, or in other words, as in the matter before us, he has a vested interest in the changed revelations as they appear in the D&C.

Suggestions by anyone that the BkC as printed was grossly in error from the manuscript prepared by Joseph Smith and approved by a conference of four days held in Hiram, Ohio, in November 1831, is absurd to say the least. It was amply refuted by our two apostles.

The first publication of the revelations is found in the E&M Star printed by W. W. Phelps for the Church in 1832-33 in Independence, Missouri. These were portions of selected revelations and not the total of those in the hands of Oliver Cowdery and Phelps; but those which were printed correspond with little difference from the same appearing later in the BkC, and do differ to a great extent from those as published about three years later in the D&C.

The differences between the BkC and the D&C are so

great in a comparison of the same revelations as to rule out any suggestion that they were only minor, which might have developed unintentionally through human error. McGregor stated that there are a total of 1,667 word alterations, both by way of addition and also deletion. The large majority of differences were those added. These were certainly done intentionally, and when one examines the differences, it is obvious that many were done in order to support the drastic changes which occurred in the Church structure of officers AFTER the BkC had been published. I refer to the introduction into the church of high priests, of patriarchs, a standing high council and a presidency of the high priesthood which was also a presidency over the whole church. This was all alien to the scriptural order of ministry as found in the Bible and Book of Mormon, notwithstanding the revelation which stated that the Church was to be "like unto the Church which was taught by my disciples in the days of old" (BkC 4:5). The wording of this paragraph is entirely deleted from the same 'revelation' as found in D&C 5. The reason is obvious: by 1835, when the D&C was first published, the Church was far removed in its structure from the scriptural pattern and from the apostolic order which the Lord intended, as given by revelation in June 1829. The "twelve" were belatedly appointed six years after

the commandment was given. This is only mentioned to correct an assumption that the "twelve apostles" had written and signed a testimony to the truth of the D&C.

At a general assembly of the Church at Kirtland, Ohio, on 17 August 1835, a written statement was read which was not signed by the "twelve" (though their names were attached by others) giving a testimony in favor of the D&C. The facts are that the "twelve" were not present at that assembly, but had gone on an eastern states mission, so they could neither acknowledge nor repudiate the representation. Again: they did not sign the testimony presented. In actuality, the statement was the identical statement prepared with the evident intention of publication in the BkC in 1831; however this was not done. The statement was given by revelation, as indicated by Joseph Smith, and was to be signed by all present. There were ten present, including Joseph Smith, but of these, there were only three men who later were numbered with the "twelve". It is highly unlikely that the "twelve" gave their approval of the 1835 D&C (though they undoubtedly concurred later in sentiment), and they certainly DID NOT give their approval, as a body, to the identically worded testimony prepared in 1831 for the BkC, for the very plain reason that they had not been appointed as apostles until 1835.

Nevertheless, the revelations were arranged by Joseph Smith because of conference action at Hiram, Ohio, on 1 November 1831, in preparation for Oliver Cowdery and John Whitmer to carry them to Independence, Missouri. See RLDS History of the Church, p. 221. At this same conference, the preface was given for the BkC. This is chapter one of the book, yet, strangely, this preface which gives the Lord's approval of the revelations as contained in the BkC was appropriated and given as Section 1 of the 1835 D&C, with its drastically revised revelations of the same time frame. Of course, that preface is included with all subsequent editions of the D&C.

After this arrangement of the revelations and approval by the Nov. 1831 conference, a council was had in Independence, Missouri, in which further provision was made for publication of the revelations. On 1 May 1832, this council arranged for 3,000 copies to be printed of the BkC as a first edition, and "that William W. Phelps, Oliver Cowdery and John Whitmer be appointed to review and prepare such revelations as shall be deemed proper for publication, for the press, and print them as soon as possible at Independence, Missouri." (Times & Seasons, vol. 5, p. 625).

This gave discretion to these three men as to which revelations in their possession should be published. There-

fore, certain revelations were withheld from publication, such as those found in the RLDS D&C. sections 15, 22, 31, 36, 51

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& 57, which had been given within the time frame of those published in the BkC.

Those who have opposed the BkC as an acceptable publication of the revelations have stated that it was an unfinished book; that the final wording on the last page ended as an incomplete statement; and they point out that in the manuscript there is a printer's "take" mark following the words "the rebellious are not of the blood of Ephraim." Such a mark indicated that this was as far as the printer had gotten in the setting of the type, and these critics declare that because the press was destroyed at that point in time, therefore, the book was incomplete; but consider this: The

manuscript continued on, just as it is found in the D&C. It reads: "...the rebellious are not of the blood of Ephraim, wherefore they shall be plucked out. Behold, I, the Lord have made my church in these last days, like unto a judge sitting on a hill, or in a high place, to judge the nations..."

Do you not suppose that this language, if it had been printed in 1833, would have incensed the Missourians who were not of the Church?? Could it be that Cowdery, Phelps and Whitmer had in mind that such warning as given in BkC 43:8 (RLDS D&C 41:2), was applicable to enemies outside the church, and that they deliberately withheld the printing of the remainder of that revelation as found in RLDS D&C 64? In BkC 43:8 we find:

"For it is not meet that the things which belong to the children of the kingdom, should be given to them that are not worthy, or to dogs, or the pearls to be cast before swine."

Whether this assumption is true or not, it remains a fact of history that many of those in the church boasted that the Lord had given it unto them to possess this land in Missouri. The native Missourians were inflamed by such, which was a cause for the burning of the printing office in Independence in 1833. These rash statements and actions of some contributed to the expulsion of the saints in Independence and finally the state.

Whatever may be supposed, here is some further information relative to the printing of the BkC, in which we are indebted to Seventy Delbert Smith for his quotation from the words of Walter W. Smith, editor of the RLDS Journal of History, Feb. 9, 1921, regarding the fact that there were 160 pages in the 1833 BkC:

The little book (the BkC) was being published in what is called 32 mo, meaning that each form would be folded 16 times, making 32 pages. Proofs for five of these had been struck off, which made 160 pages, and there the BkC ended five times 32, the number of pages in each of the folds, made just 160 pages.

It was on the last line of p. 160, which line is at the bottom of the page, wherein are the words - "the rebellious are not of the blood of Ephraim" - thus ending the sentence. It is a peculiar circumstance that these words appear at the very bottom of page 160, which was the last page of that printed form of 32 pages. The last word, "Ephraim", is followed by a PERIOD mark, showing that this was the intended ending of the sentence. That last word does not even reach to the end of the line; it is less than half-way. Phelps intentionally deleted the remainder of the wording in that revelation, and so signified by the "period" mark! Whether this was concurred by Cowdery and Whitmer could only be speculation.

That this was the intended

ending of the book is made obvious by the fact that the five forms of 32 pages each had been printed, and perhaps enough of them by which to publish the 3,000 authorized copies of the book. Why would the concluding form have been printed with an incomplete sentence if the editor (Phelps) had not intended that the book was in fact complete so far as they intended it to be??

The conclusion had been reached by Joseph Smith and others to bind the books with paper covers, since a better binding could not be obtained without considerable delay in the publication. This may be verified by existing histories. Granting the possibility of the story that individuals picked up some unbound forms found in the street after the office was burned, we question the claim that some of these were later bound and distributed as books; there is no such record to be found. No, the binding was done at the printing office before the office was burned. Without doubt, there were a few bound copies in circulation. David Whitmer had one, which ended up in the Library of Congress at Washington, D.C. The New York Public Library has one, and so also, this Church of Christ, etc.

An interesting account was given by John Taylor (who became president of the LDS Church) concerning his having obtained copies of the BkC. It seems evident from this that he

was able to get some bound copies by the following story he told:

I ran my hand into a crack between the logs and pulled out a few at a time until I got as many as I could carry. When I was discovered a dozen men surrounded me and commenced throwing stones at me, and I shouted out, 'Oh my God must I be stoned to death like Stephen, for the sake of the word of the Lord?' The Lord gave me strength and skill to elude them and make my escape without being hit by a stone. (from The BkC Controversy Reviewed, p. 49).

Now, the following are written statements by others which verify the fact that they possessed or had seen a bound copy. In some of these reference is made to the page number in the original BkC, which is verifiable by comparison to an original book or photo copy of the same. These references could not have come from the E&M Star:

The following errors we have found in the commandments, as printed: Fortieth chapter, tenth verse, third line, instead of corruptible, put corrupted. Fourteenth verse of the same chapter, fifth line, instead of respecter to persons, put respecter of persons. Twenty-first verse, second line of the same chapter, instead of respecter to, put respecter of. Forty-fourth chapter, twelfth verse, last line, instead of hands, put heads. (Joseph Smith letter to Phelps, from RLDS History of the Church, vol. 1, p. 300)

Joseph Smith's correction

references correspond exactly with the original BkC.

In the third lecture on faith which Joseph Smith gave and which was included in the 1835 D&C, he referenced the BkC by line and paragraph as printed therein; his quotes were from chapter two and also chapter 37, paragraph 1.

In a series of questions and answers following these lectures as printed, it was asked: Where do you find the revelations which give us this idea of the character of the Deity? His answer: In the Bible and Book of Commandments. . .

In January 1834, a "Brother Leonard Rich was called in question...for selling the revelations at an extortionate price. This could only refer to the printed BkC. (from LDS History Of The Church, vol. 2, p. 27).

In June 1834, twelve elders of the church wrote and published a lengthy "appeal" concerning the persecution of the saints in Jackson County, Missouri, in 1833. In it, they referenced the BkC twice, giving page numbers with their quotations. This, also, could only have been quoted from a published BkC.

Much could be said relative to the BkC having been legally copyrighted, but this has been handled well by apostles McGregor and Wheaton, as also much detail relative to it having been recognized as an authorized compilation of revelations to that time with intent to pub-

lish, so I will forbear.

The facts presented here are ample to convince the honest seeker for truth who is not

Our Church position that all purported revelations from God are judged in the light of our accepted scriptures (the King James Bible and the Book of Mormon) is valid, and should be used in judging both the BkC and the D&C.

swayed by efforts to support the unscriptural offices which developed in the early church, and in which it became necessary to change the revelations in an effort to justify them. I refer to the offices of a first presidency over the high priesthood, the ordained office of high priest, a standing council of high priests, and a patriarchal order of priesthood.

These were early innovations into the Church which evolved from the simple, scriptural structure of 1829-30, and signaled the slip into apostasy which became more marked in 1834 by changing the name of the Church. Doctrinal deviations developed which confirmed a latter day apostasy. However, it is not our purpose

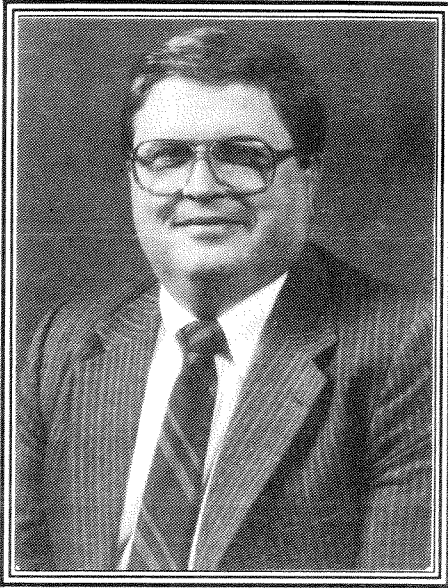
here to pursue this matter.

Suffice it to say that our recognition of these errors led to this remnant body discarding the organic changes in favor of the primitive order established by Christ and His apostles. We never did concur with the doctrinal changes, and therefore, by the Lord's grace, there has not been a full apostasy overtaking the latter day Church of Christ, as organized in 1830.

In conclusion: The changing of the early revelations does not invalidate the revelations which, for whatever reason, were not published in the BkC during 1828-31; nor indeed is there a blanket rejection of revelations given after the BkC era. Our Church position that all purported revelations from God are judged in the light of our accepted scriptures (the King James Bible and the Book of Mormon) is valid, and should be used in judging both the BkC and the D&C. Of course, we cannot accept changed revelations as having come from God.

DEVELOPING A ZIONIC ATTITUDE

An Eye Single to the Glory of God



By Apostle Smith Brickhouse

Focusing on the need for the Body of Christ to develop a zionic attitude in our lives, what should we review? What then must we do to have this zionic attitude, and what does it consist of?

Previous writers have reminded us to have Faith, Hope and Charity, and to endure until the end. 1 Nephi 3:187-189 states:

“And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost; And if they endure unto the end, they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the ever-

lasting kingdom of the Lamb; And whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be.”

A wonderful, hopeful promise to those that “seek to bring forth” Zion. If we wish for that promise to be fulfilled, we then need to bring about those things in our life that cause Zion.

Countless scriptures admonish us to endure until the end that we might stay on the path of righteousness which leads to Eternal Life. Other scriptures instruct us of the need to “diligently seek” the Lord. Mosiah 3:21 states:

“Therefore, I would that ye should be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in good works, that Christ, the Lord God Omnipotent, may seal you his, that you may be brought to heaven, that ye may have everlasting salvation and eternal life, through the wisdom, and power, and justice, and mercy of him, who created all things, in heaven and in earth, who is God above all. Amen.”

These scriptures and others written by holy men of old as they were inspired have been

preserved by God for instruction in these the last days.

As we journey along life’s path, we have a need to actively pursue the things of the Lord. There is a need for us to be “pro active” in our relationship with our Heavenly Father, a need for us to develop a Zionic Attitude in our life and in all our undertaking. We are to have “An Eye Single to the Glory of God”!

Christ in His teaching of the Sermon on the Mount gives us basic instruction on how we are to live our lives. Matthew 6:19-34 teaches the principle of the need to have our eye single toward God and the need to be fixed in our purpose.

In Matthew 6:19-24 and also in 3 Nephi 5:110-115 we read:

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be

evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

We have here two recordings of the fact that the Lord instructs us to have our "eye" be single. Our "eye" or our "focus or viewpoint" is to be focused on Christ and the glory of God, and should be the driving force upon which we base all our activities and actions. Proverbs 23:4-5 says:

"Labor not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom. Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven."

I Timothy 6:17-19 reads: *"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."*

James 5:1-11 reads: *"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you. Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door. Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them*

happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy."

The cares of the world are that we obtain the riches thereof. However, the Lord tells us not to be caught up with these things for they fade and fail. We therefore must remain focused. We must "stablish" our heart for the cause of Zion. Our thoughts, ambitions, actions and daily lives are to reflect the hope that we have and the desire that we have for the coming of Zion and the Second Coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We must not be slothful, but good stewards of our time, energy, thoughts, influence and possessions that they might glorify God.

Luke 11:34-36 reads: *"The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness. Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness. If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light."*

We are to "take heed" that our eye, or our focus, or our priorities are of things "of the

light" of God.

Nephi in 2 Nephi 6:73-74 instructs: "O, my beloved brethren, remember the awfulness in transgressing against that Holy God, and also the awfulness of yielding to the enticings of that cunning one. Remember, to be carnally minded, is death, and to be spiritually minded, is life eternal. O, my beloved brethren, give ear to my words."

Matthew 6:25-29 goes on: "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?"

Think of our lives and the priorities that we have set for ourselves and reflect on what the Lord has instructed us to accomplish. We all fall short! We all have a need to humble ourselves and make life changing adjustments in our lives. We sing song number 75 "Longing for the Gathering" in the *Zion's Hymnal* and yet our responsibility as part of that longing is to prepare our lives that we might be of service to bring about and fight for Zion.

Matthew 6: 30-34 reads: "Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

We are to "seek first the kingdom of God"; it is to be the light of our eye, the focus of our life. It is important that we keep our vision clear to the goal

at hand. Luke 12:31 tells us that if we seek the kingdom of God all things will be added unto us.

We must have a purpose, or an eye single to the glory of God. We cannot be double minded and continue to attempt to serve God and also the things of this world. James 1:8 tells us that a double minded man is unstable in all his ways. James 4:7-8 reads:

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."

Each of us has the need to look within our lives and reflect on what the instructions and commandments of the Lord have been, and ask Him that we might become one with Him, that we might become single minded and submit ourselves to His will. We need to ask for strength to resist the "riches of this world" and yield to the enticings of the Lord which beckons and calls us to His service, making our lives that "living sacrifice" which, as stated in Romans 12:1, is our "reasonable service".

A CALL TO REPENTANCE



By Elder Arthur G. Smith

A belief in a god or some supreme being or creator is a very common basic understanding of where we came from and of why we are here on the earth as living beings since the beginning of time. In every case a relationship is anticipated or is expected to be established in some form that is acceptable to that being, commonly in the practice of a religious worship. The one being worshipped is usually the perfect role model and sets the rules of behavior.

We believe in the Bible and

the Book of Mormon, which set forth to us the belief in the one God, the Father; of his Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit, which together we worship as our God. Our God is our creator, perfect, holy, righteous, merciful, just, wise, loving, everlasting, and without sin. He invites, even commands, us to be like Him, to be perfect, even as He is perfect and without sin.

We accept the scriptures that teach us that we are fallen and in sin because of the sin of Adam, who disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, and was cast out and separated from God both spiritually and physically. Since that time the human family has inhabited the earth and borne children, lived, and died under that curse.

In order to save us from the sin of Adam, and provide a way to save us from our sins, God has provided us with salvation by His grace through the sacrifice of His son, Jesus Christ. We call this the gospel, the good news, the gift of God, because He loves us and wants us to return into His very presence, into the kingdom of God. It is a love relationship that is offered

He invites, even commands, us to be like Him, to be perfect, even as He is perfect and without sin.

us; He wants our love and to bring us back into His presence we must love God and keep all of His commandments.

In brief, because Jesus was crucified, the sin of Adam was lifted from us, the penalty was paid, and we are redeemed from the fall of Adam. Why? Because God loved all that He created. His love calls for an answering love from us as the Holy Spirit moves to claim us from sin.

By the power of God, Jesus was resurrected from death and the grave. He lives and we also will be resurrected and our spirits restored to our bodies to live eternally. Where? We determine that by our response to the love of God, by obedience or our disobedience, for in this life we are on probation.

This we know for certain:

that we will be judged by our works at the last day, whether we are worthy to stay in His presence, within the kingdom of

To be reconciled with God we must be sorry for our sins with a godly sorrow, after a godly manner.... Just to be sorry is not enough; there must be a change in our hearts.

God, or whether we must be sent from His presence. We know we will have a just and fair judgement and be rewarded for good works and punished for evil. Read the description of the end time and the holy Jerusalem that will come down from heaven, and who will have a part in the glory of God, in Revelation chapters 21 and 22.

To be worthy to be in the presence of our God and Jesus Christ we must have a relationship that is acceptable to Him. He is sinless, so we must also be sinless to abide with Him. We can become sinless if we have our sins forgiven. This means that we must repent of sins and do them no more.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" Romans

6:23.

To be reconciled with God we must be sorry for our sins with a godly sorrow, after a godly manner. We must be honest and true in our repenting, as Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 7:10:

"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."

Just to be sorry is not enough; there must be a change in our hearts.

"And again: Believe that ye must repent of your sins and forsake them, and humble yourselves before God; and ask in sincerity of heart that he would forgive you: And now, if you believe all these things, see that ye do them" Mosiah 2:16-17.

"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judæa, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" St. Matthew 3:1-2.

About 2000 years ago this prophet of God ushered in the ministry of Jesus Christ with a call to repentance. This scripture continues in verses 5 and 6 to read:

"Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judæa, and all the region round about Jordan, And were

baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins."

"Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came

We struggle with our unbelief and our commitment to the material things of the world around us because we comprehend not the values of the spiritual world.

into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" St. Mark 1:14-15.

Jesus, too, had been baptized by John in the river Jordan before He took up His work of preaching this gospel of the kingdom of God. His message was the call to repent of sins and be baptized for the remission of those sins, that the believer could have part in this kingdom of God. God is unchangeable and this gospel is unchangeable; we are called to repent of our sins.

Jesus traveled afoot in all that region preaching this gospel. In Jericho a little man named Zacchaeus climbed a tree above a crowd to see Jesus. Je-

sus saw him and called to him to come down; he wanted to visit Zacchaeus at his house. This was a rich man who was considered to be a sinner. Zacchaeus received Jesus joyfully and there is no doubt in my mind that he heard the message and believed. We cannot doubt that he truly repented of his sins for Zacchaeus brought forth "fruit meet for repentance."

"And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him four-fold. And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" St. Luke 19:8-10.

Jesus gave the lesson story of the prodigal son who deliberately sinned by wasting his rightful inheritance, who, lost in sin, repented and was received back into his father's household. He was forgiven and there was rejoicing in his return. His brother was admonished to accept him and be glad, "...for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found" St. Luke 15:32.

Christ brought this same doctrine to the people in the Americas as we read:

"And again I say unto you, Ye must repent, and become as a little child, and be baptized in my name, or ye can in no wise receive these things. And again I say

Until we have become as a little child, humble before our God, repentant of our every sin, submitting to the baptism of water, are we ready to be taught of the Holy Spirit the will of God to order our lives.

unto you, Ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little child, or ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God. Verily, verily I say unto you, that this is my doctrine; and whoso buildeth upon this, buildeth upon my rock; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them" Third book of Nephi 5:39-41.

Oh!, the plainness of the gospel; easy to understand, yet so difficult for us to accept the promises of God because we lack faith in Him. We struggle with our unbelief and our commitment to the material things of the world around us because we comprehend not the values of

the spiritual world. Our hands cannot touch; our eyes cannot see; our ears cannot hear; our hearts cannot feel the reality of the spiritual world because of unbelief.

Until we have become as a little child, humble before our God, repentant of our every sin, submitting to the baptism of water, are we ready to be taught of the Holy Spirit the will of God to order our lives. If we would desire to walk with our Lord, we must take the first steps: have faith in God and repent of our sins.

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Amos 3:3.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Questionnaire



By Harvey E. Seibel

■ Test Your Creation/ Evolution Savvy

- 1 - What is a sedimentary deposit?
- 2 - How long do you suppose it takes to lay down multiple layers of strata?
- 3 - How would you account for fossilized ripple marks?
- 4 - What can the flood be likened to?
- 5 - How long ago did the flood occur?
- 6 - How would you account for the tremendous fossil graveyards around the world?
- 7 - Where did the great gas, oil, and coal deposits come from? what are these fuels called and why?
- 8 - Were there gas, oil and coal deposits before the flood?
- 9 - What likely made our modern industrial society possible?
- 10 - How would you explain the presence of millions of frozen mammoths and other animals in the far north?
- 11 - How would you explain the presence of undigested food in the stomachs, and unswallowed plants and flowers in the mouths of these beasts?
- 12 - How would you explain the presence of polystratic trees or animals in layers of strata?
- 13 - What happens when fish die?
- 14 - What effect did the eruption of Mount St. Helens have on evolutionary geology?
- 15 - Why does genetic mutation disprove the theory of evolution?
- 16 - What is the true effect of natural selection on organisms?
- 17 - Why is the second law of thermodynamics injurious to the concept of evolution both organically and inorganically?
- 18 - What is DNA and how does it confirm the Genesis account of the Bible?

■ Answers

- 1 - Material deposited by water, wind, or glaciers.
- 2 - Minutes, or the time it takes for a maple leaf to wither
- 3 - Rapid burial before wind or water can efface the ripple imprint
- 4 - A baptism or cleansing of sin. The baptism of fire is yet to come.
- 5 - Approximately 4500 years ago
- 6 - A cataclysm of world wide scope - the great flood.
- 7- These deposits originated from the mass burial of plant and animal life at some point in the past. Again the world wide flood. These are called fossil fuels. The reason is because they are from plant and animal sources.
- 8 - No, since these are derived from vast amounts of plant and animals sources. Such sources under normal processes die, are scavenged or decay back to the dust. They do not create coal, gas and oil deposits, nor do they become fossils (or petrify) on a large scale. They have to be massively buried such

as would have occurred during the flood.

9 - The flood

10 - Instant freezing and burial during the time of the flood

11 - The cataclysm and resultant burial and freezing was so sudden that these beasts had no time to either swallow the food, nor to digest what they had eaten and so they were preserved intact down to our day.

12 - The rapid deposition of thousands of layers of sediment in a matter of hours.

13 - They float to the surface, are scavenged, or then sink to the bottom to decay. They do not fossilize. Rapid burial is necessary for such preservation.

14 - It put a period to the century long debate between proponents of uniformitarianism and proponents of catastrophism. It also caused a number of evolutionary geologists to switch to creationism and to revise their understanding of how the Grand Canyon and other geologic formations were formed. This eruption created a canyon one fortieth the size of the Grand Canyon in two days and two nights with 140 foot high walls and a river running between them. It also created layers of strata 600 feet high in a mere 9 hours, thus demonstrating that it does not take thousands, hundreds of thousands, or even millions of years to form such geologic formations. They have now downgraded the formation of the Grand Canyon to a matter of days or weeks.

15 - Genetic mutation is always a subtraction from the genetic material of an organism. It is never an increase in organization. The arrow is downward, not upward and follows strictly the second law of thermodynamics.

16 - Natural selection simply cancels out the effects of mutations and maintains the integrity of a species.

17 - The second law of thermodynamics is the law of entropy which is exactly the opposite of evolution. Entropy is the decrease of order while evolution is the increase of order. The former will result eventually in the end of the universe, called the heat death in which all motion comes to a standstill. Everything runs down, decays and dies. The latter presupposes just the opposite, that everything is evolving upward, gaining in order and energy. But this is not the case in our system as is evident every day about us. Otherwise we would not have to be continually repairing our homes, cars, highways, etc. The same is true of all physical life. Today there are 3000 defects in the human gene pool. Eventually these defects, given enough time, will reach a lethal point in which all life will fail and become extinct. The arrow of time is always moving downward, never upward as presumed by evolution. The availability of energy, though remaining static throughout the universe, is constantly decreasing. Thus an end is inevitable. But a beginning also is necessary. The universe is like a clock wound

up. It eventually will run down. But what wound the clock up in the beginning? The power that did so had to be an infinite one, for if it was not, it too would have run down. That power also displays an astronomical level of intelligence throughout creation. For example, the seeds of a sunflower are arranged in a logarithmic spiral. There are thousands of such marvels in nature. Such an intelligent power has to be God.

18 - DNA (de-oxy-ribo-nucleic acid) contains the genetic code for nearly every living organism. It is God's computer/program that assures that the law contained in genesis of 'after its kind' is faithfully followed. This negates any possibility of one kind becoming another kind. But even more interesting is the fact that this molecule weighs no more than 1/3 trillionths of an ounce and contains enough encoded information to fill a thousand volume encyclopedia. That coded information did not just happen as evolutionists would like us to believe. This evidence is proof positive that a master intelligence was behind its creation. No one would ever believe that today's sophisticated computer systems just happened and nor should we naively think that the DNA, the master molecule of the universe, just happened.

PATHLIGHTS

Testimony

Dear Brothers and Sisters: When I think of the many many blessing the Lord has bestowed on me and my family, and my desire to tell others about them, I feel as Paul did when he wrote to the Galatians.

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world"
Gal. 6:14.

I am certain there were many times since the blessing the Lord gave me when I was six years old and when I was in the seventh grade, but the one I received then was one of those outstanding blessings that you feel you just have to share with others.

I had had trouble seeing the blackboard and the writings the teachers would have us read. It was thought that perhaps I needed glasses at last (after the experience with the iodine when I was a baby) to help me with my school work. My mother took me to an eye doctor. This eye doctor told my mother there were growths on my eyes that would only grow larger and eventually cause me to be blind if they were not removed surgically! This upset my mother so much that she took me to another doctor who looked in my throat and said my eyes were fine, but that my tonsils and adenoids were so infected they

were putting poison back into my system instead of taking it out. This was causing me problems with my eyes. What a relief!

I had my tonsils and adenoids removed in the doctor's office and came home. But the bleeding would not stop! Mother called the doctor and he gave me a shot and said that would take care of it...but an hour later I was still bleeding! The doctor put a pack against the bleeding to stop it. I had a tube running through my nose and out of my mouth holding the pack in place in my throat.

For weeks on end I was like this, without being able to talk, just writing notes to people to visit or talk to them. Every time the doctor took the packs out, the bleeding would start again. I know my mother thought this would never end; anyway, I sure did.

I was administered to many times...still the bleeding would not stop. One Sunday morning my Father took my two other sisters and went to Sunday School and church, leaving Mother and me at home. Mother had given me a little bell to ring when I needed her and a pencil and paper to communicate with her and others.

This Sunday morning I could tell my mother was discouraged and was feeling particularly sad. And all of a sud-

den...I had the most wonderful feeling come over me and I knew I was going to get well! I rang my bell and Mother came into the room to see what I wanted. I wrote on my little pad, "Don't worry Mother, I know I'm going to be all right!"

She took the note and went back into the other room, wiping at her eyes. She glanced at the clock to see how long it would be before my father came home with my sisters, and noted the time.

When my father came home he told my mother that all the children in my Sunday School class had held a prayer meeting, and each one had said a prayer for me. It was at the very time I had written my note to Mother and she had checked the clock! The next day when the doctor checked my throat...the bleeding had stopped!

Taking the tonsils out must have been the correct diagnosis, because after all this I did not need glasses and I could read from the blackboard just fine!

This has always been a testimony to me of the power of the prayers of children and also of collective prayers. So I have told this story to my children many times, hoping they will know how important our prayers are, even little children's.

*Yours in Christian love,
Velma J. Wheaton*

NEWS

RAVENNA, MICHIGAN

Greetings from Ravenna Local:

It has been a short summer. We have had some nice days which we learned to appreciate, as we also had a lot of rain. Some of us made a trip to John Ball Park. We had a very nice day. We enjoyed a picnic. Some of the members went to see the animals. A good time was had by all.

We had a visit from Elder Peter Gould and his brother Bill. Elder Peter Gould did the preaching that Sunday, which we enjoyed.

Last Sunday we had a Sing-spirational and a wiener roast. Everyone also brought potluck. The food was very good. There was a nice crowd. Some of the

people from the Bradley local came. We were so glad they came. They have so many people with talent that they shared with us. We also had visitors from Arizona: Karen and Bill Malone and their son Darin. There were so many who sang specials. We had a glorious day, with great fellowship.

The Sunday before, in Sunday School, we heard about the church camp the young people attended. They must have had a wonderful time. I think they all look forward to this. A group of the girls that attended the camp sang songs for us which we enjoyed. It is nice when the young people join in and participate. We also have a new member who transferred from another branch of our church. We are glad to welcome Brother Lowell Scott, who has been an

asset to our church. We had a break in our well and Brother Lowell did a lot of work on it. We thank all those who worked on this project. We also enjoy Brother Lowell's beautiful voice. He also brings his friend Doloris Roseboom with him. We welcome her also.

I will say goodbye for this time and leave you with these thoughts.

- ◆ *Before you come to the Lord's table make sure you have a clean heart.*
- ◆ *No one is too good or too bad to qualify for salvation.*
- ◆ *Gratefulness overcomes selfishness.*
- ◆ *We're not called to work for God but to let God work through us.*

Reporter Norma Keith

News from West Michigan
Hi again! A lot has happened since last month! I made a couple of mistakes in the last report. Susan Porter is our new Intermediate Sunday School teacher. Also, I forgot to say that Kallie Jones also got her driver's permit.

Heidi, Tina, Alicia, Kallie and I loved Camp! We'll be back next year! We also had a great time at the Missouri Reunion!

I was baptized on August 17th. After church we had a little picnic party in our backyard!

On August 23rd the Ravenna and Bradley locals had an inspirational song service and wiener roast/potluck. Bill, Karen and Darin Malone are here vacationing in west Michigan at Bernie and Laura Ritsma's house!

Aaron Ritsma has recovered from his motorcycle accident which was a year ago. He is enjoying his temporary retirement.

Laverne Lussenden and Lois Treece would like you to pray for their heart trouble. Also, Alicia Lee is suffering se-

vere headaches. She would also appreciate your prayers.

Don't forget the Porter's 2nd Annual Pig Roast! It's on September 20 and all are welcome! See ya!

*God Bless You,
Emily Jane Porter*

NEWS

COLLINS, MISSOURI

Can you believe it's fall already? Somehow I feel like I've missed summer. Sure, I noticed the heat and awful humidity, but I somehow thought it would take longer to pass than it did. Even the barn swallows have left for their winter home. Of course, they always leave on or before September 1st. So when I consider the calendar, I know that it really is nearly fall and time for a change of weather. And so we begin our walk toward winter. I hope I can keep up this time!

We enjoyed a visit from our Arizona friends, Bill, Karen and Darin Malone. They graced our home with an overnight stay and a wonderful time of visiting. Sure wish we'd had more time. Please come again.

After the Missouri Reunion, Dan, Manon and Jessie Lawrence attended services here at Collins, bringing with them our brothers from Yucatan, Placido and Vicente. It was our dinner Sunday and our regular scheduled speaker was Brother Leslie Case. After his sermon and lunch together we enjoyed an afternoon of singing and music. Our Brother Vicente sang several of his beautiful songs—some were assisted by Placido. They "endeavored" to teach us a song! It was so much fun. We only had to go over it fifteen times or so before they let us give up! Also Dan

and Jessie played a couple of songs for us using the guitar and violin. We had such a good time and are so grateful to the Lawrences for sharing themselves and their special guests with us.

Chad and Amber Harrison and their three boys slipped into church this past Sunday and surprised Roma and Nancy when they came in a little bit later. It was a treat for all of us to get to enjoy their company, and then seeing Roma and Nancy's surprised look was kind of fun too!

Our sister Gussie Martin was able to attend services with us Sunday morning. Often times her health restricts her from where her hearts longs to be. After lunch she went to visit awhile with Sister Norma Cook before returning home.

My cousin and brother in the church, Marvin Cook (Norma Cook's son) has recently been diagnosed with cancer. He has a spot on his lung and cysts on a kidney. Many of you already have added his name to your prayer lists, but for those of you who have not, I make a personal request that you will remember his needs to God. At this writing I have no details except that surgery will be necessary, but I don't know when. Thank you for your help.

In closing I'll leave you with a few thoughts I've jotted down from recent sermons and Sunday school classes.

- ◆ *If you break the law—it'll break you.*
- ◆ *You will not be saved BY your works, but you will not be saved WITHOUT your works—they are a demonstration of your belief.*
- ◆ *Jesus faced temptations—He just didn't DO them.*
- ◆ *Work (your job) is important, but don't ignore or become too busy for God.*
- ◆ *What makes you great in the Kingdom of Heaven is your trust in our Heavenly Father.*
- ◆ *It's a necessity that we take an interest in our children's education.*
- ◆ *The restoration of the body and soul is not salvation.*
- ◆ *Without God we are nothing, but with Him we are everything.*
- ◆ *You can never do anything until you try and fail.*

*Your reporter,
Czerna Kauffman*

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 Why? (Amplifies absence of a "First Presidency" in Scripture)
 Zion and the Temple of the Lord

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