

Are We Not All Believers In Christ?

Kyle Eggleston

Did Christ not die for our sins? [1] Is it not through Him we preach Christ was crucified? [2] If we believe in Christ what need we to fear? [3] He is the way, the truth, and the life. No man come unto the Father but by Him. [4]

By His grace are we saved. [5] Not through our own works, but through grace. [6] It is true, we must attempt or try our best to do all we can while in this tabernacle of flesh yet we cannot take this honor unto ourselves. [7]

Only through Christ are we saved in the Kingdom of God.

Christ was born of a mortal mother, Mary, and an immortal father, God. [8] "God the Eternal Father is the literal parent of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and of His other spirit children." [9] This gave Him the power to put down His life for God's children and to take it up again with the holy priesthood ordinance of the resurrection. [10]

Thus He would declare that He is the resurrection and the life. [11]

Christ, being the firstborn, [12] was sent to Earth to take upon Him the sins of the world. Not only the sins, but struggles, heartache, the day to day hardships. He understands us like no one else can understand us. Not even God. For Christ taketh upon Him all the infirmities of the world. [13] It is with Him whom we deal pertaining to a remission of sins.

Now, in the beginning before the world was created, there was another. He was Lucifer, the Devil, Satan, the father of lies. He came to God offering to come to the earth. He offered to redeem all mankind that not even one of God's children would be lost. In exchange, he wanted God's honor. [14]

Christ offered the will of the Father be done and the glory be God's forever. [15]

A war in heaven was fought. 2/3rds of God's children followed the Christ while the remaining 1/3rd followed Satan. [16] They, Satan and his followers, were cast down to the earth and out of God's presence for rebellion. They became angels to the Devil. [17]

Because Satan rebelled, he nor his followers can inherit the kingdom of God. They have become the sons of perdition. Because of this miserable state, they wish to destroy the Sons and Daughters of God.

Christ was prepared from before the foundation of the earth. He was foreordained to take upon Him our sins in order to make an infinite Atonement.

The Atonement is the most important event in the history of mankind. It is the main principle of the gospel narrative with everything else being an appendage to it.

In the pre-existence, Jesus created the world upon which we now stand. Everything was created spiritually before it was created physically. Said in Proverbs 8:22-31:

22 The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.

23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water.

25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth:

26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.

27 When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:

28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:

29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment:

when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

30 Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;

31 Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.

Everyone and everything has a purpose in the Great plan of Salvation, the Eternal Plan of Happiness.

It is through the scriptures we learn and understand how Jesus Christ plays the pivotal role in this, His Father's work.

Simply put, we are nothing without God and Jesus whom He has sent. We are but mortal beings born to mortal parents trying to do our best as it were. God knew we would fall short. How does He know? Simply by having gone through the mortal process himself.

God was once a mortal inhabitant of an earth. He learned line upon line, precept upon precept. He too required to rely upon a Savior for the remission of His sins. He progressed to a heavenly throne just as we hope to become someday.

We are but Gods in embryo. [18]

If we pass through the trials set here and remain faithful, we too can become like God. It is in the programme. It is how God has set to redeem His children.

Nephi states how this is possible. He calls it the Doctrine of Christ. It's found in 2nd Nephi Chapter 31.

It is the only true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. [19]

What is the Doctrine of Christ? It is a covenant between us and God. In a covenant, you promise to God that you will do certain things. God promises things back to you. You will receive those promises only if you hold your part of the covenant.

Covenants are an eternal principle in existence before the world was formed. It is how God conducts His blessings to us in this life.

In the Doctrine of Christ, we show God our willingness to follow Him, Christ, and His plan through the following actions [20]:

1. We must humble ourselves before the Father
2. We must keep the commandments
3. We must follow the path God has laid out for us
4. We must follow Christ
5. We will put our entire being into it with a full purpose of heart
6. We will repent of our sins
7. We will take upon us the name of Christ

In turn, God promises us the following:

1. We will be able to speak with the tongue of angels
2. We will receive a remission for our sins
3. We will receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost and have a witness of the Father and the Son
4. We will have the guidance of the Holy Ghost which will show us what to do
5. We will know when we shouldn't act according to the Holy Ghost
6. We will have the desire to pray and know those prayers are heard and answered
7. We are promised the Holy Ghost will take these truths to the hearts of the children of men

Naturally these promises are granted only if we keep our end of the covenant. There is a unique perspective when it comes to commandments of God. Whom the Lord commands, He

qualifies. God will not give a commandment unto the children of men save he prepares a way for them. It has been this way for eternity. [21]

The scriptures teach of Christ. Prophets of old teach a man must come unto Christ and believe in Him. There are numerous scriptures in the Bible and Book of Mormon that teach of this fact.

The scriptures teach Christ would be born of Mary, that He is our Savior and Redeemer. We are told from the prophet Isaiah of the names of Christ. [22]

Wonderful

Counsellor

The mighty God

The everlasting Father

The Prince of Peace

Nephi, shown in vision, the Christ Child born of a virgin. That same being would be lifted upon the cross and slain for the sins of the world. [23]

Christ showed us the way through example. He being Holy did not require to be baptized. Yet he did so to show us the way and to fill the commandments of God. [24]

At the time of Jesus' baptism, the Holy Ghost descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove. [25] This action was symbolic in nature. For the Holy Ghost was not needed to be on the earth while Christ was here. But the Holy Ghost's presence at the baptism of Christ was necessary.

The Holy Ghost was performing His calling as the third member of the Godhead. That is, he testifies to people that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. It is through this comforter that we may know to whom we might look for a remission of our sins.

Not only did Christ save us from Spiritual Death through suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane, but He also conquered mortal death by dying on the cross and being resurrected three days later. Thus because of Him we are freed from the sting of death and are able to come forth and be resurrected.

As found in 1 Corinthians 15:55-57:

55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Book of Mormon teaches men to come unto Christ. Even if they don't believe in the book itself, the invitation is extended to come unto Christ. [26]

Moses taught the people to look to God and live. [27] He raised up a brass serpent and all the people would have to do was look and live. Those that did? Survived the day. Those who chose not to? Perished. This is a type, as they are known, of Christ.

The Bible has several instances of types of Christ. The people lived by the Law of Moses. It was a preparation for Christ to come.

God prepares His children for that which is to come. He gives them the lower laws in preparation of the higher laws.

The Gospel of John sets the standard by which a man sees God. "And no man hath seen God at any time, except he hath borne record of the Son; for except it is through him no man can be saved." [28]

Simply put, God will show Himself as He is testifying, that is, bearing record of the Son; Jesus Christ.

This has been manifest in the following ways:

At Christ's baptism a voice from heaven testifies that Christ is God's Son and He is pleased.

[29]

When Jesus came down to the American Continent, a voice from Heaven, God the Father, again testified of Christ of whom he is well pleased and that the people should listen to His Son. [30]

Another experience is had with Stephen of the New Testament in the book of Acts. Stephen came testifying that Moses was a prototype of Christ. He told of the apostasy of Israel. Because of his teachings, he was stoned to death. Before dying, Stephen saw Jesus on the right hand of God. [31]

Joseph Smith had questions at the young age of fourteen. He wanted to know which church was the correct church. Reading the Bible one night, he came upon a scripture in James. [32] He lacked wisdom. The scripture directed him to ask of God.

He did just that.

Joseph prayed in a grove of trees. He saw two personages standing above him in the air. One of them spoke calling Joseph by name and directing him to the other, His Son, he directed Joseph to listen to the Savior. [33]

Aside from directing Joseph that he should not join any of the churches because they were an abomination, and forgiving Joseph of his sins; we learn something about God and Jesus.

1. They are two separate individuals. The main teachings at the time was that God, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost were one in the same. This is known as the trinity. It is still widely preached today among different faiths.
2. Revelation was not dead. Many people believed God didn't care about his children. He had ceased to talk with them. That period of time is known as the apostasy.
3. God knows us. He called Joseph by name. God and Jesus know us personally. They have not forgotten about us.

Jesus would work through Joseph to restore His church upon the face of the earth. Joseph would later declare, I imagine boldly:

22 And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he lives!

23 For we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of the Father— [34]

The Lord would come in vision to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery. April 3, 1836 in the Kirtland Temple. We find a little bit of what Jesus looks like. [35]

1. His eyes were as a flame of fire. Now this is not a roaring flame. More like a campfire flame. Gentle and alive.
2. The hair on his head white like the pure snow. White is often associated with being pure. With Christ, being perfect, this is right.
3. His countenance shone above the brightness of the sun. Radiating with the Glory of God.
4. His voice was as the sound of the rushing of great waters. Again,, I see this as gentle. Not a storm but much reverence. He spoke with authority.

From this experience and the others mentioned, we learn that Christ and God have bodies. They are not spirits. They are perfect resurrected beings. The teachings and thoughts of man that they are spirits is false.

I had spoken on how the Holy Ghost testifies of Christ and of the Father. When Christ was

on the earth, the Holy Ghost's presence wasn't needed. For Christ is the light of the world. [36]

Jesus promised He would send the comforter, the Holy Ghost to the people. This would later be carried out after his resurrection [37] and on the day of pentecost. [38]

On the day of pentecost, the apostles were filled with the Holy Ghost. [39] They spoke with other tongues, like the Doctrine of Christ is spoken of in 2nd Nephi.

The teachings of the prophet Joel had come to pass.

Joel 2:28-29: And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

Christ teaches God's children through His servants the prophets. When Christ was on the Earth, He invited men to follow Him. These men left what they had been doing and followed Christ. These men became His twelve apostles.

After Christ's crucifixion, these men continued to speak of Christ. They went into all the world and prophesied unto the nations, kindreds, tongues, and people. They taught that Jesus it he Christ, the Son of God.

An example of such teachings comes from Paul. At one time, Paul was known as Saul. He was out testifying to the people evils about the church. He spoke out against the Lords disciples. [40]

At one point in his persecuting the Church of Christ, Saul came to Damascus. He saw a light from heaven. [41] Falling to the earth, Saul heard the voice of the Lord. Jesus asked Saul why he persecuted Him. Saul, not knowing who it was, maybe not understanding...he asked who it was.

Christ manifest himself to Saul. Stating that it was He, Jesus who Saul was persecuting. It is here Saul is converted. He asks the Lord what He would have him do. [41] The Lord instructed Saul on what he should do.

Saul arose from the earth and did as the Lord commanded.

The Lord, speaking Saul's name is another witness that Jesus knows who we are.

In chapter 13 of Acts, we learn that Saul is also called Paul. He uses that name throughout the remainder of his time in the Bible.

At one point in Paul's journeys, he was waiting for Silas and Timotheus at Athens.

While he waited, Paul's spirit stirred. There he saw a city deep in the practice of idol worship. He went to teach them the truth.

Standing on Mars' hill, Paul began his teaching. [42]

As he entered town, Paul saw an alter which bore an inscription. TO THE UNKNOWN GOD [43]

Paul taught of God, of Jesus who was crucified for our sins and the ability to come forth in the resurrection. He spoke plainly that we are the offspring of God. That we shouldn't think God is like gold, silver, or stone; an idol as it were. [44]

He commanded the people to repentance. Paul taught true correct doctrine to the unbelievers. He explained there would eventually be a judgement made.

Paul also speaks of how we are all one in God's eyes. No one is better than the other. [45]

It is stated also in Acts 17:26-27, that people are placed where they are in this life based upon their desire to find the Lord. It being "determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him."

I am reminded of that great prophet Nephi who boldly stated:

“And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins.” [46]

One of the callings of a prophet is to teach of Christ and to urge all to come unto Him. It is the same as it was in times past. Prophesied about long before the Savior was born, while He was here on the earth, and long after his crucifixion and resurrection.

They, like the Prophet Joseph Smith, knew it to be true. They knew God knew it and they could not deny it. [47]

Like the saints in King Benjamin’s time, if we covenant with God we become the sons and daughters of Christ. He will have spiritually begotten us. Our hearts must be changed through faith on His name. [48]

Christ stands with outstretched arms beckoning us to come unto Him. For He will give us rest. Such a comforting thought that He is there waiting for us to take upon us His holy name and be true disciples and followers of Him.

Jesus taught that we are the light of the world. One does not light a candle and place it under a bushel, but on a candlestick to light the house. He taught that we should let our light shine forth to others. We need to be an example to others and glorify God. [49]

How do we do this though? We should live as Christ would have us live. By following God’s commandments we know right from wrong. Christ is the example we have to look up to. He has taught us the way we should live our lives.

Jesus taught us to look within ourselves first before passing blame or judgement on others. [50] He taught that we should love our enemies. [51] The old law was an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. Those laws of Moses were done away with. Christ came not to destroy the law but to fulfill the law. [52]

He taught people to love one another. To love the Lord thy God. [53]

Jesus taught us that we shouldn’t do good so our works are seen of men. We should not be like the hypocrites who do things to gain attention. He taught us to be humble, to rejoice in God, and to be happy. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news of salvation to all the people of the earth.

As God said, this is His work and His glory to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man. [54]

As we learn about the Savior’s ministry, we at times might have good feelings of recollection. This is not by accident but by design. We were taught the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the pre-existence. We knew the purpose of it all. We did not have a perfect knowledge of all things and that is why we are here now. To recall that testimony of Jesus.

When the spirit speaks to us by that still small voice, he is bringing back to our recollection the things we learned about in the pre-existence. He is testifying the truthfulness of all things.

Jesus taught the people to pray.

He taught us to forgive everyone. [55]

He teaches us to fast in secret. To pray to our Father in secret as not to be seen of man. Our heart needs to be in the proper place. If we are doing something to be seen of the world, our actions are not holy with an eye single to the glory of God as it should be.

Christ teaches that we cannot serve two masters. If we do, we will love one and despise the other. The two masters are God and the world. Either we serve God with a holy purpose or we serve the corrupt dealings of the world. [56]

The Lord taught that the world looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart. [57]

Jesus knows the intent of our hearts. It is a very personal journey that we walk with the

Lord throughout this lifetime. When we stand before God at that judgement bar with a bright recollection of all our guilt, we will know how we lived our life. There's no question in my mind that we will know where we belong in the kingdom of God.

Jesus will be standing there as a mediator between us and the Father. Yes even the Christ whose name we have oft forgotten by the pride of our mind. He will be standing there. Hopefully seeing the good we had done. Knowing the intent of our hearts. Knowing that we will fall short of the Glory of God. He was there with us on our journey. Did we accept what He did for us? Or did we cast it aside as naught.

It's our decision right here and now.

Christ and the Holy Spirit teaches a man to repent. The spirit teaches a man to pray. We are taught to pray always.

We are to pray without ceasing in our fields, houses, over our flocks, against Satan and the power of our enemies. [58]

We are to pray and pour out our souls in our closets and in our secret places. We are to humble ourselves and pray for those around us.

Prayer alone will not do. We are taught to act upon the prayers we offer for others.

We are taught to visit the sick and the needy. If we only pray and do not act, our prayers are in vain.

Jesus not only taught by words but He also taught by deed. His example unto us teaches us how we are to live this life as Christ would have us live.

We are told that this life is a time for men to prepare to meet God. [59] It will be too late at that judgement seat for us to say we will repent then. That spirit which possesses our bodies in this life will possess us in the life to come.

Thus we must act upon the teachings of Christ and the promptings of the Holy Ghost.

Jesus likened those who heard his words and took heed as the wise man who built his house on rocks. The rains came and the floods beat upon the house. The house stood firm for it was founded upon a rock. That is, it had Christ as the foundation thereof.

He then likened those who listen to His word but take no action to the foolishman. The foolishman built his house upon the sand. Again the rains came and the floods beat upon the house. Because of the unstable foundation, the house washed away. [60]

Jesus asked "What manner of men ought ye to be?" The response was simple. "Verily I say unto you, even as I am." [61]

Jesus promises us that we can find rest to our souls if we but come unto Him. His yoke is easy and His burden is light. [62]

How long must Christ stand with his arms outstretched for us to believe Him? How long before we take hold of the iron rod and hold steadfast to it walking in the path to everlasting life? [63]

A certain man came to Jesus and asked what He should do to inherit eternal life. Jesus told the man all the commandments. The man replied that he already followed the commandments.

The Lord told the man to sell all he had and to follow Him. The man went away bitter because he had many possessions and riches. [64]

Did Christ not teach that your material things of this world would perish with you, but that which is of God increases forever?

We are taught to be prepared. There is the parable of the ten virgins. [65] Five of the virgins came prepared with extra oil for their lamps. Five of the virgins were not prepared.

They all went to meet the bridegroom. They didn't know when the bridegroom was to come. Those who were prepared trimmed their lamps.

Those not prepared went to get more oil.

While they were away, the bridegroom came. They that were ready went in and the door was shut. The unprepared virgins came back and were now allowed in. No one knows when Christ will come. We must ever be watchful and ready for the second coming of the Messiah.

The Prophet Joseph Smith stated that the year a bow will not appear in the sky, the Lord will come. [66]

The interesting part of waiting for the Lord I think is if we do what we're supposed to be doing, there's no reason we won't be ready for His coming.

An interesting note, as I mentioned before, King Benjamin called the people sons and daughters of Jesus Christ.

In a sense, Jesus Christ is the Father and the Son. This is not a literal saying of course. We have but only one Heavenly Father. One who is the Father of our spirits.

Christ is the Father of our redemption and salvation. When we follow God's will, are baptized in the name of Jesus, and obey our covenants and the commandments, we become the sons and daughters of Christ.

Which brings us to the next topic of discussion. The Atonement, or rather the Infinite Atonement of Jesus Christ.

Said by the Prophet Joseph Smith: "The fundamental principles of our religion are the testimony of the Apostles and Prophets, concerning Jesus Christ, that he died, was buried, and rose again the third day, and ascended into heaven; and all other things which pertain to our religion are only appendages to it." [67]

Why was an atonement necessary? From the beginning of time, man sinned. Our first parents Adam and Eve, while in the Garden of Eden spiritually fell. That is they were cut off from the presence of God and the Lord.

Where once they had the ability to converse with God as one man speaks to another, now they could not enjoy such communication. Where they once had bodies of flesh and bone, now blood flowed through their veins allowing death to enter the equation and which allowed Adam and Eve to follow God's commandment to multiply and replenish the earth.

The fall of Adam and Eve was necessary or else the atonement would have been rendered useless.

The Bible Dictionary expresses the tone that the atonement heals the estrangement, created by sin, between God and man.

"The word describes the setting "at one" of those who have been estranged and denotes the reconciliation of man to God. Sin is the cause of the estrangement, and therefore the purpose of atonement is to correct or overcome the consequences of sin." [68]

Sin is the cause of the estrangement.

Had there been no atonement, the works of God would have been halted. His work and glory would have been for nothing.

Without the atonement man would have become subject to the devil. Without the atonement the children of God would not be able to return to that God which gave them life. They would forever live in their sinful state even after death.

Without the atonement, man wouldn't be able to come forth in the resurrection. There would be no resurrection. Our bodies would not be able to put off corruption and put on incorruption.

Sin is to act knowingly or willfully against the will of God. Throughout this life we are given the opportunity to choose between good and evil.

This principle of agency has been in existence long before the world was created. It plays a major role in the plan of happiness.

2 Nephi 2:27:

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.

If we choose evil, we are unhappy in this life and we fall short of perfection, this is what the adversary wants. Satan doesn't want us to be happy. He laughs and his angels rejoice when we sin.

Satan tempts us, hoping we will fall. "For he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself." [69] "And thus he goeth up and down, to and fro in the earth, seeking to destroy the souls of men." [70]

Because of our sins, we are unworthy to return to the presence of God. No unclean thing can dwell with God. "For...the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance." [71]

Jesus Christ made it possible for us to be forgiven of our sins and return to live with our Heavenly Father. He was sent to earth by God "to be crucified for the world, and to bear the sins of the world, and to sanctify the world, and to cleanse it from all unrighteousness; That through him all might be saved." [72]

"Jesus Christ, as the Only Begotten Son of God and the only sinless person to live on this earth, was the only one capable of making an atonement for mankind. By His selection and foreordination in the Grand Council before the world was formed, His divine Sonship, His sinless life, the shedding of His blood in the garden of Gethsemane, His death on the cross and subsequent bodily resurrection from the grave, He made a perfect atonement for all mankind." [73]

In Alma 34:8-14, we read:

8 And now, behold, I will testify unto you of myself that these things are true. Behold, I say unto you, that I do know that Christ shall come among the children of men, to take upon him the transgressions of his people, and that he shall atone for the sins of the world; for the Lord God hath spoken it.

9 For it is expedient that an atonement should be made; for according to the great plan of the Eternal God there must be an atonement made, or else all mankind must unavoidably perish; yea, all are hardened; yea, all are fallen and are lost, and must perish except it be through the atonement which it is expedient should be made.

10 For it is expedient that there should be a great and last sacrifice; yea, not a sacrifice of man, neither of beast, neither of any manner of fowl; for it shall not be a human sacrifice; but it must be an infinite and eternal sacrifice.

11 Now there is not any man that can sacrifice his own blood which will atone for the sins of another. Now, if a man murdereth, behold will our law, which is just, take the life of his brother? I say unto you, Nay.

12 But the law requireth the life of him who hath murdered; therefore there can be nothing which is short of an infinite atonement which will suffice for the sins of the world.

13 Therefore, it is expedient that there should be a great and last sacrifice, and then shall there be, or it is expedient there should be, a stop to the shedding of blood; then shall the law of Moses be fulfilled; yea, it shall be all fulfilled, every jot and tittle, and none shall have passed away.

14 And behold, this is the whole meaning of the law, every whit pointing to that great and last sacrifice; and that great and last sacrifice will be the Son of God, yea, infinite and eternal.

Before Christ came, the Jews sacrificed animals for a remission of their sins. This dates all the way back to Abel who offered a firstling of his flock. There are many examples and types of Christ when it came to the law of sacrifice.

When Christ came, he fulfilled the law and there was no more need to sacrifice animals for the remission of sins.

Christ truly gave the ultimate and final sacrifice, an eternal sacrifice, which would please the law of Moses.

Again in Alma, we read:

Alma 7:10-11

10 And behold, he shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall be overshadowed and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost, and bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God.

11 And he shall go forth, suffering pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind; and this that the word might be fulfilled which saith he will take upon him the pains and the sicknesses of his people.

Who are his people? Abinidi had the following to say in the Book of Mosiah 15:10-12:

10 And now I say unto you, who shall declare his generation? Behold, I say unto you, that when his soul has been made an offering for sin he shall see his seed. And now what say ye? And who shall be his seed?

11 Behold I say unto you, that whosoever has heard the words of the prophets, yea, all the holy prophets who have prophesied concerning the coming of the Lord—I say unto you, that all those who have hearkened unto their words, and believed that the Lord would redeem his people, and have looked forward to that day for a remission of their sins, I say unto you, that these are his seed, or they are the heirs of the kingdom of God.

12 For these are they whose sins he has borne; these are they for whom he has died, to redeem them from their transgressions. And now, are they not his seed?

Those who listen and hearken to the words of the prophets are His. Christ has accepted them unto Him. For it is the plan of God that a savior would redeem mankind from the fall.

God's Plan and the will of God are stated plainly in the scriptures:

3 Nephi 27:13-15:

13 Behold I have given unto you my gospel, and this is the gospel which I have given unto you—that I came into the world to do the will of my Father, because my Father sent me.

14 And my Father sent me that I might be lifted up upon the cross; and after that I had been lifted up upon the cross, that I might draw all men unto me, that as I have been lifted up by men even so should men be lifted up by the Father, to stand before me, to be judged of their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil—

15 And for this cause have I been lifted up; therefore, according to the power of the Father I will draw all men unto me, that they may be judged according to their works.

Mosiah 15:1-2

1 And now Abinadi said unto them: I would that ye should understand that God himself shall come down among the children of men, and shall redeem his people.

2 And because he dwelleth in flesh he shall be called the Son of God, and having subjected the flesh to the will of the Father, being the Father and the Son—

John 10:17-18

17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

The atonement has been provided for us to get back to God.

As the Bible Dictionary states: “The law functioned under the Aaronic Priesthood and was a preparatory gospel to bring its adherents to Christ.” [74]

It was not to be a Human sacrifice. Being born of an immortal Father and a moral mother, Christ had the power to lay down his life and to pick it up again through the resurrection.

Christ is the only candidate who could do what he did.

Acts 4:12

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Helman 5:9

O remember, remember, my sons, the words which king Benjamin spake unto his people; yea, remember that there is no other way nor means whereby man can be saved, only through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, who shall come; yea, remember that he cometh to redeem the world.

It must be an infinite and eternal sacrifice. Then in Hebrews, we learn:

Hebrews 9:22

And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

“Jesus worked out a perfect atonement by the shedding of his own blood.” [75]

Jesus shed his blood in the Garden of Gethsemane. We know of this from the gospels found in the Bible:

Mark 14:36

And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

Luke 22:39-44

39 And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.

40 And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.

41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,

42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

D&C 19:15-20

15 Therefore I command you to repent—repent, lest I smite you by the rod of my mouth, and by my wrath, and by my anger, and your sufferings be sore—how sore you know not, how exquisite you know not, yea, how hard to bear you know not.

16 For behold, I, God, have suffered these things for all, that they might not suffer if they would repent;

17 But if they would not repent they must suffer even as I;

18 Which suffering caused myself, even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit—and would that I might not drink the bitter cup, and shrink—

19 Nevertheless, glory be to the Father, and I partook and finished my preparations unto the children of men.

20 Wherefore, I command you again to repent, lest I humble you with my almighty power; and that you confess your sins, lest you suffer these punishments of which I have spoken, of which in the smallest, yea, even in the least degree you have tasted at the time I withdrew my Spirit.

Then Judas delivered Jesus into the hands of the Romans. Christ was tried and crucified. While on the Cross, Jesus was hung with two thieves. He said the following to them:

“And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”
[76]

Speaking of the event, Elder Neal A. Maxwell stated the following:

Jesus Christ, who by far suffered the most, has the most compassion—for all of us who suffer so much less. Moreover, He who suffered the most has no self-pity! Even as He endured the enormous suffering associated with the Atonement, He reached out to others in their much lesser suffering. Consider how, in Gethsemane, Jesus, who had just bled at every pore, nevertheless restored an assailant's severed ear which, given Jesus' own agony, He might not have noticed! (see Luke 22:50–51).

Consider how Jesus, while hanging so painfully on the cross, instructed the Apostle John about caring for Jesus' mother, Mary (see John 19:26–27). Consider how in the midst of the awful arithmetic of the Atonement, Jesus nevertheless reassured one of the thieves on the cross, “To day shalt thou be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43). He cared, even in the midst of enormous suffering. He reached outwardly, when a lesser being would have turned inwardly.
[77]

Speaking of the crucified Christ, Elder Jeffry R. Holland said:

When the unspeakable ordeal was finished. He uttered what must have been the most peaceful and deserved words of His mortal ministry. At the end of His agony, he whispered. “It is finished...Father into thy hands I commend my spirit.” (John 19:30, Luke 23:46) Finally it was over, Finally He could go home. [78]

Through all of this, Jesus Christ understood all that he had to do:

Alma 7:11-12

11 And he shall go forth, suffering pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind; and this that the word might be fulfilled which saith he will take upon him the pains and the sicknesses of his people.

12 And he will take upon him death, that he may loose the bands of death which bind his people; and he will take upon him their infirmities, that his bowels may be filled with mercy, according to the flesh, that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities.

D&C 122:7-8

7 And if thou shouldst be cast into the pit, or into the hands of murderers, and the sentence of death passed upon thee; if thou be cast into the deep; if the billowing surge conspire against thee; if fierce winds become thine enemy; if the heavens gather blackness, and all the elements combine to hedge up the way; and above all, if the very jaws of hell shall gape open the mouth wide after thee, know thou, my son, that all these things shall give thee experience, and shall be for thy good.

8 The Son of Man hath descended below them all. Art thou greater than he?

D&C 8:86

He that ascended up on high, as also he descended below all things, in that he comprehended all things, that he might be in all and through all things, the light of truth;

Joseph Smith taught “The great Jehovah...knows the situation of both the living and the dead and has made ample provision for their redemption.” [79]

Jesus went through everything all over again while he hung on the cross. He experienced the Garden of Gethsemane a second time. In order for Jesus to fully go through the atonement, God withdrew himself which prompted the Savior to cry out “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” [80] He truly felt the spiritual death and separation from His Father in Heaven.

Again I visit the subject of if there was no atonement made:

2 Nephi 9:7-9

7 Wherefore, it must needs be an infinite atonement—save it should be an infinite atonement this corruption could not put on incorruption. Wherefore, the first judgment which came upon man must needs have remained to an endless duration. And if so, this flesh must have

laid down to rot and to crumble to its mother earth, to rise no more.

8 O the wisdom of God, his mercy and grace! For behold, if the flesh should rise no more our spirits must become subject to that angel who fell from before the presence of the Eternal God, and became the devil, to rise no more.

9 And our spirits must have become like unto him, and we become devils, angels to a devil, to be shut out from the presence of our God, and to remain with the father of lies, in misery, like unto himself; yea, to that being who beguiled our first parents, who transformeth himself nigh unto an angel of light, and stirreth up the children of men unto secret combinations of murder and all manner of secret works of darkness.

Romans 6:23

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

Mosiah 3:19

For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been from the fall of Adam, and will be, forever and ever, unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man and becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father.

The Atonement is there for us to grab a hold of. It is the way to eternal life through our Savior Jesus Christ. We must choose to follow the plan given of the Father and be humble to allow Christ's Atonement to work for us.

Always remember the words of that great prophet Lehi: "But behold, the Lord hath redeemed my soul from hell; I have beheld his glory, and I am encircled about eternally in the arms of his love." [81]

We know from prophets of old and modern what Christ did for those three mortal days in the spirit world:

18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;

20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

D&C 138:12,15

12 And there were gathered together in one place an innumerable company of the spirits of the just, who had been faithful in the testimony of Jesus while they lived in mortality;

15 I beheld that they were filled with joy and gladness, and were rejoicing together because the day of their deliverance was at hand.

Jesus taught those who had been obedient, in the Spirit World. To the ones in spirit prison, He did not visit personally but organized a great missionary effort. They went forth and taught the prisoners if they would repent and accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ, they too could be received into the Kingdom of God. [82]

On the third day after Jesus was crucified, Peter and the other disciples came to where Jesus was buried. [83] They saw that He was gone.

Mary was among them standing outside weeping. Looking in the sepulcher, she saw two angels. They asked why she was crying.

She thought someone had stolen the Lord's body.

Jesus appeared to Mary. She thought He was the gardener, that is until Jesus said her name. Mary.

He instructed Mary to tell His disciples what had transpired. Mary did as she was commanded.

In the evening of that same day, Jesus showed himself unto His disciples. He showed them His hands, his feet, and His side. [84]

At that moment, Jesus gave His disciples the Holy Ghost. The scriptures said he breathed on them. Knowing how the Gift of the Holy Ghost is given, He probably did breathe on them as he spoke with His hands on their head. [85]

One disciple, known by us these days as doubting Thomas, was not with the disciples the first time. When told of the risen Lord, Thomas said he wouldn't believe unless he saw the Savior's wounds for himself.

When the time came, Thomas declared "My Lord and my God." [86] He knew it was Jesus. He had received that personal witness.

The Bible is written "that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God." [87]

The third time the Savior spoke to his disciples, they were out fishing. Jesus again performed miracles as he filled their nets with fish.

After they had eaten, the Lord turned to Simon Peter, the same who had denied knowing the Lord three times. [88]

He asked Peter if he loved Him more than the fish. Peter answered yes. Jesus responded with "Feed my lambs."

Again the Lord asked Peter if he loved Him. Simon Peter again said yes he did. The Savior responded with "Feed my sheep."

A third time, Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him. Peter was grieved and told the Lord that, knowing all things, yes he loved the Lord. Again came the response "Feed my sheep." [89]

I believe this teaching was a continuation of when the Savior told Simon Peter that when he was converted to strengthen his brethren. [90]

It has been said that this was Simon Peter repenting of what he had done as well. He also declared testimony by acknowledging to the Lord that he loved Him.

It is said that testimonies are recored in heaven. [91]

We are told in the Doctrine and Covenants that our sins are forgiven if we bear testimony. [92] I believe that by following the Lord, by bearing testimony, and by teaching of the Lord, Simon Peter truly repented of denying Jesus those three times.

Because of the words Christ had said to Simon Peter, "When thou art converted" Peter wasn't fully converted at the time he denied the Christ. After the Savior's resurrection, testifying of all the things which He had been teaching the apostles, Peter finally gained his testimony of the Living Christ.

As Jesus taught prophets and apostles of old, he has prophets and apostles today who stand as special witnesses and testify of the resurrected Living Christ to all the nations of the world. [93]

Speaking of living prophets and apostles of Jesus Christ, here are their words as a testimony of the Atonement and of Christ:

Joseph Smith

And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he lives! For we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of the Father— That by him, and through him, and of him, the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God. [94]

Brigham Young

I can say to you in regard to Jesus and the atonement (it is so written, and I firmly believe it), that Christ has died for all. He has paid the full debt, whether you receive the gift or not. But if we continue to sin, to lie, steal, bear false witness, we must repent of and forsake that sin to have the full efficacy of the blood of Christ. Without this it will be of no effect; repentance must come, in order that the atonement may prove a benefit to us. Let all who are doing wrong cease doing wrong; live no longer in transgression, no matter of what kind; but live every day of your lives according to the revelations given, and so that your examples may be worthy of imitation. Let us remember that we never get beyond the purview of our religion—never, never! [95]

John Taylor

In the event of man having his free will and being subject to the power of temptation, the weakness of the flesh, the allurements of the world, and the powers of darkness, it was known that he must necessarily fall, and being fallen, it would be impossible for him to redeem himself, and that, according to an eternal law of justice, it would require an infinite, expiatory atonement to redeem man, to save him from the effects and ruin of the Fall, and to place him in a condition where he could again be reinstated in the favor of God, according to the eternal laws of justice and mercy; and find his way back to the presence of the Father. ... And hence, as Jesus Himself said, “Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” [Luke 24:46–47.] [96]

Wilford Woodruff

... It [has] been fully established beyond all controversy, from the flood of testimony ... from the revelations of God, given in various dispensations and ages of the world, and in different parts of the globe, that the object of Christ’s mission to the earth was to offer himself as a sacrifice to redeem mankind from eternal death, and that it was perfectly in accordance with the will of the Father that such a sacrifice should be made. He acted strictly in obedience to his Father’s will in all things from the beginning, and drank of the bitter cup given him. Herein is brought to light, glory, honour, immortality, and eternal life, with that charity which is greater than faith or hope, for the Lamb of God has thereby performed that for man which [man] could not accomplish for himself. [97]

Lorenzo Snow

Jesus, the Son of God, was sent into the world to make it possible for you and me to receive these extraordinary blessings. He had to make a great sacrifice. It required all the power that He had and all the faith that He could summon for Him to accomplish that which the Father required of Him. ... He did not fail, though the trial was so severe that He sweat great drops of

blood. ... His feelings must have been inexpressible. He tells us Himself, as you will find recorded in section 19 of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, that His suffering was so great that it caused even Him “to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit: and would that He might not drink the bitter cup, and shrink.” But He had in His heart continually to say, “Father, not my will, but Thine be done.” [See D&C 19:15–19.] [98]

Joseph F. Smith

Jesus had not finished his work when his body was slain, neither did he finish it after his resurrection from the dead; although he had accomplished the purpose for which he then came to the earth, he had not fulfilled all his work. And when will he? Not until he has redeemed and saved every son and daughter of our father Adam that have been or ever will be born upon this earth to the end of time, except the sons of perdition. That is his mission. Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, is the true standard for all men to follow, the example for all men. He was not a sinner; He was not wicked. In Him there was not any wickedness, nor unbelief, nor folly whatever. He was thoroughly endowed with the wisdom of God from the cradle to the tomb, and after His resurrection He became possessed of the glory of the Father, and became like God himself, possessed of power as God possesses power, for He declared that all power had been given unto Him, and He sits upon the right hand of the Almighty, and is our Mediator, our Elder Brother, and we must follow Him and nobody else. No other name under heaven is given but that of Jesus Christ, by which you can be saved or exalted in the kingdom of God. [99]

Heber J. Grant

We desire the advancement of all mankind, and we pray God to bless every man that is striving for the betterment of humanity in any of the walks of life; and we say of every man who believes that Jesus is the Christ and who proclaims it: O God, bless that man. ... Jesus is the Redeemer of the world, the Savior of mankind, who came to the earth with a divinely appointed mission to die for the redemption of mankind. Jesus Christ is literally the Son of God, the Only Begotten in the flesh. He is our Redeemer, and we worship him, and we praise God for every individual upon the face of the earth who worships our Lord and Master as the Redeemer of the world.

From the beginning of time, as we count it, to the present, God our Father has, at divers times, both by his own voice and the voice of his inspired prophets, declared that he would send to earth his only begotten Son, that through him, by means of the resurrection, of which our Lord was the first fruits, mankind might be redeemed from the penalty of death, to which all flesh is heir, and by obedience to the law of righteous living, which he taught and exemplified in his life, be cleansed from personal sin and made heirs to the Kingdom of Heaven. [100]

George Albert Smith

I have found many in the world who have not known that we believe in the divine mission of our Lord, and I have been led to say upon more than one occasion that there are no people in the world who so well understand the divine mission of Jesus Christ, who so thoroughly believe him to have been the Son of God, who are so sanguine [confident] that at the present time he is enthroned in glory at the right hand of his Father, as the Latter-day Saints.

I know as I know that I live that he was the son of God, that through him and through him only will we gain exaltation in the celestial kingdom and all those who follow in his footsteps and live according to the teachings that he gave, will be happy in this life and will prepare for themselves a mansion in his celestial kingdom, where they will dwell with him forever. The Redeemer of mankind was more than a good man who came into the world to teach us ethics. The Redeemer of mankind possessed more than ordinary intelligence. He was indeed the Son of God, the only begotten of God in the flesh. ... He came to call men to repentance, to turn them from the error of their way. He went among them representing God the Eternal Father, proclaiming that he was in the image of his Father, and that those who had seen him had seen the Father, and told them that he had been sent to do the will of his Father, and called on all men to turn from the error that had crept in among them, to repent of their sins and go down into the waters of baptism. [101]

David O. McKay

There is no cause to fear death; it is but an incident in life. It is as natural as birth. Why should we fear it? Some fear it because they think it is the end of life, and life often is the dearest thing we have. Eternal life is man's greatest blessing.

If only men would "do his will" [see John 7:17], instead of looking hopelessly at the dark and gloomy tomb, they would turn their eyes heavenward and know that Christ is risen! No man can accept the resurrection and be consistent in his belief without accepting also the existence of a personal God. Through the resurrection Christ conquered death and became an immortal soul. "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28) was not merely an idle exclamation of Thomas when he beheld his risen Lord. Once we accept Christ as divine, it is easy to visualize his Father as being just as personal as he; for, said Jesus, "... he that hath seen me hath seen the Father. ..." (John 14:9.) [102]

Joseph Fielding Smith

I sit and reflect at times, and in my reading of the scriptures, I think of the mission of our Lord, what he did for me, and when these feelings come upon me I say to myself, I cannot be untrue to him. He loved me with a perfect love, as he has done for all men, especially those who serve him, and I must love him with all the love I can, even if it is imperfect, which it should not be. It is wonderful. I did not live in the days of our Savior; he has not come to me in person. I have not beheld him. His Father and he have not felt it necessary to grant me such a great blessing as this. But it is not necessary. I have felt his presence. I know that the Holy Spirit has enlightened my mind and revealed him unto me, so that I do love my Redeemer, I hope, and feel it is true, better than everything else in this life. I would not have it otherwise. I want to be true to him. I know he died for me, for you and all mankind that we might live again through the resurrection. I know that he died that I might be forgiven my follies, my sins, and be cleansed from them. How wonderful is this love. How can I, knowing this, do anything else but love him, my Redeemer. I want my boys in the mission fields to feel this same way. I want my children and my grandchildren to feel that way, and never stray from the path of truth and righteousness. [103]

Harold B. Lee

The Lord God cast Adam out of the Garden of Eden because of his disobedience. He suffered

spiritual death. ... But behold I say unto you that the Lord God gave unto Adam the promise that he should not die the temporal death until He should send forth angels to declare repentance in the name of His Only Begotten Son that by his death, he might be raised to eternal life [see D&C 29:41–43]. ... When Adam was driven out of the Garden of Eden, he suffered spiritual death, which is a separation of the close communion with the presence of the Lord.

Why was the Savior sent into the world? The Master himself answered that question during his ministry when he said: “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved” [John 3:17.] ...

Saved from what? Redeemed from what? Well, first, saved from mortal death through the resurrection of the dead. But in another sense we are saved likewise by his atoning sacrifice. We are saved from sin. [104]

Spencer W. Kimball

I want to bear testimony today that Jesus is not only a great teacher, a great humanist, and a great dramatist, but is in very deed, the Son of the Living God, the Creator, the Redeemer of the world, the Savior of mankind.

I know that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. I know that.

The Christ declared himself to be the Lord God Almighty, Christ the Lord, the beginning and the end, the Redeemer of the world, Jesus the Christ, the mighty one of Israel, the Creator, the Son of the Living God, Jehovah. [105]

Ezra Taft Benson

No other single influence has had so great an impact on this earth as the life of Jesus the Christ. We cannot conceive of our lives without His teachings. Without Him we would be lost in a mirage of beliefs and worships born in fear and darkness where the sensual and materialistic hold sway. We are far short of the goal He set for us, but we must never lose sight of it, nor must we forget that our great climb toward the light, toward perfection, would not be possible except for His teaching, His life, His death, and His resurrection.

To have any measure of appreciation and gratitude for what [Jesus Christ] accomplished in our behalf, we must remember these vital truths:

Jesus came to earth to do our Father’s will.

He came with a foreknowledge that He would bear the burden of the sins of us all.

He knew he would be lifted up on the cross.

He was born to be the Savior and Redeemer of all mankind.

He was able to accomplish His mission because He was the Son of God and He possessed the power of God.

He was willing to accomplish His mission because He loves us.

No mortal being had the power or capability to redeem all other mortals from their lost and fallen condition, nor could any other voluntarily forfeit his life and thereby bring to pass a universal resurrection for all other mortals.

Only Jesus Christ was able and willing to accomplish such a redeeming act of love. [106]

Howard W. Hunter

The Atonement of Jesus Christ was a foreordained assignment by our Heavenly Father to redeem his children after their fallen state. It was an act of love by our Heavenly Father to permit his Only Begotten to make an atoning sacrifice. And it was a supreme act of love by his beloved Son to carry out the Atonement.

I have stood in the garden of Gethsemane on many occasions. I've contemplated in my mind the suffering, the agony of the Savior—that agony that was experienced when our Heavenly Father permitted him, in a way our minds cannot even comprehend, to take upon himself the pain and sins of all mankind. My soul was filled with sorrow as I've thought of his great sacrifice for mankind.

I've stood beneath Golgotha, the place of the skull, and contemplated the humiliation of the crucifixion which led to our Savior's mortal death, but which brought to pass his and all mankind's immortality. And again my soul has been subdued.

And I've stood in front of the garden tomb and imagined that glorious day of resurrection when the Savior emerged from the tomb alive, resurrected, immortal. In that contemplation my heart has swelled with joy.

Through these experiences I've felt to pour out my soul in thanksgiving and appreciation to our Heavenly Father for the love which he and his Son have given to us through the glorious atoning sacrifice. In the words of Charles Gabriel, "I stand all amazed at the love Jesus offers me, confused at the grace that so fully he proffers me. I tremble to know that for me he was crucified, that for me, a sinner, he suffered, he bled and died. Oh, it is wonderful that he should care for me enough to die for me. Oh, it is wonderful, wonderful to me." ...

I bear you my testimony, my brethren and sisters, that our Heavenly Father sent his beloved Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to fulfill the conditions upon which the plan of salvation would be operated. The Atonement represents his great love for us. [107]

Gordon B. Hinckley

"Of all the things for which I feel grateful this morning, one stands out preeminently. That is a living testimony of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Almighty God, the Prince of Peace, the Holy One. ...

"Jesus is my friend. None other has given me so much. 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends' (John 15:13). He gave His life for me. He opened the way to eternal life. Only a God could do this. I hope that I am deemed worthy of being a friend to Him.

“He is my exemplar. His way of life, His absolutely selfless conduct, His outreach to those in need, His final sacrifice all stand as an example to me. I cannot measure up entirely, but I can try. ...

“He is my healer. I stand in awe at His wondrous miracles. And yet I know they happened. I accept the truth of these things because I know that He is the Master of life and death. The miracles of His ministry bespeak compassion, love, and a sense of humanity wonderful to behold.

“He is my leader. I am honored to be one in the long cavalcade of those who love Him and who have followed Him during the two millennia that have passed since His birth. ...

“He is my Savior and my Redeemer. Through giving His life in pain and unspeakable suffering, He has reached down to lift me and each of us and all the sons and daughters of God from the abyss of eternal darkness following death. He has provided something better—a sphere of light and understanding, growth and beauty where we may go forward on the road that leads to eternal life. My gratitude knows no bounds. My thanks to my Lord has no conclusion.

“He is my God and my King. From everlasting to everlasting, He will reign and rule as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. To His dominion there will be no end. To His glory there will be no night.

“None other can take His place. None other ever will. Unblemished and without fault of any kind, He is the Lamb of God, to whom I bow and through whom I approach my Father in Heaven. ...

“Gratefully, and with love undiminished, I bear witness of these things in His Holy name.”
[108]

Thomas S. Monson

To understand the meaning of death, we must appreciate the purpose of life. The dim light of belief must yield to the noonday sun of revelation, by which we know that we lived before our birth into mortality. In our premortal state, we were doubtless among the sons and daughters of God who shouted for joy because of the opportunity to come to this challenging yet necessary mortal existence.⁵ We knew that our purpose was to gain a physical body, to overcome trials, and to prove that we would keep the commandments of God. Our Father knew that because of the nature of mortality, we would be tempted, would sin, and would fall short. So that we might have every chance of success, He provided a Savior, who would suffer and die for us. Not only would He atone for our sins, but as a part of that Atonement, He would also overcome the physical death to which we would be subject because of the Fall of Adam.

Thus, more than 2,000 years ago, Christ, our Savior, was born to mortal life in a stable in Bethlehem. The long-foretold Messiah had come.

There was very little written of the boyhood of Jesus. I love the passage from Luke: “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.” And from the book of Acts, there is a short phrase concerning the Savior which has a world of meaning: “[He] went

about doing good.”

He was baptized by John in the river Jordan. He called the Twelve Apostles. He blessed the sick. He caused the lame to walk, the blind to see, the deaf to hear. He even raised the dead to life. He taught, He testified, and He provided a perfect example for us to follow.

And then the mortal mission of the Savior of the world drew to its close. A last supper with His Apostles took place in an upper room. Ahead lay Gethsemane and Calvary’s cross. No mere mortal can conceive the full import of what Christ did for us in Gethsemane. He Himself later described the experience: “[The] suffering caused myself, even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit.” [109]

Russel M. Nelson

God so loved the world that He sent His Only Begotten Son to help us. And His Son, Jesus Christ, gave His life for us. All so that we could have access to godly power—power sufficient to deal with the burdens, obstacles, and temptations of our day. Today I would like to speak about how we can draw into our lives the power of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

We begin by learning about Him. “It is impossible for [us] to be saved in ignorance.” The more we know about the Savior’s ministry and mission—the more we understand His doctrine and what He did for us—the more we know that He can provide the power that we need for our lives. [110]

Conclusion

As I began this paper, I asked a question. Again I ask, is it not Christ whom was crucified that we teach of, we prophesy of, whom we testify of? I dare say and declare with soberness of mind and spirit that yes we do! For He is Jesus Christ, the Son of our Father in Heaven. It is in His name that we pray unto the Father for a forgiveness of our sins. It is through Christ that all mankind may be saved if they so have the desire to take upon themselves His name.

Jesus Christ stands at the head of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in this the last dispensation of the fullness of times. Jesus is our advocate with the Father at that great judgement day. He knows us and what we have been through.

Jesus is the Christ. He lives! He died on the cross of Calvary and suffered in the Garden of Gethsemane for our sins. He died for us so that we might be redeemed and saved in the Kingdom of our Father who is in Heaven.

The words written by prophets of old are all we need to know that Jesus is the Christ. They lived and died for Him. Should we not take their word as testimony and understanding and grasp hold onto that rod of iron to live each day with an eye single to the Glory of God? Should we not accept Christ’s Atonement into our lives on a daily basis and try to understand it more every day?

I echo the words of Nephi:

And upon these I write the things of my soul, and many of the scriptures which are engraven upon the plates of brass. For my soul delighteth in the scriptures, and my heart pondereth them, and writeth them for the learning and the profit of my children. [111]

The Lord teaches a man to do good. Should we not be anxiously engaged in a good cause in teaching of Christ? I say we should be. We should continue to teach of Christ until we cannot speak anymore, at which point we will write of Christ until we cannot write anymore. We shall not go a day without thanking our God in Heaven for his Son Jesus Christ who is almighty to save us from our sins so that we might have eternal life.

Notes:

1. Romans 4:25
2. 1 Corinthians 1:23
3. 2 Timothy 1:7
4. John 14:6
5. Ephesians 2:7
6. Ephesians 2:9
7. Hebrews 5:4
8. Matthew 1:18
9. Our Message to the World, Elder Robert E. Wells, Ensign, Nov. 1955, 65
10. Acts 26:23
11. John 11:25
12. Moses 2:26
13. Alma 7:11
14. Moses 4:1
15. Moses 4:2
16. Revelation 12:4
17. D&C 76:25-29; Revelation 12:7-9
18. Man-, President Marion G. Romney, Ensign, July 1973
19. 2 Nephi 31:21
20. 2 Nephi 31-33
21. 1 Nephi 3:7
22. Isaiah 9:6
23. 1 Nephi 11:32-33
24. 2 Nephi 31:5-7
25. 2 Nephi 31:8; Matthew 3:16
26. Moroni 10:30,32; 2 Nephi 33:10-11
27. Numbers 21:9
28. John 1:19 JST
29. Luke 3:22
30. 3 Nephi 11:7
31. Acts 7
32. James 1:5
33. Joseph Smith History 1:17
34. D&C 76:22-23
35. D&C 110:3
36. John 9:5; John 7:39; John 16:7
37. John 20:22
38. Acts 2
39. Acts 2:4
40. Acts 9:1
40. Acts 9:3

41. Acts 9:6
42. Acts 17:22
43. Acts 17:23
44. Acts 17:29
45. Acts 17:26
46. 2 Nephi 25:26
47. Joseph Smith History 1:25
48. Mosiah 5:7
49. Matthew 5:14-16
50. Matthew 7:1-5
51. Matthew 5:44
52. Matthew 5:17
53. Matthew 22:37-40; Luke 10:27
54. Moses 1:39
55. Matthew 6:14-15; D&C 64:1
56. Matthew 5:24
57. 1 Samuel 16:7
58. Alma 34:17-28
59. Alma 34:32
60. Matthew 7:24-27
61. 3 Nephi 27:27
62. Matthew 11:28-30
63. 1 Nephi 8
64. Mark 10:17-31
65. Matthew 25:1-13
66. Teachings of the Presidents of the church, Joseph Smith
67. Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 121
68. Bible Dictionary: Atonement
69. 2 Nephi 2:27
70. D&C 10:27
71. D&C 1:31
72. D&C 76:41-42
73. Bible Dictionary: Atonement
74. Bible Dictionary: Law of Moses
75. Bible Dictionary: Blood
76. Luke 23:43
77. Enduring Well, Elder Neal A. Maxwell, Ensign, April 1997
78. Conference Report Apr 1999, 14-16
79. History of the Church 4:597
80. Matthew 27:46
81. 2nd Nephi 1:15
82. D&C 138:20, 30-32
83. John 20:3-18
84. John 20:19-20
85. John 20:22
86. John 20:28
87. John 20:31
88. Luke 22:31-34
89. John 21:15-17

90. Luke 22:31-34
91. D&C 62:3
92. D&C 84:61
93. Matthew 28:19
94. D&C 76:22-24
95. Teachings of the Presidents of the Church, Brigham young
96. Teachings of the Presidents of the Church, John Taylor
97. Teachings of the Presidents of the Church, Wilford Woodruff
98. Teachings of the Presidents of the Church, Lorenzo Snow
99. Teachings of the Presidents of the Church, Joseph F. Smith
100. Teachings of the Presidents of the Church, Heber J. Grant
101. Teachings of the Presidents of the Church, George Albert Smith
102. Teachings of the Presidents of the Church, David O. McKay
103. Teachings of the Presidents of the Church, Joseph Fielding Smith
104. Teachings of the Presidents of the Church, Harold B. Lee
105. Teachings of the Presidents of the Church, Spencer W. Kimball
106. Teachings of the Presidents of the Church, Ezra Taft Benson
107. Teachings of the Presidents of the Church, Howard W. Hunter
108. Teachings of the Presidents of the Church, Gordon B. Hinckley
109. He Is Risin!, Thomas S. Monson, April 2010
110. Drawing the Power of Jesus Christ into Our Lives, Russel M. Nelson, April 2017
111. 2nd Nephi 4:15