Study Guide 9

Unit 5: The Restoration of Scripture

Articles 5.3, 5.4, 5.5

**Name: Ryan George**

Instructions: The purpose of the study guide is to direct your course of study of the Foundations of the Restoration, and assist you to focus on important salient points of your reading and study. The study guides are due on Learning Suite each class period by **8:59 am**. Your upload should only include the questions with your answers highlighted in yellow.

**Church History:**

**People (Go to JosephSmithPapers.org and search under Reference and People):**

**Places (Look at the Maps in your Scriptures):**

**5.3 Introduction to the Doctrine and Covenants**

1. In your own words, what is the Doctrine and Covenants?
   1. It is a book of revelations given to Joseph Smith and other prophets concerning the restoration of the Church, as well as guidance in operating the church after restoration.
2. True or False? All of the sections in the D&C were revelations from Jesus Christ given to the Prophet Joseph Smith.
   1. False
3. In your own words, how is the D&C unique from other scriptures in the Standard Works?
   1. Its unique because it is revelation that the Lord has given in this dispensation. All other standard works cover dispensations before the great apostasy.
4. The text teaches, ***“These sacred revelations were received in answer to prayer, in times of need, and came out of real-life situations involving real people. The Prophet and his associates sought for divine guidance, and these revelations certify that they received it.”***

It continues later, ***“In the revelations, the doctrines of the gospel are set forth with explanations about such fundamental matters as the nature of the Godhead, the origin of man, the reality of Satan, the purpose of mortality, the necessity for obedience, the need for repentance, the workings of the Holy Spirit, the ordinances and performances that pertain to salvation, the destiny of the earth, the future conditions of man after the Resurrection and the Judgment, the eternity of the marriage relationship, and the eternal nature of the family.***

***…* *Finally, the testimony that is given of Jesus Christ—His divinity, His majesty, His perfection, His love, and His redeeming power—makes this book of great value to the human family and “worth to the Church the riches of the whole Earth.”***

–With this in mind, explain why you are grateful to have the D&C as a tool in your own personal life. Or, explain how you are going to use it in the future now that you are beginning to realize it’s value.

* 1. I am grateful for the Doctrine and Covenants because it reminds me that God really does speak in modern times just as he did in times of old. I love the other scriptures we have, but I especially enjoy the D&C because it is evidence that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. I have found that turning the D&C has increased my testimony of the restoration and given me increased motivation to follow the commandments.

**5.4 Testimony of the Twelve Apostles to the Truth of the D&C**

1. Before reading this, did you know this testimony of the Doctrine and Covenants existed?
   1. No I didn’t
2. In your own words, what is the point of this testimony of the 12 Apostles?
   1. It is to add a witness from those who were around at the time of Joseph Smith’s ministry that the revelations he received were from God.
3. Give at least one differentiating factor of the 1835 Edition of the D&C:
   1. A series of seven theological lessons was also included beginning with this edition.
4. Give at least one differentiating factor of the 1921 Edition of the D&C:
   1. Starting with this edition, the lectures on faith were omitted
5. Give at least one differentiating factor of the 1981 Edition of the D&C:
   1. Three documents were included in this for the first time, being sections 137 and 138 and official declaration 2
6. Aside from these editions, there has been a 2013 edition, and online on lds.org there are continually changes made as new information comes to light. Why do you personally think it is important that there are new editions and adjustments made to the D&C throughout history?
   1. I think its important because although the revelations themselves are God’s word and don’t need to be changed, there are always ways to improve the way the revelations are presented, the footnotes, and study aides. We are a part of a living church that continues to look for ways to improve.

**5.5 “Great and Marvelous are the Revelations of God”**

1. In the early days of the Church when Doctrine and Covenants revelations were being received by Joseph, did the members believe they were useful and from God, or did they simply regard them as good counsel from Joseph Smith? *Explain your answer.*
   1. The article says that Thomas B. Marsh, along with other early members of the church, believed that the revelations received by Joseph smith were the word of God.
2. Did Joseph ever receive revelations that were canonized in the D&C from the same “interpreters” that he received with the Book of Mormon?
   1. Yes
3. Explain in your own words, in about 4-6 sentences, why many revelations were later revised by Joseph Smith
   1. This was done to attempt to more closely portray the intent of the revelation. Sometimes changes were made to reflect a growing church structure and new circumstances. Sometimes this led to substantial additions to the additional text. The church allowed Joseph to correct errors or mistakes by the Holy Sprit while reviewing revelations. Some changes stemmed from errors made by scribes Joseph dictated to. Other changes were made as later revelations incorporated teachings not part of the initial revelation.
4. There is an entire section dedicated to the fact that Church members changed their lives in response to Joseph Smith’s revelations. What stood out to you the most from this section?
   1. Levi Hancock’s story stood out most to me. He was called to go on a mission which required much financial sacrifice as well as leaving his fiancé. He was willing to do this though because he had a sure witness that Joseph was a prophet.
5. Towards the end, the text reads, “As it was with early members of the Church, so it is for members today: following the teachings of the prophet may require making personal sacrifices and taking steps into an unknown future with faith in the promised blessings. As members do so, they will gain greater resolve to follow the commandments, and they will receive the blessings therefrom.”

--Do you believe this is true? Why or why not? (Feel free to share personal experiences if you are comfortable with doing so)

* 1. Yes I definitely believe this is true. We are commanded to live by a dietary code and moral values that are becoming increasingly unpopular in the world. However, I know that when we let our pride go and stick to what we know is right then the Lord will bless us. The greater the sacrifice the greater the blessing.