

Let Your Light So Shine

For your careful . . .

. . . and thoughtful consideration.

I decided to capture these thoughts after reading and pondering the Savior's words in 3 Nephi 18:

16 [. . .] Behold I am the light; I have set an example for you.

[. . .]

24 Therefore, hold up your light that it may shine unto the world. Behold I am the light which ye shall hold up—[. . .]

The working premise I propose to you is that one thing is needful for every human being. That thing is light. We all need more light, and consequently less darkness in our lives. A torch-bearer is someone who carries light, and therefore is someone who carries a serious responsibility.

A "prayer" (one who prays) is a torch-bearer. When you agree to offer the prayer to start off our class meeting, your main purpose and focus should be to invite the Spirit to be with us so that we may all learn and be edified by the Holy Ghost.

I recall a talk I gave in sacrament meeting about three years ago on the topic: *Why and how temple ordinances help us more fully take upon us the name of Jesus Christ*. This was an assigned topic, and the assigned conference talk I was requested to base my talk on was Elder Bednar's April 2009 Conference talk, who quoted from Elder Oaks' April 1985 talk: *Taking upon Us the Name of Jesus Christ*

Quoting from Elder Oaks:

[There are] deeper meanings that the more mature members of the Church should understand and ponder as he or she partakes of the sacrament.

It is significant that when we partake of the sacrament we do not witness that we take upon us the name of Jesus Christ. We witness that we are willing to do so. (See Doctrine and Covenants 20:77.) The fact that we only witness to our willingness suggests that something else must happen before we actually take that sacred name upon us in the most important sense.

What future event or events could this covenant contemplate? The scriptures suggest two sacred possibilities, one concerning the authority of God, especially as exercised in the temples, and the other—closely related—concerning exaltation in the celestial kingdom.

The name of God is sacred. The Lord's Prayer begins with the words, "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." (Matt. 6:9.) From Sinai came the commandment, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." (Ex. 20:7, Deut. 5:11.) Latter-day revelation equates this with using the name of God without authority. "Let all men beware how they take my name in their lips," the Lord declares in a modern revelation, for "many there be who . . . use the name of the Lord, and use it in vain, having not authority." (Doctrine and Covenants 63:61–62.)

I would like to call attention to the phenomenon that, not in a flippant way, but rather in a thoughtless, careless way, we saints of the latter days sometimes rattle off (or mumble off) **the name**, the most excellent name, which is above all other names, when closing a talk or a prayer. Look at the verses that come just before those quoted by Elder Oaks from Section 63:

Behold, I am from above, and my power lieth beneath. I am over all, and in all, and through all, and search all things, and the day cometh that all things shall be subject unto me.

Behold, I am Alpha and Omega, even Jesus Christ.

Wherefore, let all men beware how they take my name in their lips—

(Doctrine and Covenants 63:59-61)

A puzzle to ponder says here are five little three-letter words to ask yourself what they have to do with this?

NAY GEE CRY SAY MEN

And moreover, I say unto you, that there shall be *no other name* given nor any other way nor means whereby salvation can come unto the children of men, only in and through the name of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent. (Mosiah 3:17, emphasis added.)

Ponder the words of this verse, then read the words of the song **No Other Name** by Kenneth Cope:

Since time began,
Since Adam came,
When has one man,
One single name,
Brought so much change,
Eased so much pain,
As the Babe of Bethlehem?
He became earth's greatest man.

Who else but He,
Fathered by God,
Ruling the sea,
Moving the world,
Came with such love,
Then gave it all?
Countless voices have so praised His name.

No other name
Has been so heard.
No other man
Has brought more good.

No other name
On earth that saves
Than the name of Jesus.
Lord Jesus.
Jesus Christ.

No other name.
Though man may search,
He'll never find
A hope more sure,
A treasure more prized,
Than knowing Him
Who knew no sin.
He can bring us back to God again.

No other name
Has been so heard.
No other man
Has brought more good.

No other name

On earth that saves,
Than the name of Jesus.
Lord Jesus.
Jesus Christ.

No other name. No other name. No other name.

I'm with Paul:

[. . .] I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord [. . .]
— Philippians 3:8

May we all be united in this *excellent* affirmation I pray in the sacred and holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ,
amen.