



DOCTRINE & COVENANTS

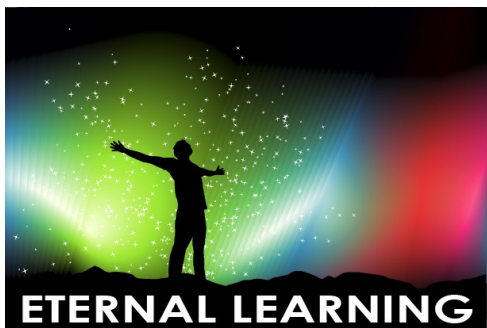
& CHURCH HISTORY GOSPEL DOCTRINE CLASS

* GREEN MOUNTAIN 1ST WARD * LAKEWOOD, COLORADO * 28 JUNE 2009 * PAGE 1 *

Lesson 23: "Seek Learning, Even by Study and Also by Faith"

Next Week
24: "Be Not Deceived, but Continue in Steadfastness", Doctrine and Covenants 26; 28; 43:1-7; 50; 52:14-19; *Our Heritage*, page 36.

Introduction



"Isn't it wonderful how many interesting things there are around to be seen and heard and felt and learned and enjoyed! ...

"We have only to open the 'many windows' to our soul—to happily employ our eyes and ears and intuition, to use our sense and our senses and our 'inward vision.' We can furnish our minds with interesting pictures to look at, inspiring things to hear, happy memories to live with" (Marion D. Hanks, *Improvement Era*, Oct. 1964, 883).

Heavenly Father has given us a wonderful world in which to live, learn, and progress. Our life on earth is a schooling process, during which we are to seek knowledge and understanding of the things of God and the world around us.

One of the basic teachings of the Church is that the knowledge we gain in this life will be a blessing to us now and in life after death: *"If a person gains more knowledge and intelligence in this life through his diligence and obedience than another, he will have so much the advantage in the world to come"* (D&C 130:19).

Learning is necessary for progress in any phase of our lives. Continued learning is an important part of the gospel. To live the gospel we must learn its truths. This lesson discusses the importance of learning throughout our lives.

The School of the Prophets provides a pattern for us to follow in our learning.

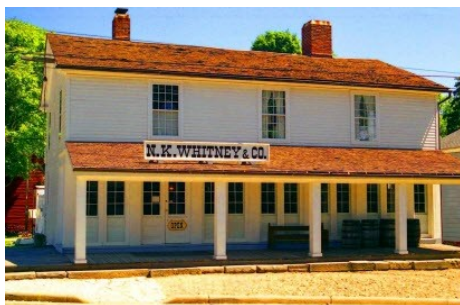
In this dispensation, the Lord has given great emphasis to the need for spiritual and temporal education.

The Lord instructed the Prophet Joseph Smith to begin a School of the Prophets in Kirtland, Ohio. The School of the Prophets began meeting in January 1833 in a small room above the Newel K. Whitney Store (see photo) in Kirtland. In this school, the leaders of the Church were instructed in gospel doctrine, the affairs of the Church, and other matters. They were to prepare for Church leadership and missionary service (D&C 88:77-80).

These meetings provided the setting for spiritual experiences and in-depth discussions of gospel principles. Several revelations were received. The history of the Church records that *"great joy and satisfaction continually beamed in the countenances of the School of the Prophets,*

and the Saints, on account of the things revealed, and ... progress in the knowledge of God" (*History of the Church*, 1:334).

D&C 88:122-125 gave commandments to the brethren in the School, requiring them to appoint a teacher, love one another, avoid being covetous and give freely, and be charitable. They were also required to cease from and avoid idleness, uncleanness, faultfinding, excessive sleep, late bedtimes, and sleeping late in the morning.



Lesson Highlights

- The School of the Prophets provides a pattern for us to follow in our learning.
- We should learn *"by study and also by faith."*
- We should continue to learn throughout our lives.
- In the temple we gain an education for eternity.

A study of this lesson will encourage us to learn "by study and also by faith" throughout our lives (D&C 88:118).



We should learn “by study and also by faith.”

D&C 88:118. President Marion G.

Romney said: *“I believe in study. I believe that men learn much through study...I also believe, however, and know, that learning by study is greatly accelerated by faith”* (*Learning for the Eternities*, comp. George J. Romney [1977], 72)

In addition to studying the gospel, we should seek learning in other areas, such as history, science, and good literature.

President John Taylor said: *“We ought to foster education and intelligence of every kind; cultivate literary tastes, and men of literary and scientific talent should improve that talent; and all should magnify the gifts which God has given unto them...If there is anything good and praiseworthy in morals, religion, science, or anything calculated to*

We should continue to learn throughout our lives.

The Lord and His prophets have always emphasized the importance of learning. We should continue to learn throughout our lives.

Elder Russell M. Nelson said: *“Because of our sacred regard for each human intellect, we consider the obtaining of an education to be a religious responsibility. ... Our Creator expects His children everywhere to educate themselves”* (*Ensign*, Nov. 1992, 6).

Why should we learn?
What should we learn?
How can we learn?

- **D&C 6:7** - Seek for wisdom, not worldly riches; receive knowledge of the mysteries
- **D&C 88:76-80, 118** - Teach the doctrines of the kingdom and learn theory, principle, doctrine, the law of the gospel, all things pertaining to the kingdom of God; astronomy/space science, earth science, history, current events, domestic and foreign affairs, geography, political systems...that we may be prepared to magnify our callings. Learn words of wisdom from the best books.
- **D&C 130:18-19** - Knowledge and intelligence we gain here will go with us into the eternities
- **D&C 11:21-22** - Seek to obtain the Spirit and His word; study the scriptures and their teachings
- **D&C 90:15** - Become acquainted with good books; learn languages, dialects, and cultures

exalt and ennobles man, we are after it. But with all our getting, we want to get understanding, and that understanding which flows from God” (*The Gospel Kingdom*, sel. G. Homer Durham [1943], 277).

Gordon B. Hinckley quoted the Savior’s injunction *“Learn of me”* (Matthew 11:29). Then he said: *“I should like to suggest that you follow that injunction given by the Son of God. With all of your learning, learn of him. With all of your study, seek knowledge of the Master. That knowledge will complement in a wonderful way the secular training you receive and give a fulness to your life and character that can come in no other way”* (*Improvement Era*, Dec. 1964, 1092).

- **D&C 131:6** - We cannot be saved in ignorance
- **D&C 19:23** - Learn of the Savior and His teachings, learn meekness, and you will have peace
- **D&C 93:36-37, 53** - Intelligence, light and truth, are the glory of God; learn history, geography and cultures, laws and legislation, justice and mercy...for the salvation of man
- **D&C 136:32-33** - Learn wisdom and humility, the power of prayer; enlighten the humble and contrite

President Gordon B. Hinckley taught young people the value of education: *“It is so important that you young men and you young women get all of the education that you can. The Lord has said very plainly that His people are to gain knowledge of the world through the process of education, even by study and by faith. Education is the key which will unlock the door of opportunity for you. It is worth sacrificing for. It is worth working at, and if you educate your mind and your hands, you will be able to make a great contribution to the society of which you are a part, and you will be able to reflect honorably on the Church of which you are a member. My dear young brothers and sisters, take advantage of every educational opportunity that you can possibly afford, and you fathers and mothers, encourage your sons and daughters to gain an education which will bless their lives”* (“Inspirational Thoughts,” *Ensign*, June 1999, 4).

President Wilford Woodruff counseled,

“Do not be discouraged because you cannot learn all at once; learn one thing at a time, learn it well, and treasure it up, then learn another truth and treasure that up, and in a few years you will have a great store of useful knowledge which will not only be a great blessing to yourselves and your children, but to your fellow men” (*The Discourses of Wilford Woodruff*, sel. G. Homer Durham [1946], 269).



President Brigham Young taught, “*Our education should be such as to improve our minds and fit us for increased usefulness; to make us of greater service to the human family*” (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, sel. John A. Widtsoe [1941], 255).

D&C 90:15. Become acquainted with all good books, and with languages, tongues, and people.

D&C 68:25–28. Parents have a solemn responsibility to help their children learn the gospel. Parents should also teach practical skills such as how to maintain good health, work diligently, get along with others, manage money, and get a good education.

While serving in the Quorum of the Twelve, **Elder Gordon B. Hinckley** emphasized the importance of encouraging children to read: “*You know that your children will read. They will read books and they will read magazines and newspapers. Cultivate within them a taste for the best. While they are very young, read to them the great stories which have become immortal because of the virtues they teach. Expose them to good books. Let there be a corner somewhere in your house, be it ever so small, where they will see at least a few books of the kind upon which great minds have been nourished*” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1975, 57; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1975, 39).

In the temple we gain an education for eternity.

In late June 1833, the Prophet Joseph Smith sent a plat for the construction of the city of Zion to the Saints in Independence, Missouri.



Plat for the City of Zion. The site for the temple is in the center.

In the center of the city of Zion the Saints were to build a temple. Although they were not able to build the city of Zion, they followed this concept when building Salt Lake City. The temple is a center of learning for members of the Church and we are encouraged to put the temple at the center of our lives.

In **D&C 88:119**, the Savior emphasizes that the temple is “*a house of learning*”. **Elder John A. Widtsoe** taught: “*The temple is a place of instruction. Here the principles of the gospel are reviewed and*

President Thomas S. Monson reminded us that little children can understand the teachings in the scriptures: “*A ... hallmark of a happy home is discovered when home is a library of learning. ... The Lord counseled, ‘Seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith’ (D&C 88:118). The standard works offer the library of learning of which I speak. We must be careful not to underestimate the capacity of children to read and to understand the word of God*” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1988, 81–82; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1988, 70).

Note: Parents interested in teaching children more effectively may wish to refer to pages 127–43 in the 1999 edition of *Teaching, No Greater Call* (36123). Lesson 45 in this manual also discusses parents’ responsibility to teach their children.

President Ezra Taft Benson taught: “*Today, with the abundance of books available, it is the mark of a truly educated man to know what not to read. ... Feed only on the best. As John Wesley’s mother counseled him: ‘Avoid whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, takes off your relish for spiritual things, ... increases the authority of the body over the mind’*” (“In His Steps,” in 1979 *Devotional Speeches of the Year* [1980], 61).

profound truths of the kingdom of God are unfolded. If we enter the temple in the right spirit and are attentive, we go out enriched in gospel knowledge and wisdom” (*Ensign*, Jan 1972, 56–57)

Elder Boyd K. Packer said: “*The temple is a great school. It is a house of learning. In the temples the atmosphere is maintained so that it is ideal for instruction in matters that are deeply spiritual...The temple ceremony will not be fully understood at first experience. It will only be partly understood. Return again and again and again. Return to learn. Things that have troubled you or things that have been puzzling or things that have been mysterious will become known to you. Many of them will be the quiet, personal things that you really cannot explain to anyone else. But to you they are things known...So look toward the temple. Point your children toward the temple. From the days of their infancy, direct their attention to it, and begin their preparation for the day when they may enter the holy temple...In the meantime, be teachable yourself, be reverent. Drink deeply from the teachings—the symbolic, deeply spiritual teachings—available only in the temple*” (*The Holy Temple* [pamphlet, 1982], 6–8).

We should continue to learn throughout our lives so we will be enriched and so we can better serve others. Remember the Lord’s command to “*seek learning ... by study and also by faith*” (D&C 88:118).

Gospel Doctrine Notebook

Record your thoughts on the teachings discussed in this lesson.

- What opportunities for learning have you had at church?
- What do you do to better prepare yourself to learn in Church meetings?
- How has your life been enriched by the study of good books?

