

May 2019

Church of Jesus Christ

Mount Ayr Restoration Branch

NEWSLETTER

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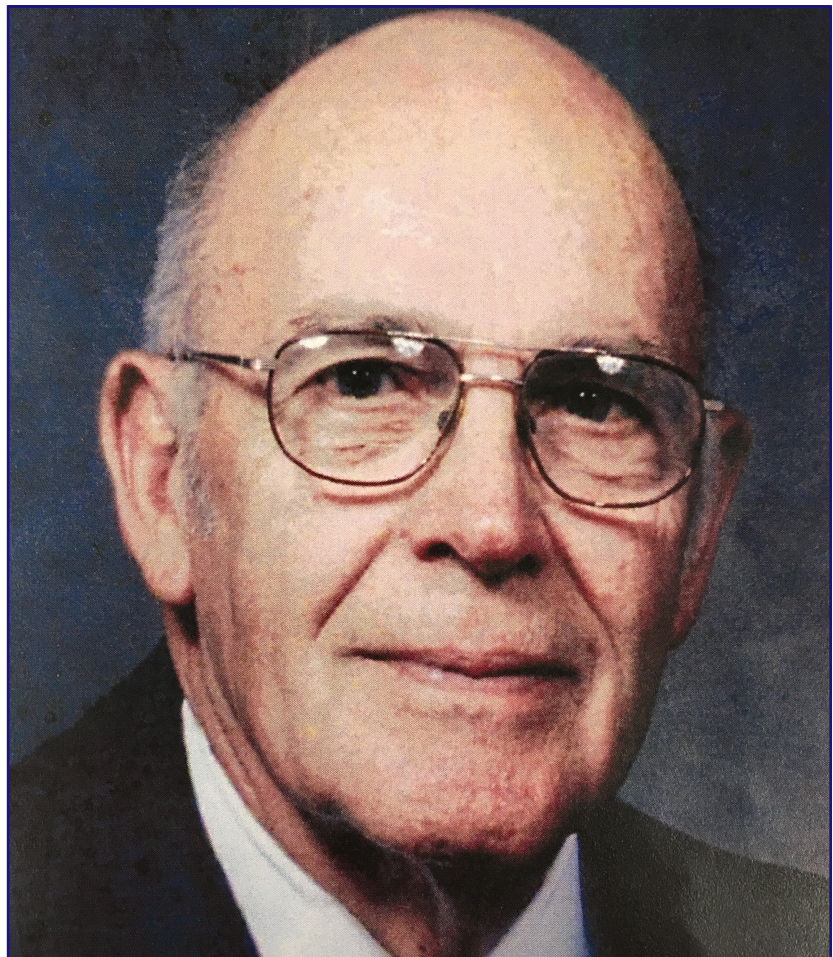
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“Therefore nothing entereth into his rest, save it be those who have washed their garments in my blood, because of their faith, and the repentance of all their sins, and their faithfulness unto the end.” 3 Nephi 12:32



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On April 24, 2019 our dear brother, Elder Norman Nelson, passed away at his home and entered into his reward. A memorial service was held May 4th at the Lamoni Community of Christ, presided over by four of his nephews. Brother Norman, a devoted servant of Christ was a humble man with a deep desire to serve mankind. After an experience when the Lord spoke to

him, after he had promised to do or go wherever he was asked, Norman spent what time he could in the mission field, traveling abroad and in the US ministering and sharing his testimony without hesitation. While he will be missed by his family and many Saints, we trust he is in the care of his Lord, Jesus Christ, and are happy he is now reunited with many loved ones.



JESUS IS COMING!

Seventy Tim Canfield

Sibley, Missouri

March 31, 2019

I have a couple of scriptures that I would like to read for an opening scripture. The first one comes from the 24th chapter of Matthew verse 41-45. *Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When its branches are yet tender, and it begins to put forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh at hand. So likewise mine elect, when they shall see all these things, they shall know that he is near, even at the doors. But of that day and hour no one knoweth; no, not the angels of God in heaven, but my Father only. But as it was in the days of Noah, so it shall be also at the coming of the Son of Man. For it shall be with them as it was in the days which were before the flood; for until the day that Noah entered into the ark, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, and knew not until the flood came and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.*

Then my next one is from 1 Thessalonians 5:1-10. *But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need*

that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day; we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

I have a couple more things I would like to read for your hearing and then I want to share a story with you. First, I'm going to read out of Church History Volume 1 somewhere in the middle of page 15. *The first thing that I can recollect was a voice speaking unto me calling me by name. I looked up and beheld the same messenger standing over my head surrounded by light as before. He then again related unto me all that he had related to me the previous night, and commanded me to go to my father and tell him of the vision and commandments which I had received. "I obeyed, I returned back to my father in the field and rehearsed the whole matter to him. He replied to me that it was of God, and to go and do as commanded by the messenger. I left the field and went to the place where the messenger had told me the plates were deposited; and owing to the distinctness of the vision which I had had concerning it, I knew the place the instant that I arrived there. Convenient to the village of Manchester, Ontario County, New York, stands a hill of considerable size, and the most elevated of any in the neighborhood. On the west side of this hill, not far from the top, under a stone of considerable size, lay the plates deposited in a stone box. This stone was thick and rounding in the middle on the upper side, and thinner towards the edges, so that the middle part of it was visible above the ground, but the edge all round was covered with earth. Having removed the earth and obtained a lever which I got fixed under the edge of the stone and with a little exertion raised it up, I looked in and there indeed did I behold the plates, the Urim and Thummin, and the Breastplate, as stated by the messenger. The box in which they lay was formed by laying stones together in some kind of cement; in the bottom of the box were laid two stones crossways of the*



box, and on these stones lay the plates and the other things with them. "I made an attempt to take them out, but was forbidden by the messenger and was again informed that the time for bringing them forth had not yet arrived, neither would until four years from that time; but he told me that I should come to that place precisely in one year from that time, and that he would there meet with me, and that I should continue to do so until the time should come for obtaining the plates. Accordingly as I had been commanded I went at the end of each year, and at each time I found the same messenger there, and received instruction and intelligence from him at each of our interviews respecting what the Lord was going to do and how and in what manner his kingdom was to be conducted in the last days.

Brothers and sisters, I won't read this but I'll remind you of the 10th chapter of Moroni. It says when you read these things and if you desire to know the truth of them if you will pray to the Lord that He will reveal the truth of those words to us.

Then I want to read one other thing from Doctrine & Covenants 4. I am going to read its entirety. It's not very long. *Now, behold, a marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men, therefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind, and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day; therefore, if ye have desires to serve God, ye are called to the work, for, behold, the field is white already to harvest, and lo, he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might, the same layeth up in store that he perish not, but bringeth salvation to his soul; and faith, hope, charity, and love, with an eye single to the glory of God, qualifies him for the work. Remember, faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, godliness, charity, humility, diligence. Ask and ye shall receive, knock and it shall be opened unto you. Amen.* I love to tell this story especially to those who know it's true because we all seem to be hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.

I told you I wanted to share a story with you. We can glean through the scriptures and from looking back through history that since the church was established in 1830 and the Book of Mormon came forth that light, intelligence and knowledge has come in overwhelming speed. It has spread throughout all the earth in every facet of our life, in our transportation, in our communication, in our industry and our technology, even in our medical fields and so forth.

A number of years ago my family and I went to Nauvoo and as many of you do went and toured the sites and saw history live. I remember we went in to the General Store there and the guide was sharing some of the things you might find in the Store. I remember she pointed to a sickle on the wall and said that that sickle hadn't changed in over a 1000 years except from a wood blade to a metal blade. Since the Book of Mormon has arrived we have combines and machinery that does farming where we can farm thousands of acres which they could not do before. We understand that that knowledge has spread in many facets of life ever since the church has been restored but it hasn't always been a blessing.

Frederick M. Smith stated in one of his books, *Increase in poverty, higher incidences of crime, sublimation of lower classes, which means the act or process of raising someone to a high station or dignity, to elevate or exalt their character; put them into hopelessness and destitution and waste of human and physical resources. These were problems that were created by the Industrial Revolution in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These deplorable circumstances were the result of selfishness and ignorance of Christ's law and love. These things helped structure our social classes that we have today, the lower, the middle and the upper class and so forth.*

Now I'm going to share a story with you that is a true story that happened about 105 years ago. We've all heard this story. Hollywood has made at least three or four films on this story costing millions and millions of dollars. I am going to share with you some facts or details that maybe you've never heard before. As I share these I am going to share about the leadership of these individuals and events and I'm going to try to use this as an analogy and relate some of the circumstances to the church and perhaps us today. This is the story of the Titanic. There were two other ships involved in this story. We usually only hear of one. I want to share with you the story of those three ships and the crew and captains of each one.

I want to give you some interesting facts about the Titanic and then try to equate that with some of the scriptures and us today. Now the Titanic weighed more than 45,000 tons. I weigh considerably less but I know when I am in water I sink. I can't imagine how 45,000 tons of steel could float. That is beyond me. It was 882' 9" long and was 92' wide at its widest point. It had 8 decks that equaled 11 stories tall. It had a double bottom. The outer skin was 1" thick, the idea being that if the skin was pierced that the ship would still be able to sail and float. The inner hull was 5/8" thick which was the normal



thickness for the outer hull of any ship made at that time. So they were trying to improve. They were being creative and trying to make it as safe as possible. The ship was divided into 15 watertight compartments and if 3 of these compartments were breached it could still float and sail. The captain of the ship was Edward Smith and he was the best that the British Merchant Fleet had at that time.

It was on April 10, 1912 that the Titanic set out from South Hampton for its maiden voyage to New York with 2227 passengers and crew. To me the Titanic is a symbol of the opulence and seemingly invincibility the British Empire had at that time. The Titanic reflected the pure extravagant arrogance as well as the belief that nothing could sink her. As you have probably heard, they even said, 'That God Himself could not sink this ship.' She was the biggest, the most luxurious and extravagant passenger ship of her time. There was the who's who of millionaires on this maiden voyage. It reminds me of that great and spacious building we read about in the Book of Mormon where they saw numerous people in that building which represented the pride of the world.

You know the world today offers us a better way of life. We can go anywhere we pretty much want to, if we can afford to. We can do anything we really want to. We can buy almost anything we want to whether we can afford it or not. We can buy things on credit, like our cars and homes. It offers us luxury and extravagance, bigger and better things all the time. It offers us material gain. Most of the time we can't afford it but we go in debt for it. It tempts us with those desires that we really don't need but sometimes we sure would like to have. Then it holds us in bondage to those things. I know because I have fallen into that trap myself. There is nothing wrong with buying a home or car on credit. This is what we need to do in society. We want to have a roof over our heads. We have to have transportation to go to work so I'm not trying to suggest that these things are unnecessary but the world has made a system where we're in bondage to it if we can't pay for these things up front. We suffer from these things. Our families suffer from these things sometimes, financially, emotionally, spiritually and even physically. These things have even been known to break up families. When we get too far in debt it causes a rift within the family and people sometimes get divorced. We have lotteries today that offer you a chance to become an instant millionaire but the scriptures tell us to forsake the world and not set our hearts upon the riches and vain things of the world.

I am going to read a scripture from 1st John 2:15. *Love not the world, neither the things that are of the world. If*

any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. Now 4 days and 17 hours after her voyage began at 11:40 PM on Sunday, April 14th the Titanic hit the ice burg. It tore a 300 foot gash in the hull on the starboard side above the double bottom. Six of the compartments were breached and with six damaged, she was doomed. I don't think the Lord sank the Titanic just because they even suggested that it was built in such a way that the Lord could not sink her. I think pride sank her. Because they didn't believe she could be sunk they sailed boldly into dangerous waters with reckless abandonment. In Proverbs 16:18 it says *Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.* If we are going to put our hope and our trust in the world and abide by what it has to offer, we are not going to be the Lord's people that He's called us to be, those who would harken, hear and obey. If we go to the world for our answers and to satisfy our wants and our needs, we're going to come away empty and we're going to sink in despair eventually.

When the Titanic hit the ice burg there was a slight jolt. Just about everyone that was still awake noticed it but a couple of minutes later they continued with their activities. No one could imagine that in a few short hours the ship was going to be at the bottom of the ocean. I believe the Lord gives us jolts from time to time, signs that the end is coming and is near. He does it in the scriptures when we read them. He does it when we come to church and hear our Sunday School lesson and what the preacher has to say and He does it in our personal lives with testimonies and blessings. He's calling us to come out of the world. Are we going to listen to Him?

Mark 13:25-27; 33-36 says *For in those days there shall also arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch, that if possible, they shall deceive the very elect, who are the elect according to the covenant. Behold, I speak these things unto you, for the elect's sake. And ye also shall hear of wars, and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled; for all I have told you must come to pass, but the end is not yet. (25-27) For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; There shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places. And again, because iniquity shall abound, the love of men shall wax cold; but he who shall not be overcome, the same shall be saved. And again this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world, for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come, or the destruction of the wicked. (33-36)* We are familiar with that description of the last days and I think we probably can see the devastation that is here just from watching the news. Look



at what's happening in Nebraska and the floods there. South Africa is flooded and the church down there has suffered. Fifteen of our own church members have died because of the flooding so there is devastation around the world. These are signs to us that Jesus is coming.



The Titanic that night received six warnings about the ice field that lay ahead of them and they did not even bother to slow down. We can see in the scriptures and stories that we've heard and read about God's people and those who even weren't God's people that did not heed God's warnings. Like the Egyptians, when God, through Moses, led the Israelites out of Egypt they did not listen. They were plagued many times with hardships and finally Pharaoh released them only to be stirred up in anger again to chase them to the Red Sea where the Egyptians ended up in the bottom thereof. The Hebrews were the same way. God continued to guide and direct them and bless them but they continued to complain and murmur. They hardened their hearts. God began to warn them of their disobedience but they ignored His warnings so He gave them the lesser law and took the high priesthood out of their midst and let them wander in the wilderness for 40 years until that generation died off before Israel could enter into the Promised Land.

Are we any different? I'm not pointing the finger at you because I include myself. How many times is God going to have to warn us and are we going to recognize His warnings? It reminds me of a story I heard when I was a small boy about an elderly man that lived in a town. It began to rain and to flood and the town was told to evacuate. The man said, 'I'm going to put my faith in the Lord. He'll save me.' One of his neighbors stopped by in a

car and offered to give him a ride to safety but he told them, 'No, the Lord is going to save me.' The rains kept coming down and the waters kept rising up and he had to climb out onto the roof of his house. Somebody came by in a boat and said, 'Climb in and we'll take you to safety.' But the man said, 'No, the Lord's going to save me' but the rains kept coming and the waters kept rising. He stood on the top of his chimney and a man came by in a helicopter and said, 'Climb in. Let me take you to safety.' The man said, 'No, the Lord is going to save me.' Finally the waters kept rising and rising and the man eventually drowned. When he stood before the Lord, he said, 'Lord, why did you not save me?' The Lord said, 'I sent three people to rescue you and you did not follow.'

Do we recognize His warnings? Are we going to recognize His servants who would try to lead us to safety? I know for myself God's done many wonderful things in my life for me and my family. Yet I'm still a sinner. I see His warnings in His scriptures and I feel the presence of His Spirit that I need to repent and overcome those things in my life that separate me from Him, and He lets me know if I don't change then I'm going to sink.

Now it was a deadly presumption for the engineer to proclaim that the Titanic was unsinkable. This sowed the seed of complacency in the leadership of the ship which was perhaps the single greatest reason why the disaster occurred. I had some friends that I hung out with in high school. They belonged to different churches and some of them had the belief that once saved always saved and they could not fall from grace no matter what they did so they went out and did whatever they wanted to. They either believed that they weren't sinning or that whatever they did didn't matter because they were saved. Satan gives us that false sense of security sometimes. In the 2nd book of Nephi chapter 12, verses 9 through 12 it says *Yea, and there shall be many which shall say, Eat, drink, and be merry, for to-morrow we die:* (Remember that's what was happening in the days of Noah. They were eating and drinking and giving in marriage, going on as if nothing was happening at all.) *and it shall be well with us. And there shall also be many which shall say, Eat, drink, and be merry; nevertheless, fear God, he will justify in committing a little sin: yea, lie a little, take the advantage of one because of his words, dig a pit for thy neighbor; there is no harm in this. And do all these things, for to-morrow we die; and if it so be that we are guilty, God will beat us with a few stripes, and at last we shall be saved in the kingdom of God. Yea, and there shall be many which shall teach after this manner, false, and vain, and foolish doctrines, and shall be puffed up in their hearts, and shall*



seek deep to hide their counsels from the Lord; and their works shall be in the dark; and the blood of the saints shall cry from the ground against them. Even if this ship was unsinkable to hit an ice burg head on would almost certainly cause great damage and perhaps even loss of life. The only possible reason for Captain Smith to proceed was that false sense of security that this ship would not sink.

But unlike the passengers on the Titanic after a while when they made a mad rush to the highest part of the ship, we cannot procrastinate the day of our repentance. We must heed God's warnings and come out of this world or it's all going to be in vain and we're going to go down with the ship. I believe the entire world system or Babylon as we often refer to it is near its end and that it's ready to fall. The Lord is calling us to come out of her, to get aboard His ship, His church which will eventually produce the Kingdom. In our morning worship the Jordisons read that in Revelation in chapter 7 so I'm not going to read that for you but I believe the Lord has brought forth and established His church on earth in 1830 for the last time. Through His gospel and His church the Kingdom is going to be brought forth.

When the lifeboats began leaving the Titanic the first ones were only partially filled because most refused to leave the warmth of the ship. They just didn't believe that it was sinking. By the time it was obvious that it was sinking the boats were gone. Only 705 escaped into 20 lifeboats and 1522 people drowned. Let us not hesitate for fear to come out of this world, to leave its security, its warmth because if we hesitate then we may fail as well. The Titanic's crew had never held a proper lifeboat drill. They did not have a plan for orderly movement of the passengers of the boat and the crew did not even know how to lower the boats. Everything had to be planned and learned while the ship was sinking under their feet. This obviously contributed to more loss of life than was necessary. Let me tell you God has a plan, the plan of salvation through His Son Jesus Christ and the gospel, the authority of the priesthood, the ordinances and by us taking up our cross and following Him.

Again many boats were lowered only partially full. One only had 12 people in it. These lifeboats were designed to hold 68 passengers and 2 crew members. The crew held hundreds of passengers below the decks. The entire ship was caught off guard by the events of that night and they paid dearly for it. Are we going to be caught in the same position? When we find ourselves procrastinating and unprepared for the end times and the time for Christ to come, are we going to have oil in our

lamps? If we do find ourselves in that same position then we too are going to pay dearly for it, perhaps not only with our temporal death but perhaps with a spiritual one as well.

I mentioned there were two others ships involved in this story. The names of these ships were the Carpathia and the California. The Carpathia is the one most people hear about but the tragedy of that night on the Titanic brought to light the leadership of the captains of the ships. I think all of these types of leadership can be seen in the world today and perhaps maybe in us. The first type can be seen in Captain Smith and the crew of the Titanic. Again they were the best that the British Fleet could offer. They believed that there was not a more intelligent, experienced and knowledgeable sea captain than Captain Smith in the whole British Empire. Combine that with his record of never having a single incident in 40 years at sea we have an unsinkable ship with an unsinkable crew but actually these characteristics are probably a significant contributing factor to the doom of the ship. These all fed their pride which feeds carelessness which sooner or later leads to tragedy. Now if we never had to face trials and temptations or have accidents in our life we probably might take God for granted. I know for myself I take God for granted from time to time. I don't always realize His blessings in my life or in my family's life. I don't always thank Him for those blessings when they happen but down the road I might remember to thank Him for His goodness and mercy.

The second type can be seen by Captain Lord of the California who obviously learned something from his experience of years of success and failures at sea. He was reserved and cautious but overly cautious. We too are sometimes overly cautious with what we believe and with the gospel, as least I am. Sometimes we place it on a shelf to protect it. Sometimes we're afraid to share it because we might not be able to answer somebody's questions or we might offend them. But we need to be more actively engaged in this cause, bearing our testimonies, striving to be His children. Christ said, *'My sheep hear my voice and they follow me.'* We may fall short and we may fail at times but the realities of life may cause us to react the way Captain Lord did if we allow fear and more failure to be sown in us. Becoming overly cautious can be just as deadly as being overly confident as it proved to be in this case.

When Captain Lord of the California heard about the ice in his path he slowed down. When he saw the ice he ordered his ship stopped in the waters and he waited for daylight. His wireless radio operator began warning the



other ships in the area of the danger and at 7:30 PM her warning was received and logged by the Titanic. After a while the captain went to bed. The usually stormy North Atlantic was amazingly calm that night. More than one officer remarked at the inquiry that they had never seen the sea so tranquil. The Second Officer, Lightoller, of the Titanic made this observation at the inquiry when he declared that everything was against them.

This reminds me of the scripture that I read at the beginning, *'When men cry peace and safety sudden destruction will come.* The tranquility must have overcome the crew of the California as well. Her bridge's watch saw the Titanic. They saw it approaching just a few miles away and then they saw the Titanic stop dead in the water. At first they thought she was just taking the same precautions that they were. Then the Titanic started firing rockets into the air every few minutes which is always ALWAYS used as a distress signal that there is something wrong. The crew of the California rationalized this remarking that it must be a signal for another ship which they could not see. They did not bother to wake up the wireless operator to see if they could contact the ship. Then they watched the Titanic disappear beneath the sea while telling each other that she was simply sailing away. Had they responded to that first distress call the California would have been able to save every life on that ship. Let us not be cautious with our testimony of our Lord and Savior. We may save somebody's life. We might help somebody come to the Lord. Remember what it says in Section 76 of the Doctrine & Covenants about the terrestrial glory, they are those that are not mighty in sharing their testimony.

Now I think the attitude of the California can be seen by most of us in the church today. When the inquiry comes and the final story is told are we going to marvel at how many of us were in a position to save life but instead chose to sleep through the night? Are we going to be like Captain Lord of the California who could have done so much? Rationalization is a popular shield for those who stand in fear. Were they so afraid of the ice that they decided to humor each other with unbelievable reasons for not responding to the obvious emergency? Are we going to have to ask ourselves a similar question? As our world sinks into the deep are we going to sleep when we could be saving many? Are we going to rise up and take action? When we stand before the Judgment Bar of our Lord are we going to rationalize why we didn't do everything we could for Him and our fellow man and are we going to hear Him respond to us, *'Depart from me, ye that never knew me.'* Or will we stand before Him assured that we

did all that we could for Him and our fellow man. Will we hear Him say, *'Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of the Lord.'*

In Revelations 21:8 those that fear are lumped together with the murderers because their actions often lead to death of others. When we can help and choose not to we're going to be held accountable. The Lord Jesus came to give His life for others and He's called us to follow Him with the same devotion. We may hide and save our lives during times of trouble but we may very well, by this action, be putting ourselves in the most terrible jeopardy for all eternity. If we cower and seek to save our lives we will ultimately lose them just like the Lord warned.

The third ship in that faithful drama that night was the Carpathia, captained by Arthur H. Rostron. He was known for his ability to make quick decisions and to energize his crew. He was a wonderful example of the leadership that the Lord is preparing for this our day, I believe. Rostron was a pious man devoted to prayer. At 12:35 AM the Carpathia's wireless operator burst into his quarters to report that the Titanic had hit an ice burg. The Carpathia was 58 miles away when they received this distress call. Rostron reacted in character. He immediately ordered the Carpathia turned around and at full speed ahead later asking the operator if he was sure about the report. This was a striking contrast to the reaction of the California and her crew. Rostron gave a masterful display of a truly prepared mind. He thought of everything and took care of every detail. He ordered the English doctor to the first-class dining room, the Italian doctor to the second-class and the Hungarian doctor to the third-class along with every possible piece of equipment or supplies needed for the sick and the wounded. He ordered different officers to different gangways instructing them to get the names of the survivors to send by wireless. They prepared the block and lines with chair slings for the wounded, bow lines were secured along the sides of the ship that the boat ropes and heaving lines for lifting people in chairs. All gangway doors were open. He then directed specific officers to take charge of his passengers and to see to their needs. All hands were to prepare coffee, soup and provision. He then designated all officers with cabins, smoke rooms and the library let those be used as accommodations for the survivors. Stewards were sent to reassure and explain to their own passengers the reason for this activity and to keep them calm.

Can we say that we're prepared now if the world was to end tomorrow? Is Christ in every aspect of our lives that we would react in good character as God's children to



those trials or do we sometimes complain? I know for myself I have some things I need to work on in my life and I have no excuse. I've been raised in this church all my life but my desire and my determination and my dedication aren't always what they should be. I sometimes let things of lesser importance interfere.

Captain Rostron turned to face the biggest problem of all and that was the ice. He was heading at full speed and in the same ice field that sunk the Titanic but to this courageous man reducing speed was absolutely out of the question. However, he took every measure to reduce the risk to his own ship and passengers. He added a man to the crow's nest and put two more on the bow, one on each wing of the bridge and he stayed there himself. His second officer then noticed the captain taking one last measure which he considered the most important of all. He prayed.

At 2:45 AM the second officer saw the first ice burg. They steered around it and kept going. The next hour they dodged five more. At 4:00 AM they reached the Titanic's last call position and began picking up the lifeboats. As the sun came up it revealed an astonishing sight. The sea was full of ice burgs for as far as the eye could see in all directions. Even with all the lookouts the Carpathia had passed numerous ice burgs which they had not even seen. No one could imagine how they missed them all except their pious captain. He knew that he had done all that he could, all that he had been trained to do but he still needed the Lord's help. The difficult rescue of the survivors was carried out with such discipline and order that peace reined over all. The Carpathia's passengers caught the spirit of self-sacrifice from her crew. Her first-class passengers gave up their own quarters to survivors. Others were pitching in to do all that they could do and on one of the darkest nights of tragedy ever experienced on the high seas, the Carpathia's captain, crew and passengers stand out as bright lights of courage and heroism.

They are a demonstration of what the Lord has called us to be to survive this night of tragedy and loss that is now falling upon the world. Let us not sleep as some did or be fooled by the calmness of the sea. Let us be prepared. The Lord said, *'Where much is given much is required.'* We don't have to be surprised. The Lord gives signs in heaven and on earth. I believe He's sounding His trumpet to wake us up. He exhorts us to know the signs of the end times and of His coming in glory and not to sleep on our watch. I believe, as a servant of the Lord and other servants that are in this work, God is calling us to prepare a people.

In closing I see people continually going to the world for their satisfaction and their gratification and they continue to come away empty. The emptier they are the more times they keep going back to try new things to satisfy them, to find what they seem to be lacking in their lives. I believe the world is crying out for God's Kingdom and they don't even realize what it is that they're missing in their lives. Christ calls all men to come unto Him and we as a portion of Christ's church are responsible for preparing our lives to assist Him in establishing His Kingdom here on earth, to bear our testimony that others might come to know Him and find His Kingdom here. He's entrusted it to each one of us.

I want to read again from 1st Thessalonians 5:5-6. *Ye are all the children of light (He's speaking to us.), and the children of the day; we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*

I would like to share one more incident in this story, one that you might be familiar with. When the survivors in the lifeboats were rowing out from the ship most of the people still thought it was just a precautionary measure that they would soon be returning to the ship and the warmth of their rooms in just a matter of time. They reported later on after the disaster that as they were rowing away they could see others on the decks of the ship and they began to hear them sing, 'Nearer My God to Thee.' I don't know about you but when I have trials in my life, I don't always think of the Lord first. I often am one of those that say, 'Why me? Why is this happening?' before I turn to the Lord and ask for His blessing or help or whatever. Those people knew they were going to die and they chose to look up to heaven and sing a song to their Lord in heaven.

I want to read one last scripture in closing that comes from 3rd Nephi 13:5. *Therefore what manner of men ought ye to be? Verily I say unto you, Even as I am. . .* May the Lord bless you and keep you as we strive together to not only seek but to do the Lord's will that we might play some small role in bringing about the conditions so that the Kingdom will come and Jesus will return for that is the one thing that is of a surety that Jesus is coming in spite of whatever we decide to do or not do. Jesus is coming and I believe it to be very soon and I trust that together we can help bring about the conditions that will bring about the Kingdom and Jesus' coming. May the Lord keep you and bless you is my prayer.





SHARING OUR TESTIMONIES

Priest Rodney Bastow

Mount Ayr, Iowa

April 7, 2019

I'm pleased to be here this morning but I've got to tell you I'm a little bit surprised. This is my third time that I have spoken so far this year. Usually that's a year's quota so I'm surprised but not disappointed that I've been scheduled. Another thing that seems odd about it is that every time I speak we seem to have some type of a storm. Back in January we had a big snowstorm. Back in February we had a real cold spell. Today I was expecting a thunderstorm, so far so good. We did get some rain which we didn't need but we will deal with those things.

I have a philosophy though about speaking. This is to help me from getting nervous which doesn't always work real well. My philosophy is that if I do a bad job I won't get scheduled very much. If I do a good job then we can all praise the Lord. I hope after today we can praise the Lord.

I've struggled to know what to say today and that's my fault. My mind really hasn't been where it should be and I'm sorry for that. I've been too self-centered lately and it took a while for me to prepare so that I would be able to speak to you today. Rob asked me this morning what I was going to talk about and I could have told him because I knew right then what I was going to talk about but if he had asked me the day before I couldn't have told him. My wife rather inspired my sermon this morning. When we were talking Saturday morning about the scriptures and knowing the scriptures and sharing the scriptures with others, I said, 'Debbie, it doesn't really matter. People don't want to hear a sermon. They don't want you preaching to them. They want to hear your testimony.' And she said, 'What's my testimony?' I said, 'Well, it could be _____. It could be _____ or it could be _____.'

I read her this devotion that I found this week.

John the Apostle never ceased to marvel at the life-changing relationship he enjoyed with his Lord. It overwhelmed him to know that at a particular time in history the God of the Universe chose to have fellowship with him, a simple fisherman. John was so overjoyed that he earnestly wanted to share his joy with others so they too might experience the same joy. A special fellowship or bonding developed between those who had personally encountered Christ as they rejoiced together at God's goodness to them.

Those around you desperately need to be encouraged by your latest encounter with Christ. Some have lost hope that they can experience the reality of God's presence in their lives. They don't need your philosophies or theological speculations. They don't need to hear your opinions on what they should do. They need to hear from someone who has just come from a personal life-changing encounter with the living Christ. When you have had such an experience you will be like the Apostle John hardly able to contain yourself as you rush out to tell others of your amazing encounter with God.

Your responsibility will not be to convince others of the reality of God but simply to bear witness of what your Lord has said and done for you. The change in your life will be your greatest testimony of your relationship to Christ. There's nothing more appealing or convincing to a watching world than to hear the testimony of someone who has just been with Jesus.

I can't say that I've actually been with Jesus but I think I have had some experiences where He has been



touching my life. Lavina Wimer was married to my Dad's first cousin. She just turned 97. I didn't really know Lavina until I was in my thirties. Really I had never met her until about that time but from the first day that I met her it was like there was a special relationship there between us. Lavina was recently in the hospital. She had what they determined was a blood infection. When we first went to see her I thought she was probably about to die. We visited her often and I prayed for her for over a week. I never really thought that she would get better but she did. Isn't God amazing! It's amazing what He did for her.

The last visit I had with Lavina I was going down the hallway of the hospital and there in another room was my cousin Charlie Long. Charlie is about ten years older than me. He used to be in the heating and air conditioning business. Putting in furnaces he came into contact with asbestos a lot and so he got asbestos lung. He also was a heavy smoker which didn't help him. He's been on oxygen for a long time and has been in bad health for a long time. There have been several times when we thought he was a goner but he came back. Charlie is usually in a wheelchair and has oxygen strapped to him but he grows a huge garden. I brought him a bunch of mineral tubs and he plants them with tomatoes. He does this out of that wheelchair with that oxygen. It's amazing to me. I've been praying for Charlie for a long time.

When I saw him that first day in the hospital, he wasn't too bad. I think that was because it was mealtime but the next day when I went to see him I thought, 'Oh, oh this is it.' That scared me a little bit because I'm supposed to do his funeral and I'm not sure that I'm ready for that yet. I walked in his room and Charlie was asleep. I woke him up and he said, 'Well, Rodney, how are you?' I started talking to him but he wasn't hearing anything because he was asleep again. I thought that was really weird. He didn't wake up until I got ready to leave. I said, 'I'm going now.' He said, 'Well, good to see you.' I told Debbie that I thought this was it for Charlie.

As I said I've been praying for Charlie for a long time. I prayed a little harder for him right after that and I was expecting for us to have a funeral for him. Two days ago we saw Charlie sitting in his car at the vet clinic and we talked to him. I was so shocked because he was just like he always was, getting ready to plant some tomatoes or something else. I thought, 'Well, thank you, Jesus.'

About a week ago Debbie and I were up at the Wal-Mart at Creston. We decided it was time to get away. We used to go to Wal-Mart on a regular basis but for some reason now we don't do that every week like we used to. We wanted to get away from the mud down here so we went up there. We had a good time shopping. There really wasn't anything that we needed too much so we were just enjoying looking around. We got ready to check out and Debbie said, 'This is weird. I'm seeing these black lines all across my eye. They are wiggly lines.' I replied, 'That's kind of odd isn't it.' I wasn't really sympathetic to be honest with you.

We got checked out and got outside and she said, 'Are there birds flying around out here?' I said, 'No, I don't see any birds but your eye doctor is right up the street here. You want me to take you there?' She said, 'Yeah, I really think you better.' Debbie's mother had macular degeneration. She was basically blind for her last twenty some years so Debbie and her siblings worry about that a lot. One sister has been diagnosed with it right now so they worry about anything that is happening with their eyes afraid that they are getting macular degeneration.

We went to the eye doctor. I didn't know eye doctors took classes. He was gone to a class. We went to another eye doctor's place in the hospital. He was at the same class. We're out of luck! What do we do? Debbie is getting really nervous and worried about this eye. Do we stay at the hospital and go to Urgent Care there? I started praying asking the Lord what we should do. We needed His guidance and direction.

I said to Debbie, 'Let's go back to Mount Ayr.' That's what we did and went to the medical clinic. I knew they couldn't really do anything for her eye but maybe they could do something else or maybe tell her what was going on a little bit. They looked at Debbie and said we're sending you to Wolf Eye Clinic in Des Moines. It was almost 4 o'clock and this was on a Friday. Wolf Eye Clinic this time of day? But they told us that we had an appointment up there. I was still in my chore clothes but I got changed and got in the car and headed for her sister's because her sister is our guide when we go to Des Moines. The clinic called us to see if we were coming and we told them that we would be there. We got there between 4:30 or 5:00. They were trying to lock the doors on us but we made it. They were really, really nice, everyone that we talked to there, the receptionist, the nurses. Most people when you come in right before closing are really kind of



growly. These people were super, just really good to us. One gal was from Lineville, MO and we had a good talk about the gym over there. They examined Debbie. The doctor came in and he examined her, looked her over really well and kept looking at that eye. He finally told her, 'You are getting old.' You wouldn't think that would be a relief but it was a real relief that those problems that she was experiencing were because she is getting older and she is getting "floaters" now. He told her that they would last for about two weeks and it would probably happen in the other eye and to come back and see him in another week and they would keep a close eye on it. I said, 'What about macular degeneration?' He said, 'Oh no, there's no signs of anything like that. The back of her eyes are healthy.' I'm thinking, 'Lord, you have really blessed us. This is a wonderful blessing that we've had.' Again, it was another one of those, 'Thank you, Jesus' moments.

If you have been familiar with me and my speaking here you know that I usually complain about the cows. You haven't heard that this year, have you? You have not heard one word about me complaining about the mud, about the cold weather, about the lack of hay, about any of that. Nothing, but that ends today. This year I decided that I would let my neighbor Tucker take care of the cows for me that were calving this winter. It was kind of pricey but I had such a time with them last winter that I decided that I wasn't going through that again. I was going to let Tucker go through that so he's been doing that.

Well, the cows started calving a couple of weeks ago. I don't know if I was directed to do this or divinely inspired but whatever the reason I didn't start calving until a lot later than last year. That was a real blessing because those that started calving a lot earlier suffered a little bit from that. The cold weather, the snow just didn't go well with calving. So we started later. I don't know if you notice when you are driving between here and Lamoni but some of the pastures look like they've been plowed up. It's where they've got cows. It's just almost impossible to keep them on ground that's not muddy. You try to move them from one place to another place and it just turns into mud. I put them up next to the buildings but I tried to walk between them one time and the mud pulled my boot off. I had a heck of a time getting anywhere.

So we had to put the cows across the road. They are not at the barn. There is a little shed there. Now much of the shed and all around in front of the shed is pretty deep

with mud. You think I'm kidding about this but I'm not. One morning Tucker came and we were there to meet him and he said, 'We got a cow that has the feet backwards.' I said, 'Can your Dad come help us get her in.' Tucker said, 'No, no he's gone and he can't help us.' I asked, 'Where's the cow?' and he said, 'Well, she's way down there next to the park.' Well, the park is quite a ways from where the shed was up by the road so I thought that I would take a bale of hay down there and she would follow me right up there wherever I wanted her to go. I got the hay and took it down there. Nope she didn't want anything to do with that. About the second time around the pond we decided that we had better start praying a little harder which we did. I got out and kind of followed behind her for a ways. Then I had to let Tucker do that. She eventually decided that she needed to go where we wanted her to go. We got her in the shed and it wasn't too bad. We called the vet and after a while he got there and pulled the calf.

The pull wasn't too bad although the calf weighed probably 140 pounds. It was really huge. The calf came out but we couldn't tell for sure if it was still alive or not but the cow tried to prolapse right then too. He's pushing and pushing and said, 'Get the cow up. Get the cow up' so we were beating on the cow trying to get her stand up and finally got her to her feet and everything was fine. The calf started breathing and it was just like, 'What just happened?' I could have lost the cow and the calf there in that situation. It was like, 'Thank you, Jesus.' It was a real blessing for us.

Recently I joined Ringgold Singers again. I've done that before and I really enjoy that group. It's a real blessing to do that. Sue will tell you. They are really good people. Right now we're singing Easter music. Thursday we go to the nursing home to sing and then the next Wednesday we'll go to another nursing home. We are singing Easter songs right now. The Hallelujah Chorus is one of them that we've been singing and Here Comes Peter Cottontail. These songs have been on mind while I was trying to prepare and they really uplifted me. They really inspired me and they have really been a blessing. When I go there I feel such a good spirit. Sometimes I have trouble singing. The last two or three years it's been a little bit of a struggle to sing especially if the music is real high and I get stressed with it and then I can't breathe anymore. The last practice especially I felt really good about. I had plenty of air.



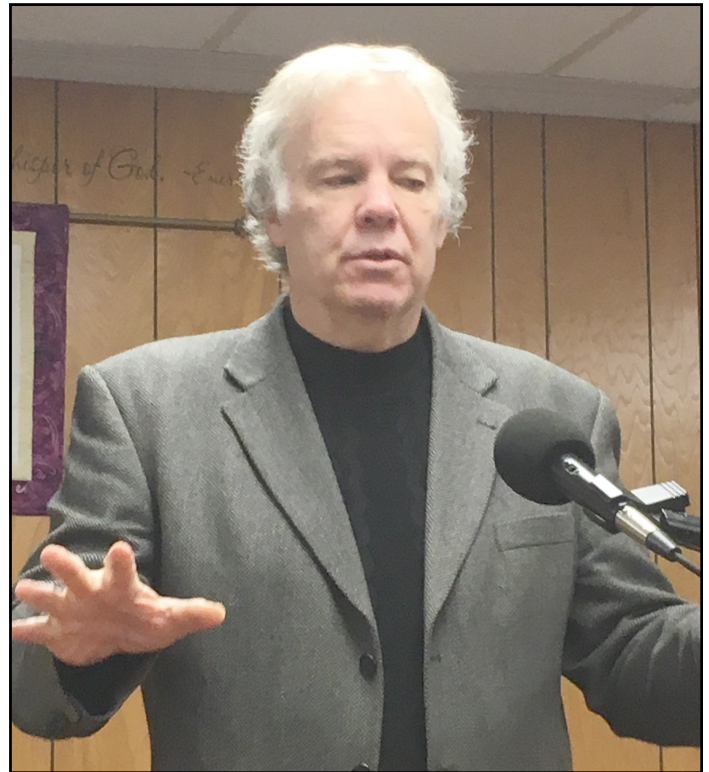
We went to prayer meeting Wednesday night. We hadn't done that for a while. We really enjoyed that. You go to prayer meeting and see a lot of members of our church family that you never see any other time and it was good to see them.

Before we went to prayer meeting we went to see Beth Knotts. We've missed Beth a lot. She and Debbie have kind of a special bond. It's really kind of neat to see that. Beth makes you feel good just being with her, just listening to her. The stories she can tell you, experiences she has had are really great and the spirit that she carries is very contagious. It's such a blessing to be with her.

These experiences all happened within probably the last couple of weeks. Now that I've shared them with you I need to share them with others. When we saved the cow and the calf I said to Tucker, 'Thank you, Jesus' and Tucker agreed. I need to let Lavina and Charlie and the others that I have been praying for know that my prayers are being answered and God is blessing them. Even though they may not have much more time with us that He will continue to bless them and watch over them. I need to let those who have lost loved ones know that I am praying for them to be comforted by God's Holy Spirit. I need to share with Debbie's family the guidance and direction we received with her eye problem. I need to let those at Ringgold Singers and at prayer meeting and those of you here today know what a blessing it is to be with you and to worship with you, to worship our Lord and Savior.

All of you have stories to tell, stories about prayers being answered and about blessings that have been received. I would ask you to share these testimonies with me and then share them with others. These things we write you that your joy might be full. A watching world wants and needs to hear your testimony of your walk with Jesus.

I want to close with a scripture from John 14:25-27. *These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*



SETTLING FOR LESS

High Priest Joel Loving

Lamoni, Iowa

April 14, 2019

As a Call to Worship Rodney Bastow read Matthew 21:7. *And the multitudes that went before, and also that followed after, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who cometh in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!*

Palm Sunday is Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Those of you who weren't here missed a fabulous morning worship very powerfully presented and words that just bathed me in the Spirit. Let me ask you a question at the beginning. How well do you think you know Christ and how well do you want to know Christ? I am amazed that there were so few in the midst of Christ's company who knew what was about to happen at this historical event that took place almost 2000 years ago. In fact, it's rather strange how they were so unprepared to know what really was about to occur. Christ had told His disciples. They didn't believe it. Peter rebuked Him for it. How is it that such a significant event is so hard for us to



understand? My Father struggled his whole life with the need for Christ to be crucified. Sandy and Tony talked about the fact that the triumphant entry into a city usually occurred with the person riding on a magnificent steed, some white stallion with a parade of soldiers and an army, quite a bit of pomp and circumstance. Christ entered into Jerusalem on a colt and came dressed, I suspect, relatively poorly with a few followers who didn't really recognize what was about to happen.

What does that say about us? You can say well that was them and that was then and this is us and this is now. We would have recognized Him. They represented all of mankind at that point. They failed to recognize really what was happening. This is what I want to talk about today, settling for less. We as human beings often settle for less. We have great desires, great wants and great needs but when it comes to the Lord I think sometimes we have settled for less. The Lord wants more for us.

Now I know that there are exceptions. There were people who did know that Christ would be crucified. We know of them through the Book of Mormon, prophets like Neum, Zenos who weren't part of the Book of Mormon but were referred to in the Book of Mormon. Nephi, Jacob and Mosiah all talked about Christ's coming. They were born before Christ many hundreds of years and talked about how He needed to come and be crucified. There were those that knew but in the party that Christ was amongst in Jerusalem we don't seem to be aware of anyone. How is that?

There's a story told of a boy who received a ticket to a circus sent by one of his relatives. The Barnum and Bailey Circus was coming into town! He opened the mail and received a ticket to go to the circus. He was all excited and when the day arrived that the circus was actually coming in to town there was a parade. He got there early and got his place on a nice corner where he was going to spot the parade coming down the street. It was going to last a while. The parade came and marched through town with the clowns, the tall-stilted men, people on unicycles and the animals and all of the acts. The boy was absolutely blown away and enthralled with this scene that he has witnessed as the circus had finally arrived. Then he goes home. Having seen the what he thought would be the circus the ticket had served its purpose. When they opened the Big Top and all the acts he missed them. He settled for less. He didn't recognize the fullness of what was in store.

We have, as a humanity, for far too long accepted a partial gospel. I am not trying to step on anybody's toes.

I'm trying to speak in a way that honors God and is straight forward true and honest with you. I wonder in many ways if we have settled for less, even us in the Restoration. How well do we really want to know Christ? Are we afraid to know Him? Are we afraid to be in the same room with Him? Could we look Him in the eye? Could we imagine Him looking at us being here and speaking to us?

This partial gospel is a blight and indictment on us that we know part of the story of Jesus but not all of it. I can't wait to know more because with Christ there will always be more. You've heard these words before from the 10th chapter of John with the 11th through the 16th verses. *I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for his sheep. And the shepherd is not as a hireling, whose own the sheep are not, who seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth; and the wolf catcheth the sheep and scattereth them. For I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. But he who is a hireling fleeth, because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.* (Verse 16 is the important part) *And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.* And to this day we still practice pocket Christianity, many folds, the partial gospel understood but the full gospel escapes us.

From the Book of Mormon I want to read this scripture. It comes from Jacob 3:9-17. *Behold, great and marvelous are the works of the Lord. How unsearchable are the depths of the mysteries of him; and it is impossible that man should find out all his ways.* (Maybe we hear that and think well there's no way I am every going to get there so why even start?) *And no man knoweth of his ways, save it be revealed unto him; wherefore, brethren, despise not the revelations of God.* (The Spirit of God has attempted to reach you in your mind and in your heart with the revelations of Jesus Christ and the truth and the light therein and it continues to try to reveal to us more about Christ.) *For behold, by the power of his word, man came upon the face of the earth; which earth was created by the power of his word. Wherefore, if God, being able to speak, and the world was; and to speak, and man was created, O then, why not able to command the earth, or the workmanship of his hands upon the face of it, according to his will and pleasure. Wherefore, brethren, seek not to counsel the Lord, but to take counsel from his*



hand. For behold, ye yourselves know, that he counseleth in wisdom, and in justice, and in great mercy, over all his works; Wherefore, beloved brethren, be reconciled unto him, through the atonement of Christ, his only begotten Son. That ye may obtain a resurrection, according to the power of the resurrection which is in Christ, and be presented as the first fruits of Christ, unto God, having faith, and obtained a good hope of glory in him, before he manifesteth himself in the flesh. This was written some 500 years before the birth of Christ. There were those who knew these mysteries. They didn't settle for less. We call it, in the Restoration movement, the fullness of the gospel. I don't know if you understand or fully appreciate that term but it's an audacious thing to say, especially to our Christian brothers and sisters whom we are called to love and humbly serve.

Fullness of the gospel? What is the gospel? In the simplest of terms it is the story of Jesus. It's the good news of Jesus coming to the earth, living, being crucified, being resurrected, returning to God and creating the pathway for salvation of all mankind. Laying down His life for our sins that we might have opportunity to believe and have faith upon Christ and have access to God and live with Him in eternity.

So what is the fullness of the gospel? If this gospel of Jesus Christ is about Christ, what's the fullness of the gospel? Why is there need of a fullness of the gospel? We could say the fullness of the gospel is the Book of Mormon. I am about to quote some scripture where it says that and that is true. We could say, 'Well the Book of Mormon is a second testimony of Christ' and that's true; very concrete, very fundamental, very foundational, very central. It has to be, it just has to be about Christ. But if I already believed in Christ after having read the Bible or the New Testament, if I already was a believer in Christ why have a second testimony? Why is there a need for a second testimony? What's the crucial purpose of this fullness of the gospel? Because there is more and this is what I want to talk about here in the time remaining.

Doctrine and Covenants 17:2a-3c says, *and gave unto him commandments which inspired him, and gave him power from on high, by the means which were before prepared, to translate the Book of Mormon, which contains a record of a fallen people, and the fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, and to the Jews also, which was given by inspiration, and is confirmed to*

others by the ministering of angels, and is declared unto the world by them, proving to the world that the Holy Scriptures are true, and that God does inspire men and call them to his holy work in this age and generation, as well as in generations of old, thereby showing that he is the same God yesterday, today, and forever. Therefore, having so great witnesses, by them shall the world be judged, even as many as shall hereafter come to a knowledge of this work; and those who receive it in faith and work righteousness, shall receive a crown of eternal life; (and then these perilous words are said) but those who harden their hearts in unbelief and reject it, it shall turn to their own condemnation, for the Lord God has spoken it.

Because I love you and care for you and I'm trying to honor the Lord now and serve Him and follow the Holy Spirit, I want to give you a warning about settling for too little. This comes from the last bit of the Old Testament. The very last words that we find before the New Testament begins read like this. *For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble; and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts. Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord; (Verse 6 is the important one that I want you to listen to.) And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. (Malachi 4:1-6)*

Unless we come to an understanding of what the heart of our fathers had we are in danger of the earth being smitten. So what did the fathers have their heart upon and who are the fathers? We'll open it up. Does anybody know? Who are the fathers? I'll suggest since you are going to be quiet they are the ancient prophets. Those are the fathers. It includes the mothers also. What did the fathers have their heart set on? What mattered to them? What did they want and what did they know that we have to come to a knowledge of? Do you have any idea?



Here it is. I know I am reading a lot of scripture but that is the truest part of what I have to say and I have to honor the Lord. Jacob, Nephi's brother, writes in the Book of Mormon. *Now behold, it came to pass that I, Jacob, having ministered much unto my people, in word, (and I can not write but little of my words, because of the difficulty of engraving our words upon plates,) and we know that the things which we write upon plates must remain; But whatsoever things we write upon anything save it be upon plates, must perish and vanish away; but we can write a few words upon plates, which will give our children, and also our beloved brethren, a small degree of knowledge concerning us, or concerning their fathers.* (Jacob 3:1-2) (So basically he says this is hard but it's got to last and it's important enough that you will get it, that our children and our brethren and others will get this.) *Now in this thing we do rejoice; and we labor diligently to engraven these words upon plates, hoping that our beloved brethren, and our children, will receive them with thankful hearts, and look upon them, that they may learn with joy, and not with sorrow, neither with contempt concerning their first parents: For, for this intent have we written these things, that they may know that we knew of Christ, and we had a hope of his glory, many hundred years before his coming, and not only we, ourselves, had a hope of his glory, but also all the holy prophets which were before us. Behold, they believed in Christ, and worshipped the Father in his name; and also, we worship the Father in his name.* (Jacob 3:3-5) Some six hundred years before Christ was born, these words were written.

The most powerful profound truth to come to mankind is the gospel, the good news of Jesus. It is so powerful it came from the very beginning from the foundation of the earth. We call this the antiquity of the gospel, the age old gospel, the good news of Jesus. And there were those who knew Jesus who didn't settle for less and understood this.

Here is something quite profound. I want you to think about this. You go home tonight and you have a meal together with your family and whoever is there. There is a knock on the door and Christ enters your home. There are trumpets, angels singing and light but you are allowed to see Him with your natural eyes. He visits with you and He tells you the story, His plans, the divine purpose that you have and what's ahead. What are you going to do? Are you going to stay quiet? Do you think you might be a little bit excited about that? Do you think you might write it down? Do you think you might want your children to know about it? Do you think you might want your loved

ones to know about it? Do you think you would share it with them? Then you would look at Christ and say, 'What if my children fall away? What if as I tell this story they fall away?' And Christ looks at you and says, 'This is how we do this because humans have a tendency to fall away, settle for less, not want to know the whole Jesus story. I'll covenant with you.'

The way of covenant is the way of the Book of Mormon. To understand what covenant means in the ancient way read the story of Alma in the 20th chapter. Moroni and Zerahemnah are on opposing sides. They fight this long battle and finally Moroni gets Zerahemnah surrounded and he says if you'll lay down your arms and go home, make an oath to never come back and fight with us, we'll let you go. Now I don't know how you feel about that but it seems somewhat preposterous to us because the way we go about agreements in this world is we make them and then break them when it's convenient. There was a whole different mindset, a whole different paradigm about making covenants with these people. Even the enemies that hated each other when they made a covenant would keep it such that the Nephites would trust them. 'Ok you're going to drop your weapons and go home and never fight us again? Go we'll let it happen.' It's hard for us to fathom that because we look at agreements and covenants differently but I want you to know that when the Lord makes a covenant it's a sacred promise. It's a big deal. In fact, probably the highest language we can possibly think of is a covenant with God, holy, sacred, reverent, eternal.

This way of covenant is important to us. Listen to these words again from the Book of Mormon where we find the fullness of the gospel. *But if they will repent, and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant, and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance, and they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob; And also, as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem; And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem. And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst, and then shall the work of the Father commence, at that day even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people. Verily, I say unto you, At that day shall the work of*



the Father commence among all the dispersed of my people; yea, even the tribes which have been lost, which the Father hath led away out of Jerusalem. (3rd Nephi 10:1-5) If you were to make a covenant and have an experience with the Holy Spirit, you would have such a passion to have that covenant known by your family. This one is going to be known by the family of God and so there's this fullness of the gospel, a fuller account of what Christ is doing.

I won't go into it here but there's also a counter covenant. There's usually a counter that the adversary comes up with to fool us. In this case do you know what the counter covenant is? It is secret combinations. We were warned of them in the Book of Mormon. Helaman 2:145-147 talks about these secret combinations. They covenanted with each other, blood oaths, curses. I won't go into it but it's the lowest form of language known.

Nevertheless, I want to tell you a quick story in the time remaining about how God brings this all together. I want you to pay attention because for the most part it looks like you're bored. I really don't care what you think of me as a speaker but what I'm about to say I really care about. I do love you and I'm saying the most important words of my life to you as powerfully as I possibly can. Listen to me. Listen to me so that your time before Christ at the judgment bar is not more painful than it needs to be.

Zenos tells a story of a vineyard of an olive tree specifically. Actually the olive tree represents a couple of things. It's the House of Israel and it is mankind. I want to talk to you about an olive tree. There are several unique things about an olive tree. An olive tree can live thousands of years. There are olive trees in existence today which were alive during Christ's time. They are kind of gnarly in their trunk and their shape. An olive tree that is left to its own grows a lot of branches. It actually grows too many branches which are called suckers because they pull the nutrients from the roots but don't bear well and overwhelm the roots and the fruit becomes bitter and small if there is any at all.

I want you to picture an olive tree in your mind. What are you seeing in this olive tree? Did any of you picture the roots? An olive tree has an extensive root system and then it comes up to a trunk and goes out into the branches. Now the roots of the olive tree, like all trees, absorb the water from the ground. Now there is a phenomenal composition of a vascular network in trees called xylem

and phloem. The roots absorb the nutrients but the water which would be represented in this case is the truth but the truth of what? What's the truth always centered around? Christ. The roots absorb the water and pull it up together into its trunk. The trunk is Christ. He is the one that holds it all together. He is the central point of this. From the very beginning He has been the central point of this. It's always around Christ.

Then where does the water go from the trunk? It goes up into the branches and up into the leaves. In the leaves where there is chlorophyll the light will strike the chlorophyll. What do we call this? Photosynthesis. What happens in photosynthesis? The water is turned to sugar, and other nutrients. Xylem is the vein network through which the water flows up the inside of the tree basically. This is where the rings are formed. The water is pulled from the roots up through the trunk up into the branches and into the leaves where light strikes them and it's turned to sugar. The phloem vascular network returns the nutrient moisture water to the rest of the plant and it gets strengthened and it grows. Do you know what the roots symbolize? People. Ancient men and women that knew the truth of Christ that want to share that with those in the upper branches and leaves who are more modern man.

Wait a second! What is the role of the phloem? What's our role in coming back into this whole thing? We know the truth that came through those people. The roots are people. The roots are the story of a people, a sacred people that Christ covenanted with and we have their testimony in the form symbolized by the rings (scripture) in the tree.

Do you know why it is so damaging not to believe in the Book of Mormon? Do you know why it's so hard for one who wants to know Christ but not the Book of Mormon? It's because by disbelieving in the Book of Mormon you disbelieve in the people who covenanted righteously, sacredly with Christ. All of a sudden those people are not a whole lot different than the Easter bunny or the tooth fairy. We just obliterated those people and the covenant they made with Christ and Christ has said in this covenant that when we unite in covenant together with them and through Him, He'll come back. But no we have a better idea. We've got it all figured out. Jesus alone will just take care of it and so we don't have the kingdom. We believe in a kingdom that after we die we get to go to heaven and be with Jesus. The people who say, 'Wait a second! Christ has more. He wants to bring His kingdom down now in our midst with Christ looking at me, looking at you as I look at you now. It can't be. It won't happen



and it hasn't happened. Well done, humanity. You settled for less again and we bear the shame of that and it can't help but bring tears to my eyes. Folks, this is our chance to believe in that covenant. It's more than a metaphor. They are real people, sacred in the promise they made knowing the Lord and they wanted us to know that. When we come to know that through the metaphor of the tree, through the xylem and phloem, we marry with them, with Christ at the center.

Doggone it, listen to me! Do you want to see your parents again? Do you want to see your family again? Do you want to be with other loved ones? Would you like to be with Abraham or Isaac? The Lord has a plan for all of this to come back together and our idea is let's just live life the way we want to, retire when we want to and then when we die we get to be with God in heaven. Christ is saying we can have it all on earth if we will love each other enough and pursue Christ diligently enough and want to know Him enough that we will read this book. The Book of Mormon is not an end to itself as it points to others that must be believed. Christ is honoring their testimony. We can't ignore it. He knows what the belief in their testimony will bring, heaven to earth. You have parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts or people who are dying to return to earth as one in a great reunion. It says when we have this reunion we will fall on each other's necks and kiss each other. How many people do you kiss when you see them? It's a powerful story.

Oh, but wait. In the story in Jacob 3 we find out in the tree we have trouble. The tree begins to decay. The tree begins to not bear good fruit. Remember I told you there are suckers, there are branches that just grow and they pull the nutrients but they don't really bear like they should because they are going their own direction and they overwhelm the roots. So the owner of the vineyard and the servant come down. *Who is it that has corrupted my vineyard? And it came to pass that the servant said unto his master, Is it not the loftiness of thy vineyard? Have not the branches thereof overcome the roots, which are good? And because the branches have overcome the roots thereof, behold, they grew faster than the strength of the roots, taking strength unto themselves. Behold, I say, Is not this the cause that the trees of thy vineyard have become corrupted?* (Jacob 104-108)

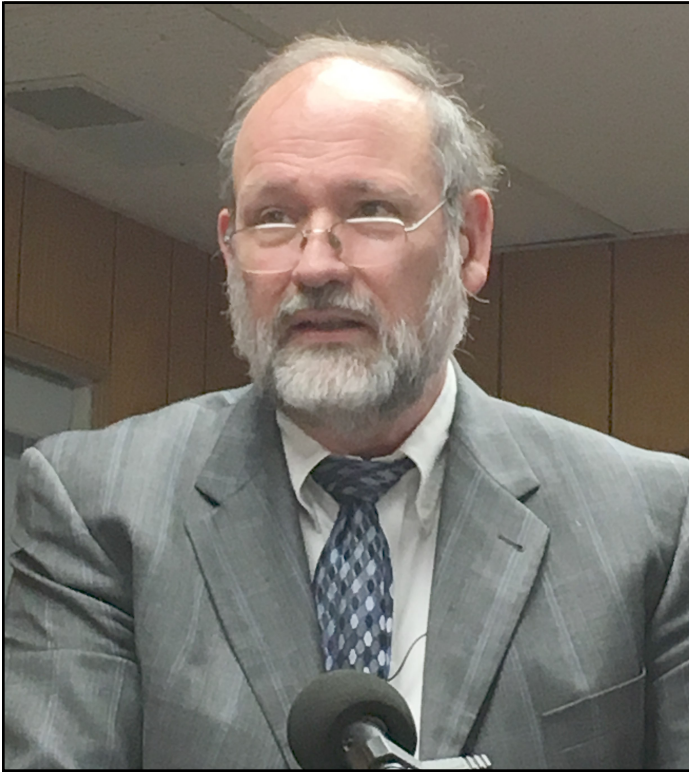
Oh, what does that mean, the loftiness of the branches? Pride. We are so smart today. We've got it figured out. We've got it. We know what's going on. We don't have to stay as connected to our roots. We don't

have to stay as connected to the rest of the tree. We're on the top. We've got it figured out. And the Lord says, 'I'm pruning you and you'll burn. You are not bearing the fruit that would come from the true roots. You are not listening to the history and the story that is real. You're saying it is fiction. This Book of Mormon is make believe thereby the covenants are fiction, thereby those people are fiction and thereby you have no covenant to embrace that will restore the kingdom on earth. Does it make sense? Do you see the wisdom of this metaphor? The whole tree connected in balance. The ancients dying to put together the testimony that we would hear and we're blowing in the wind as leaves do. We become separated from the rest of those who have covenanted with Christ.

So what do you want? What do **YOU** want? What do you most want? List it. Think of it but here's what I would suggest. You've heard me say this before. Christ is the only thing that will ever fit perfectly into the center of your heart, all else leads to blindness. I don't know what you've got in your heart. I don't know what you've put in your heart but if it's anything less than Christ it will consume you. Christ and His kingdom should always be first on our lips and central in our hearts. Anything else is settling for less. We have failed to recognize the divinity of Christ and His mission at His coming into Jerusalem and even what He does to return now in our day.

My prayer is that we will seek to fully know Christ and the whole story He wants us to know for He desires that you know the fullness of the gospel and that it would connect you with those who have gone before, those who are alive now, and those yet to come all together centered around Him. It is an amazing beautiful story too seldom heard, too seldom believed. I fear we don't have much time left because it's about to pass from the Gentiles if it hasn't already to the House of Jacob. God bless all of them in understanding the fullness of this gospel from the Book of Mormon that they'll believe this story and the covenants that their fathers made for without those covenants it's lost. With those covenants there's a chance. Let's be part of this tree that marries us to the rest of those who truly believe in the fullness of Christ and His mission is my prayer.





HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Patriarch Ronald Smith

Lamoni, Iowa

April 21, 2019

Good morning. It is a pleasure to be with you all again, especially on this Sunday when we are celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Several years ago, a student of mine invited me to go to an Easter service at a Greek Orthodox church in Kansas City. It was very different than this service. They stood the whole time, believing that sitting in comfortable chairs was not the reason for going to church. They also had the service in Greek, and I was able to surprise my student. Because of my mathematics background, I could sound out the Greek letters and so read along with the group even though I was totally ignorant of what was being said. But there was one thing that I really appreciated. Rob Rolfe has already alluded to it this morning. The people all greeted one another with the greeting, "He is risen." And the response was, "He is risen indeed." I would like for you to turn to someone now and say, "He is risen." And if you need to move to do it, that is fine. Respond with, "He is risen indeed."

I would like to share with you two things this morning. The first has to do with the timing of Jesus'

death and resurrection, and the second has to do with the response of his disciples. Our tradition says that Jesus died on Friday, Good Friday, although I never could quite see why it was called "good." But there is a problem with this tradition. The problem is that Jesus said he was going to be in the grave for three days and three nights.

Matthew 12:34 says, "*An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas; for as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*"

Now we know that Jesus died in the afternoon, although the gospels don't tell us which day of the week it was. according to Matthew 27:50, "*And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? (That is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?)*"

We are also told that Jesus was off the cross and placed in the tomb before the sun went down. That is why the Roman soldiers speared Jesus and broke the legs of the other two thieves, to make sure that they would be dead before sundown when the passover started.

Now the Jews started the clock at 6:00 in the morning with the sunrise, so the ninth hour was about 3:00 in the afternoon, so we know that Jesus died between 3:00 and 6:00 in the afternoon. As I mentioned before, our tradition says that this was Friday afternoon. Now we know that Jesus was resurrected by the time the women got to the tomb, early on the first day of the week, which was Sunday. So let us count the days. Jesus is put in the tomb just before Saturday begins. After one day in the tomb it is Saturday afternoon, and Jesus is resurrected by early the next morning. By my count, that is one full day and two very tiny slivers of the day on either side. Some count that as three days, but it certainly is nowhere close to three days and three nights like the prophecy said, and our tradition is also not consistent with the Book of Mormon account. So let us look at the Book of Mormon account and see what it says.

Helaman 5:75-76 is from Samuel the Lamanite's prophecy: "*But behold, as I said unto you concerning another sign, a sign of his death, behold, in that day that he shall suffer death, ... there shall be no light upon the face of this land, even from the time that he shall suffer death, for the space of three days, to the time that he shall rise again from the dead;*"

So it says there that there would be 3 days of darkness. Now let us read about the fulfillment of this prophecy. In 3 Nephi 4:1-4 we read:

"And now it came to pass that according to our record, and we know our record to be true, for behold, it was a just man who did keep the record...if there was no mistake made by this man in the reckoning of our time, the



thirty and third year had passed away, and the people began to look with great earnestness for the sign which had been given by the prophet Samuel, the Lamanite; Yea, for the time that there should be darkness for the space of three days, over the face of the land..."

Continuing on, we read about the great destruction that took place at the time of Jesus death, and then we find the prophecy fulfilled in verses 17-21, "...all these great and terrible things were done in about the space of three hours; and then behold, there was darkness upon the face of the land. And it came to pass that there was thick darkness upon all the face of the land, insomuch that the inhabitants thereof who had not fallen, could feel the vapor of darkness; And there could be no light, because of the darkness; neither candles, neither torches; neither could there be fire kindled with their fire and exceeding dry wood, so that there could not be any light at all; ... And it came to pass that it did last for the space of three days, that there was no light seen; and there was great mourning, and howling, and weeping among all the people continually;"

So the Book of Mormon clearly says that there were three days of darkness from the time that Jesus died until he rose. Now I looked at my world clock on my phone. It is pretty neat. You can say, "what's the time in Jerusalem?" or "what's the time in Chicago?" and you can find the difference in time. It turns out that the time in the Mexico City is eight hours earlier than the time in Jerusalem. So when Jesus died in the afternoon, the time in the Americas was in the early morning of the same day. If this was early in the morning on Friday morning, we have darkness for Friday, and Saturday, and that is only two days max!

So who cares? Well, I think the Scriptures mean something, and there is a little piece of this that I think is significant, and if you will bear with me for just a few moments longer, I want to share that with you.

The gospels say pretty clearly that Jesus was killed the day before the passover feast. Mark 15:46 says that Jesus died on the preparation day, and John 19:42 says they laid his body in the tomb on the day of preparation. Now the day of preparation was one day before the Passover feast. The preparation day is specified way back in Deuteronomy 12: 1-11:

"And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying...Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb...Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year; ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats; nAnd ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month; and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening."

So the law says that on the 10th day of this month you

pick out a lamb. It has to be a male without blemish, and you keep it with you from the 10th day to the 14th day and on the 14th day in the afternoon you kill it. That is very specific, and I believe that there is a good reason for it.

I believe that during the week that Jesus died, the Passover was on Friday. That puts the day of preparation on Thursday. And if Thursday was the 14th of the month, then the 10th would be on Sunday. When Jesus came into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, everyone was picking out their lamb. And they kept it till Thursday afternoon, and killed it just when Jesus was being killed. The reason that is significant is because the Scriptures say that Jesus is the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world for our sins. All of those scriptures about the lamb being slain in the Old Testament were pointing to Jesus and his sacrifice.

If he was killed on Thursday afternoon in Jerusalem, it would have been Thursday morning in Central America. It was dark all day Thursday, all day Friday, and all day Saturday, making three days of darkness and then the resurrection. If you are wondering about how this theory fits with the Biblical references to the crucifixion being on the day before the sabbath, remember that the Passover is called a high sabbath (see John 19:31), so there are two Sabbath days in a row whenever the Passover is on Friday.

Of course it doesn't matter what I believe. But it does matter that Jesus really was the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world. He was slain for our sins and the fact that the timing of his death was foretold so many years before is further testimony of its truth.

So what was the reaction of his disciples? Matthew tells us about two of Jesus's disciples in the 26th and 27th chapters. He tells the stories consecutively. In the Bible, the story is broken by a chapter heading. One of the disciples was Peter and the other one was Judas. Now Judas, I think, gets a bad rap in the Scriptures, because the only thing that anybody ever remembers about him is that he betrayed Jesus. Even when they hear that there was another apostle named Judas, no one can remember anything about him. And isn't it so typical that when somebody has done some wrong, the only thing we ever remember about them is the worst day of their life? But Judas wasn't so much different that Peter or any of the other apostles. Sure, he didn't understand what Jesus came for, but none of them did until after Jesus' resurrection. Judas want Jesus to shake off the Roman tyranny, and he thought that by buying getting Jesus arrested, Jesus would have to show his power and everybody would know he was the promised Messiah. Now I am interpolating a little here, because the scriptures don't specifically say this, but how else to explain that fact that Judas tried to give back the 30 pieces of silver. When he realized that he had betrayed innocent blood, he tried to



return the money to the authorities, and when they wouldn't accept the 30 pieces of silver, he threw them on the ground, and he hanged himself on a tree.

Now I was saying about Judas, he was really a trusted member of the 12. Not too many people remember this, but Judas was the treasurer. He held the bag. John tells us that when he left the last supper, the other apostles thought that Jesus had asked him to buy stuff for the passover. Judas was the guy that had the money, and he was trusted by all, almost as much as Rob Rolfe is. And he just wanted Jesus to show himself.

Peter wasn't so much different. On the night that Jesus was arrested, Peter told him that he was ready to die for him, and Jesus replied that on that very night, Peter would deny him three times. John tells us that he went in with Jesus to the inquisition, and told the girl who kept the door to open it for Peter. But by the time Peter got there, they were already looking for Jesus' followers to question. And Peter denied that he knew Jesus—three times before the cock crowed in the morning. When Peter realized what he had done, he went out and wept bitterly.

Now there is a lot in common between those two responses. Peter did not end his life like Judas did, but it wasn't so far off. He probably wished he could have. Jesus said about Judas that it would be better for him if he never been born. I do not believe that Jesus was saying that God thought it was better if Judas had not been born, but that Judas felt that way.

There are some of us who have thought that it would be better if I never been born because of the things we've done. But Jesus can take the worst thing that you have ever done, and use it for good. Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that all things work together for good to them

that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Jesus will do that for you and for me. If we are willing to repent, we don't have to take our life, no matter what we have done. And if you are thinking about taking your life right now, don't! Because Jesus says, I will cleanse you. If you confess your sins he is faithful and just forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. That is what Jesus does, and that is the significance of what happened on Easter Sunday. Jesus took all of our sins, and he died for them so that we could be clean before God. He does this on the condition of our repentance. All we have to do is to repent and come to him. He says if you do that, 'I will make you clean.'

And so from the very beginning of time, God had people killing animals and shedding their blood, in order to look forward to the time of Jesus death and resurrection. He gave the timing. He said, when it happens you are going to know, and here is how. On the 10 day, choose a lamb without spot or blemish, and on the 14th day in the afternoon, kill it, because that's exactly what happened to Jesus. And Jesus was able to take the worst thing that could ever happen, and turned it into the best thing that ever happened for you and for me.

And so today, as we remember what Jesus has done, let us be sure to say, "He is risen." He is risen indeed, praise the Lord! May God bless you all.



JESUS
IS GONNA
WIN

"Now do remember, dear friends, the words that the messengers of Jesus Christ gave us before hand when they said 'There will come in the last days mockers who live according to their own godless desires.' These are the men who split communities, for they are led by human emotions and never by the Spirit of God." — Jude 17 *J.B. Phillips translation.*

Vital ©



DR. NORMAN M. NELSON

Lamoni, Iowa

August 20, 1924 - April 24, 2019

Dr. Norman Reinecke Nelson, age 94, the son of Alma and Tony Johanna (Meinecke) Nelson, was born August 20, 1924, on the family farm at Guilford, Missouri. He died at his Lamoni, Iowa home on Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

Norman grew up and attended school in Nodaway County, Missouri graduating from Guilford High School in 1942. He served in the Medical Corps of the United States Army at the end of World War II. Upon returning home he earned his associates degree at Graceland College in Lamoni, Iowa and then graduated from Northwest Missouri State College in Maryville, Missouri. He received his master's degree in agronomy from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa where the Boraxo Company sponsored his soil research in cornfields. He taught chemistry and agronomy at Graceland College until leaving to pursue a degree in medicine. He earned his medical degree from the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa in 1964. He served his internship and residency at Kansas City General Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri. After completion, he joined Drs. Games and Swanson in the family medical practice in Lamoni. He retired from the clinic in 1997, but continued helping patients by serving on medical missionary trips. In 2004, at age 80, he quit going to medical meetings.

On February 20, 1948, he was united in marriage to Arladine Adams at Guilford, Missouri. They were blessed with three children; Robert "Bob" and David were born in Ames, Iowa, and Nancy was born in Independence, Missouri. Norman and Arladine worked together many years at the clinic before Arladine's death on August 28, 1997. In April of 2002, Norman married Catherine (Weyerman) Bergman. Her family of four children, Jean, Jerry, Ned, and Tom, became part of his family too. They enjoyed 13 years together before Cathy's death on November 27, 2015.

A favorite hobby of Norman's was to build things, especially houses. He loved working on the family farm, playing chess, listening to and singing hymns, working puzzles, and any time he spent with his family.

He was raised and baptized into the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He held the office of Elder and the prized office of Member.

Preceding him in death were his parents; wives, Arladine Nelson and Cathy Nelson; and five siblings, Lucy Marie Land, Mildred Smith, Kenneth Nelson, Junior Nelson, and Fiona Greene. Survivors include his sister, Winnie Negaard of Guilford, Missouri; children, Bob Nelson (Maureen) of Iowa City, Iowa, David Nelson (Karen) of Portland, Oregon, Nancy Short (Brian) of Rock Island, Illinois, Jean Schmidt (Ken) and Ned Bergman (Teresa) of Independence, Missouri, Jerry Bergman of Texarkana, Texas, and Tom Bergman (Crystal) of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; 13 grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; and other relatives and friends.

Special thanks to caregivers Heather Edwards, Kent Clisby, Mary Graham, Mercedes Eckart, Tammy Short, and Tammy Simpson; Every Step Hospice; Lamoni Clinic; Lamoni drugstore; and the many, many volunteers, friends, family, and neighbors who blessed us all.



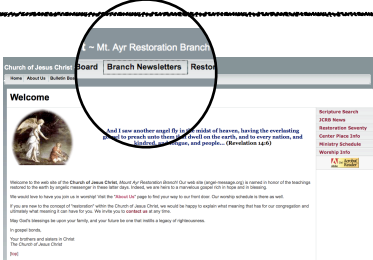


Church of Jesus Christ Mount Ayr Restoration Branch

c/o Cheryl Phipps
15581 270th St
Lamoni, IA 50140



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www.gospelrestored.org



And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come; and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. (Revelation 14:6-7)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**
Doctrine & Covenants Night - Every Thursday evening in Lamoni at 6:45 PM. Ron & Di Smith's home.
- May 11** Men's Breakfast at Pizza Hut 11:00 AM in Lamoni
- May 19** Food for Center due
- May 21** Women's Meeting 5:30-7:30.
- May 26** Memorial Day
- June 16-22**
Seventy Missionary Reunion - Graceland University

