



Gospel Doctrine Sunday School Lesson

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The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Slippery Rock Branch

Today's Word: Transgression

January 22, 2006

Lesson 4:

“Because of My Transgression, My Eyes Are Opened”

Are You:

- Reading Scriptures Every Day?
- Saying Your Personal Prayers Daily?
- Having Prayers Daily as a Family?
- Having Family Home Evening Every Week?

Next Week

Lesson 5:

“If Thou Doest Well, Thou Shalt Be Accepted”

Moses 5-7

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Questions to Ponder

- What were the results of the Fall for Adam and Eve—and for us?
- How can a correct understanding of the fall help us during mortality?

Key Scriptures for Today

Moses 4; Moses 5: 1-15;
Moses 6: 48-62

2nd Article of Faith:

We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, not for Adam's transgression.

Elder Dallin H. Oaks:

“It was Eve who first transgressed the limits of Eden in order to initiate the conditions of mortality. Her act, whatever its nature, was formally a transgression but eternally a glorious necessity to open the doorway toward eternal life. Adam showed his wisdom by doing the same. ... “... We celebrate Eve's act and honor her wisdom and courage in the great episode called the Fall. ... Elder Joseph Fielding Smith said: ‘I never speak of the part Eve took in this fall as a sin, nor do I accuse Adam of a sin. ... This was a transgression of the law, but not a sin.’ ...

“This suggested contrast between a *sin* and a *transgression* reminds us of the careful wording in the second article of faith [Articles of Faith 1:2]: “We believe that men will be punished for their own *sins*, and not for Adam's *transgression*” (italics added). It also echoes a familiar distinction in the law. Some acts, like murder, are crimes because they are inherently wrong. Other acts, like operating without a license, are crimes only because they are legally prohibited. Under these distinctions, the act that produced the Fall was not a sin—inherently wrong—but a transgression—wrong because it was formally prohibited. These words are not always used to denote something different, but this distinction seems meaningful in the circumstances of the Fall” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1993, 98; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1993, 73).



What are the “Three Pillars of Salvation?” (fill in below)

President Ezra Taft Benson said:

“The plan of redemption must start with the account of the fall of Adam. In the words of Moroni, ‘By Adam came the fall of man. And because of the fall of man came Jesus Christ, ... and because of Jesus Christ came the redemption of man’ (Mormon 9:12). Just as a man does not really desire food until he is hungry, so he does not desire the salvation of Christ until he knows why he needs Christ. No one adequately and properly knows why he needs Christ until he understands and accepts the doctrine of the Fall and its effect upon all mankind” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1987, 106; or *Ensign*, May 1987, 85).

