

Gospel Doctrine Sunday School Lesson

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

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Today's Word: justified

Sept. 30, 2007

Are You:

- Reading Your Scriptures Every Day?
- Setting a Good Example for Others?

Today's Scriptures

Romans

Next Week:

Lesson 37:

"Jesus Christ: The Author and Finisher of Our Faith"

Hebrews

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Lesson 36: "Beloved of God, Called to Be Saints"



The Apostle Paul by Rembrandt van Rijn, circa 1657

Questions to Ponder

- What is the relationship between our actions (or works) and justification through the grace of Christ?
- How are you affected by the knowledge that you are a child of God?

Elder Dallin H. Oaks:

"Consider the power of the idea taught in our beloved song 'I Am a Child of God'. ... Here is the answer to one of life's great questions, 'Who am I?' I am a child of God with a spirit lineage to heavenly parents. That parentage defines our eternal potential. That powerful idea is a potent antidepressant. It can strengthen each of us to make righteous choices and to seek the best that is within us. Establish in the mind of a young person the powerful idea that he or she is a child of God, and you have given self-respect and motivation to move against the problems of life" (*Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 25).

are driving change in the world."

Mitt Romney's bid for the presidency may be *part* of the motivation to learn more about Mormons, but, as our numbers grow, so do the world's curiosity, our visibility, and our opportunity (or risk) to be examples. Gladys Knight, Jon Heder, Corbin Allred, Rick Schroder, Wilford Brimley, Harry Reid, Don Bluth, Anne Perry, Gordon Jump, Butch Cassidy, and Mark Hofmann have one thing in common: All are or were members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. —WWA

The Power of Example

"I have noted recently, as I have many times in the past, that whenever or wherever a Latter-day Saint is mentioned in a news story—whether it be for appointment to high government office or for law-breaking—the 'Mormon' connection is usually mentioned. Other denominations rarely receive that distinction. I consider this a compliment because it is evidence that the world is becoming more and more aware of what we stand for and expects more of us," wrote President N. Eldon Tanner in a 1981 *Ensign*.

President Tanner's comments are even more true today as we see more and more articles about Mormons in magazines and news stories. In the past week alone, I ran across two articles of substantial length, and oddly, both were entitled "The Mormons Are Coming." One was in Salon.com, (an online magazine for news and culture) discussing a book by Teryl Givens called *People of Paradox*, while the other was in a magazine called *Good*, a new magazine that provides a "platform for the ideas, people, and businesses that