

Gospel Doctrine Sunday School

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

Volume 3, Issue 40

Today's Word: perfect

Nov. 11, 2007

Lesson 40: "I Can Do All Things Through Christ"

Are You:

- Being Diligent about Your Individual Scripture Reading and Prayers?
- Reading Scriptures Together as a Family?

Today's Scriptures

Philippians
Colossians, Philemon

Next Week:

Lesson 41:

"I Have Finished My Course"

1 Timothy,
2 Timothy, Titus

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President David O. McKay explained:

"'Work out your own salvation' is an exhortation to demonstrate by activity, by thoughtful, obedient effort the reality of faith. But this must be done with a consciousness that absolute dependence upon self may produce pride and weakness that will bring failure. With 'fear and trembling' we should seek the strength and grace of God for inspiration to obtain the final victory" (in Conference Report, Apr. 1957, 7).

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught:

"A religion that does not require the sacrifice of all things never has power sufficient to produce the faith necessary unto life and salvation; for, from the first existence of man, the faith necessary unto the enjoyment of life and salvation never could be obtained without the sacrifice of all earthly things" (*Lectures on Faith* [1985], 69).

Elder Dallin Oaks said:

"The singing of hymns is one of the best ways to learn the doctrine of the restored gospel. Elder Stephen D. Nadauld captured this unique strength in some lines he wrote and shared in a General Authority meeting:

*If I would teach with power
The doctrine and the plan,
I'd wish for gentle music
To prepare the soul of man.
And then to press forever
These truths upon his mind,
We'd sing the hymns of Zion,
With their messages sublime.*

The scriptures contain many affirmations that hymn singing is a glorious way to worship. Before the Savior and his Apostles left the upper room where they had the sublime experience of the Last Supper, they sang a hymn. After their hymn, the Savior led them to the Mount of Olives (see Matt. 26:30).

"The Apostle Paul advised the Colossians that they should be "teaching and admonishing one another in psalms

Questions to Ponder

- How can we obtain the "peace of God mentioned in Philippians 4:7?"
- How does your knowledge and testimony of Jesus Christ affect the way you live?



and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Col. 3:16; see also Alma 26:8).

"Modern revelation reaffirms the importance of sacred music. In one of the earliest revelations given through the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Lord appointed Emma Smith "to make a selection of sacred hymns, as it shall be given thee, which is pleasing unto me, to be had in my church.

"For my soul delighteth in the song of the heart; yea, the song of the righteous is a prayer unto me, and it shall be answered with a blessing upon their heads' (D&C 25:11-12). . . Sacred music has a unique capacity to communicate our feelings of love for the Lord. . .

"We need to make more use of our hymns to put us in tune with the Spirit of the Lord, to unify us, and to help us teach and learn our doctrine. We need to make better use of our hymns in missionary teaching, in gospel classes, in quorum meetings, in home evenings, and in home teaching visits. Music is an effective way to worship our Heavenly Father and his Son, Jesus Christ. We should use hymns when we need spiritual strength and inspiration" (*Ensign*, Nov. 1994, 12).