

Gospel Doctrine Sunday School

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

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Today's Word: purloin

Nov. 18, 2007

Are You:

- Reading Your Scriptures Every Day?
- Attending Meetings Every Week?

Today's Scriptures

1 Timothy,
2 Timothy, Titus

Next Week:

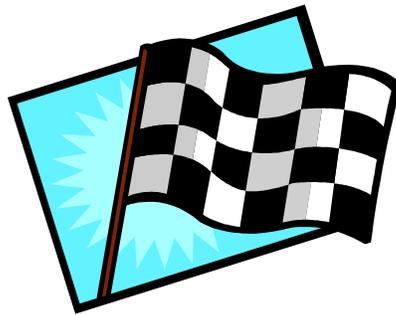
Lesson 42:
"Pure Religion"
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Lesson 41: "I Have Finished My Course"

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin counseled:

"God has revealed everything necessary for our salvation. We should teach and dwell on the things that have been revealed and avoid delving into so-called mysteries. My counsel to teachers in the Church, whether they instruct in wards and stakes, Church institutions of higher learning, institutes of religion, seminaries, or even as parents in their homes, is to base their teachings on the scriptures and the words of latter-day prophets" (*Ensign*, Nov. 1994, 77).



Questions to Ponder

- Which "finish line" are you striving for?
- What do you think it means to be "an example of the believers"?
- How can we be sure that what we teach is true doctrine?

Elder Dallin H. Oaks taught:

"There is nothing inherently evil about money. The Good Samaritan used the same coinage to serve his fellowman that Judas used to betray the Master. It is 'the love of money [which] is the root of all evil.' (1 Timothy 6:10; italics added.) The critical difference is the degree of spirituality we exercise in viewing, evaluating, and managing the things of this world" (*Ensign*, Nov. 1985, 63).

Teaching Doctrine

"The need to open eyes and hearts tells us how we must teach doctrine. Doctrine gains its power as the Holy Ghost confirms that it is true. We prepare those we teach, as best we can, to receive the quiet promptings of the still, small voice. That takes at least some faith in Jesus Christ. It takes at least some humility, some willingness to surrender to the Savior's will for us. The person you would help may have little of either, but you can urge that they desire to believe. More than that, you can take confidence from another of the powers of doctrine. Truth can prepare its own way. Simply hearing the words of doctrine can plant the seed of faith in the heart. And even a tiny seed of faith in Jesus Christ invites the Spirit.

"We have more control over our own preparation. We feast on the word of God in the scriptures and study the words of the living prophets. We fast and pray to invite the Spirit for ourselves and the person we would teach.

"Because we need the Holy Ghost, we must be cautious and careful not to go beyond teaching true doctrine. The Holy Ghost is the Spirit of Truth. His confirmation is invited by our avoiding speculation or personal interpretation. That can be hard to do. You love the person you are trying to influence. He or she may have ignored the doctrine they have been taught. It is tempting to try something new or sensational. But we invite the Holy Ghost as our companion when we are careful to teach only true doctrine. . . .

"Two doubts may creep into your mind. You may wonder if you know the doctrine well enough to teach it. And if you have already tried to teach it, you may wonder why you can't see much of the good effects. . . .

"Doctrine can more than open minds to spiritual things and hearts to the love of God. When that doctrine brings joy and peace, it also has the power to open mouths (Henry B. Eyring, "The Power of Teaching Doctrine," *Ensign*, May 1999, 73).