

## OUR COMMITMENT TO CHRIST

by Jean Robison

D&C 95:3a&c “And I give unto you a commandment, that ye shall forsake all evil and cleave unto all good, that ye shall live by every word which proceedeth forth out of the mouth of God; for he will give unto the faithful, line upon line, precept upon precept;... therefore, be not afraid of your enemies; for I have decreed in my heart, saith the Lord, that I will prove you in all things, whether you will abide in my covenant, even unto death, that you may be found worthy;”

Let's look at this commandment for what He is saying to us. He has given us 7 things for us to do:

1. a commandment to forsake **all evil, and cleave to all good.**
2. we are to live by every word that comes from the mouth of God.
3. to the faithful, He gives line upon line, precept upon precept.
4. be not afraid of our enemies.
5. He has decreed in His heart he will prove us in all things.
6. if we will abide in his covenant, even unto death.
7. that we might be found worthy.

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:22 “**Abstain from all appearance of evil.**” Here He is telling us not only to forsake all evil, but to abstain from even the appearance of evil. Do we do anything we would not want others to know about – are we guilty of going to movies we know would not be pleasing to God – would you feel guilty if you came out of it and you saw church members driving by in their car, and they saw you? How about TV, do we allow those raunchy programs to come into our homes? God's Spirit cannot be in our homes when we allow those things to come into our homes. We are to cleave only to that which is good. Road rage is an evil thing, are guilty of that? Do we go to the casinos, occasionally, or just to eat? If so, that appears that you have participated in the gambling. Romans 5:19 “For as by

one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."

**2. We are to live by all that comes forth from the mouth of God.** He says not to tell a lie. He that lies and repents not, shall be cast out, D&C 42:7c. Do we ever tell a "little white lie," rather than offend someone? Or, exaggerate just a little, or embellish a little, to make the story a little more interesting? Who are we really offending? We are offending God!! We cannot let friendship stand in the way of us telling the truth. There is no difference in a "white lie," or exaggerating, or embellishing – it is all an untruth! He has created a place for liars. D&C 76:7. Rev. 3:16 "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth."

**3. He will give the faithful, line upon line, and precept upon precept.** There are many scriptures on study. He instructs us, He gives us commands and principles. How can we know the commandments of God if we do not study the 3 books? As new understandings are granted us in our study, there is an excitement within us to want more and more. We hunger and thirst for more knowledge.

2 Timothy 2:15 "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Nephi 14:4 "Wherefore, I said unto you, Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do." 2 Timothy 3:16 "And all scripture given by inspiration of God, is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness;" God has given us the pattern. We make the choice of eternal life in celestial glory, or a lesser glory, or no glory. We are making that decision, daily; we are living eternity on a daily basis.

**4. Be not afraid of our enemies.** Romans 12:20-21 "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink; for in so

doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” Matthew 5:46 “But I say unto you, Love your enemies; bless them that curse you; do good to them that hate you; and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you;”

This seems rather hard for us to do, but this is required of us, and He will give us the strength to do what He asks us to do. We just have to be willing and obedient. I want to share couple testimonies. A girl from Independence was attending the University of Mexico. As she was leaving class one night, the street was dark, but she could see a group of young men obstructing the sidewalk where she had to pass. She was afraid, so she prayed for God to blind their eyes so they could not even see her. She got almost to them, and walked out in the street, and then back on the sidewalk. They never looked at her, or made any remarks. God blinded their eyes so they could not see her!

Another young lady was leaving her girl friend’s house one night, and decided to go through a back alley, which would make it much shorter for her to get to her house. As she entered the alley, she saw a man’s figure at the other end of the alley. She, too, was afraid. She prayed that the man would not bother her. He did not say anything or make a move, as she passed. The next morning she saw in the paper where a young girl had been murdered in that alley. She told her story to the police – she identified the man, he admitted to the murder. The police asked him why he did not harm the first girl. His comment was that he was not about to do anything to her as she had two large men on each side of her. The Lord had sent angels to protect. Truly He does answer our prayers.

**5. He will prove us in all things.** Ether 5:7 “Wherefore, dispute not because ye see not, for ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith, for it was by faith that Christ shewed himself unto our fathers, after he had risen from the dead.” D&C 102:5c “I have heard

their prayers, and will accept their offering; and it is expedient in me, that they should be brought thus far, for a trial of their faith.”

**6. We are to abide in His covenant, even to death.** When we were baptized, we made a covenant, a promise that we would follow Christ. We promised to be His disciple, knowing that meant forever. True, we get off the straight and narrow path all too often, but as a true disciple, we REPENT and get back on the higher road. When we see a brother or sister in the faith, on the wrong pathway, we are responsible to help them back on the right track.

**7. That we may be found worthy.** D&C 12:3b “Keep my commandments in all things; and if you keep my commandments and ENDURE to the end, you shall have eternal life; which gift is the greatest of all the gifts of God.” [emphasis added]

**If we have ought with a brother or sister, or others, do we take the necessary steps to resolve that problem?** D&C 42:23a-c “And if thy brother or sister offend thee, thou shalt take him or her between him or her and thee alone; and if he or she confess, thou shalt be reconciled. And if he or she confess not, thou shalt deliver him or her up unto the church, not to the members, but to the elders. And it shall be done in a meeting, and that not before the world.”

**If we followed these instructions, there would be less contention.** Alma 2:14-17 “That they began to be scornful, one towards another, began to persecute those that did not believe according to their own will and pleasure...there began to be great contentions among the people of the church; Yea, there were envyings, and strifes, and malice, and persecutions, and pride, even to exceed the pride of those who did not belong to the church of God...the church was a great stumbling block to those who did not belong to the church; and thus the church began to fail in its progress.”

Mosiah 9:54 “And he commanded them that there should be no contention one with another, but that they should look forward with

one eye, having one faith and one baptism; having their hearts knit together in unity and in love, one towards another.” D&C 38:6a “Behold, this I have given unto you a parable, and it is even as I am: I say unto you, Be one; and if ye are not one, ye are not mine.”

Romans 5:19 “For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.” **We are always being observed. Unless we are righteous people we cause others to sin. WE ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD! If we considered this scripture (1 Corinthians 3:16) before we speak or act upon anything, we will not do anything that displeased God.**

Matthew 5:50 “Ye are therefore commanded to be perfect, even as your Father who is in heaven is perfect.” The scriptures tell us of a number of men who were perfect; Seth, Job, Enoch, and others, and I am sure there were a number of perfect women. The Lord looks upon the heart in His judgment. We do not know others heart, so we cannot judge as He does.

Proverbs 16:3 “Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.” **It is much easier to have our mind trained on spiritual thoughts when we are involved in working for the Lord; when we have regular study habits, and have a prayer on our lips at all times.** John 15:7 “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”

A college man took a framed picture of his girl friend to a photography studio to have it duplicated. In removing the picture from the frame, the photographer saw an inscription on the back of the picture. “My dearest Tom, I love you with all my heart. I love you more and more each day. I will love you forever and ever. I am yours for all eternity, Diane. P. S. If we ever break up, I want this picture back.”

We who have been baptized have professed our love for God. We belong to Christ. There can be no P.S. in our relationship with Him. We are His, we can never break up with Him.

Many think of Communion as being something we do on the first Sunday of each month, when in reality, communion is something we should be involved in daily communing with Christ and our Heavenly Father in prayer.

When we partake of the Sacrament on the first Sunday of each month or at any other time, we are making a sacred pledge that we are reaffirming the commitment that we made when we entered into the waters of baptism and this commitment was that we would keep the commandments.

What does it mean to “**Yield Our Hearts To God?**” (Helaman 2:31) It means to purify and sanctify our hearts to God’s will. We are dead to sin, that is freed from sin. (Romans 6:7) When we yield, we give way – give way to God’s will in all things. What a glorious day for all who achieve that level. D&C 42:8a “If thou lovest me, thou shall serve me and keep all my commandments.”

There is much to be learned from the parable of the ten virgins. First of all, **Repentance and Preparation** are necessary for entering the Kingdom. This can’t be made at the last minute – there is no death bed repentance! Alma 16:231-232 “Ye can not say, when ye are brought to that awful crisis, that I will repent, that I will return to my God. Nay, ye can not say this; for that same spirit which doth possess your bodies at the time that ye go out of this life, that same spirit will have power to possess your body in that eternal world.”

Second, we can’t expect to enter the Kingdom on someone else’s preparation – in other words, “ride in on someone else’s coattail.” We each must make our own preparation, during this probationary period. We cannot live on the success of others, we must each be our own success story.

Third, we learn that we who fail to make preparation, will be shut out, by the time we make a try to make last minute preparation (going to buy oil), the door will be shut. Our repentance, our preparation is something we cannot put off to a more convenient time. If a man is doing his duty, however simple his duty is, he shall have much joy, and it shall go well with him.

D&C 32:3d “And the Book of Mormon, and the Holy Scriptures, are given of me for your instruction; and the power of my Spirit quickeneth all things; wherefore, be faithful, praying always, having your lamps trimmed and burning, and oil with you, that you may be ready at the coming of the Bridegroom; for behold, verily, verily I say unto you, that I come quickly; even so. Amen.”

D&C 58.9c “Behold, he who has repented of his sins, the same is forgiven, and I, the Lord, remembereth them no more.”

D&C 24:4b “Keep my commandments continually, and a crown of righteousness thou shalt receive. And except thou do this, where I am thou canst not come.” **I think that is very clear to us!**

D&C 42:8a “If thou lovest me, thou shalt serve me and keep all my commandments.”

D&C 100:7a “All victory and glory is brought to pass unto you through your diligence, faithfulness, an prayers of faith.”

D&C 81.3b “I, the Lord, am bound when you do what I say, but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise.”

**Saints, we have been given the commission in the Restored Gospel to “bring forth and establish the cause of Zion.” This revelation was given in 1829, a year before the Church was organized. That is over 160 years. The Lord had been more than patient with us. He gave this commandment at least 4 times in the D&C. (6:3a, 10:3a, 11:3a, 12:3a)**

**D&C 102:2c “And Zion can not be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom, otherwise I can not receive her unto myself; and my people must needs be chastened until they learn obedience, if it must needs be, by the things which they suffer.”**

This tells us we are not living the celestial law! I want to share a portion of a prophecy given by Brother E. J. Gleazer:

“You will see the day come when your reserves will dwindle, pass away, and in your poverty, you will build Zion, not poverty of Spirit, but will give strength to be found keeping the commandments of God.”

D&C 1:5f “for I the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance; nevertheless, he that repents and does the commandments of the Lord shall be forgiven;”

### **Are we the peculiar people we are called to be?**

**Saints, I think we should examine our lives, our very souls, and see how we stand in the sight of God; and make the necessary changes that will bring Zion to this city.**

### THE SURRENDERED WILL

Laid on thine altar, O my Lord, Divine,  
Accept my gift this day, for Jesus' sake;  
I have no jewels to adorn thy shrine,  
No world-famed sacrifice to make;  
And here I bring within my trembling hands  
This will of mine, a thing that seemeth small;  
Yet thou alone canst understand  
That when I yield Thee this, I yield Thee all!

38:6a “Behold, this I have given unto you a parable, and it is even as I am: I say unto you, Be one; and if ye are not one, ye are not mine.”

36:2h “And the Lord called his people Zion, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness;”

32:3d “And the Book of Mormon, and the Holy Scriptures, are given of me for your instruction; and the power of my Spirit quickeneth all things; wherefore, be faithful, praying always, having your lamps trimmed and burning, and oil with you, that you may be ready at the coming of the Bridegroom; for, behold, verily, verily I say unto you, that I come quickly; even so. Amen”

24:4b “Keep my commandments continually, and a crown of righteousness thou shalt receive. And except thou do this, where I am thou canst not come.”

81:3b “I the Lord, am bound when you do what I say, but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise.”

87:5d-e “Be not ashamed, neither confounded; but be admonished in all your highmindedness and pride, for it bringeth a snare upon your souls. Set in order your houses; keep slothfulness and uncleanness far from you.”

100:7a “All victory and glory is brought to pass unto you through your diligence, faithfulness, and prayers of faith.”

102:2c “...and Zion cannot be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom, otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself; and my people must needs be chastened until they learn obedience, if it must needs be, by the things which they suffer.”

77:1f-g “...for if ye are not equal in earthly things, ye can not be equal in obtaining heavenly things; for if you will that I give unto you a place in the celestial world, you must prepare yourselves by doing the things which I have commanded you and required of you.”

58:9c “Behold, he who has repented of his sins, the same is forgiven, and I, the Lord, remembereth them no more.”

42:8a “If thou lovest me, thou shalt serve me and keep all my commandments.”

John 15:7,12 “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” “This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.”

Romans 6:7 “For he that is dead to sin is freed from sin.”

1 Corinthians 3.16 “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”

Ephesians. 6:11 “Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

2 Timothy 3:16 “And all scripture given by inspiration of God, is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

Mosiah 1:88 “And moreover, I would desire that ye should consider on the blessed and happy state of those that keep the commandments of God.”

Mosiah 2:21-2 “And humble yourselves even in the depths of humility, calling on the name of the Lord daily, and standing steadfastly in the faith of that which is to come, which was spoken by the mouth of the angel; And behold, I say unto you, that if ye do this, ye shall always rejoice, and be filled with the love of God, and always retain a remission of your sins;”

Helaman 2:31 “Nevertheless, they did fast and pray oft, and did wax stronger and stronger in their humility, and firmer and firmer in the faith of Christ, unto the filling their souls with joy and consolation, yea, even to the purifying and the sanctification of their hearts, which sanctification cometh because of their yielding their hearts unto God.”