

PERSONAL SALVATION & THE KINGDOM OF GOD

A. MEMBER IS THE MOST IMPORTANT OFFICE IN THE CHURCH

1. Often we give lip service to this idea to placate non-priesthood or others whom we perceive to be less important somehow. We are ALL members whether priesthood or not. Members make up the body of Christ.
1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 18-20 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ For by ONE SPIRIT are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is NOT one member, but many. ... But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body.
2. Are we fully understanding this scripture? **ALL MEMBERS.** None lesser, none greater. He has placed us all in the Body, fitted exactly with purposes He has given each of us and skills to fulfill our assignments.
 - a. This is a concept far beyond personal salvation.
 - b. As essential as our individual salvation is, God's plan also includes His kingdom.

B. HAVING FOUND PERSONAL SALVATION, EACH MEMBER BECOMES A BUILDING BLOCK FOR GOD'S KINGDOM ON EARTH—ZION.

1. Personal salvation is what forms each member, brings each member into a living relationship with Jesus.
2. But It is the Body, set in place by God Himself, that will be His Zion.
3. *Matthew 6:11 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done **on earth, as it is done in heaven.***
4. This is the real endgame.
D&C 36:2h And the Lord called his people Zion, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness;
5. This is His joy and our purpose.

C. PERSONAL SALVATION is presented as the ultimate end in most of Christianity. IT IS NOT. It is just the beginning. **Zion IS the larger picture, the bigger goal!**

Supplement to Chapters 15. Eternal Judgement & 18. Salvation “RESTORATION BELIEFS - The Church of Jesus Christ”

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CHAPTER 15. ETERNAL JUDGMENT

A. INTRODUCTION TO ETERNAL JUDGMENT

1. In considering Eternal Judgment, much about life in the hereafter is simply beyond our current knowledge.
 - a. Perhaps because we wouldn't understand it even if God revealed more.
 - b. Or perhaps God feels we don't need more than He has already given.
 - c. Rather than SPECULATE, which is an easy trap to fall into given human imagination, we'll stay with FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES given to the Restoration. **Yes, stick with scriptures already revealed.**
 - d. Even this requires caution, for our INTERPRETATION of these principles can greatly affect our final thinking.
2. The Restoration insists that all Scriptures be interpreted to **reveal God as He is—loving, kind, merciful, and just.** As a result, many of our Restoration affirmations about the hereafter are DISTINCTIVE.

B. ETERNAL IS NOT A MEASURE OF TIME, BUT A MEASURE OF DIVINE KNOWLEDGE.

Excerpt from a lecture titled “Resurrection and Eternal Life” given by Arthur Oakman, 1959

1. *If there is no survival after death, then all of man's spiritual and moral endeavor is a thwarted enterprise. If there is no survival for men beyond this stage, does it really matter whether the earth becomes uninhabitable next week or in two million years from now? Manifestly, it does not.*
2. *Eternal life is not life lived a long time. ... The key to the nature of eternal life was given us by Jesus. John 17:3 “And **this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**”*
3. *Eternal life consists in a certain quality of knowledge which, although mediated to us through Jesus Christ in time, is nevertheless outside and beyond time. **Time is an episode in the creative process in which men come to know the Divine, and in that knowledge be translated beyond time.***

C. GOD'S JUDGMENT WILL BE PERFECTLY JUST AND FAIR.

1. *John 5:30 And shall all be judged of the Son of Man (Jesus). For as I hear, I judge, and my judgment is **JUST**;*
2. *Mosiah 1:105-106 And he (Jesus) shall rise the third day from the dead; and behold, **he standeth to judge the world.** And behold, all these things are done, that **a righteous judgment might come upon the children of men.***

JUDGMENT AT DEATH

A. OUR BODY RETURNS TO THE DUST, OUR SPIRIT RETURNS TO GOD.

1. **Ecclesiastes 12:7** *Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.*
2. **Alma 19:43** *Behold, it has been made known unto me, by an angel, that the spirits of all men, as soon as they are departed from this mortal body; yea, the spirits of all men, whether they be good or evil, are TAKEN HOME TO THAT GOD WHO GAVE THEM LIFE.*

B. IMMEDIATE JUDGMENT

1. **Alma 19:48** *Now there are some that have understood that this state of happiness, and this state of misery of the soul, before the Resurrection, was a first Resurrection. ...*
2. **Alma 19:56** *But whether it be at his Resurrection, or after, I do not say; but this much I say, that **there is a space between death and the Resurrection of the body**, and a state of the soul in happiness or in misery, until the time which is appointed of God that the dead shall come forth and be reunited, both soul and body, and be brought to stand before God, and be judged according to their works;*
3. SPIRITS OF THE RIGHTEOUS GO TO PARADISE
 - a. **Luke 23:44** *And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee; **Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise.***
 - b. **Revelation 2:7** *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, **which is in the midst of the paradise of God.***
4. THE REBELLIOUS AND UNBELIEVING ARE ASSIGNED TO HELL
 - a. **Psalms 9:17** *The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.*
 - b. **Psalms 55:15** *Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell; for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them.*
 - c. Hell is also referred to as
 - 1) The PIT **Ezekiel 31:16** ... *when I cast him down to hell with them that descend into the pit;*
 - 2) The PRISON **Isaiah 24:22** *And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited.*
 - d. It is also apparent that there are DIFFERENT LEVELS IN HELL
 - 1) MOSES: **Deuteronomy 32:22** *For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.*
 - 2) DAVID: **Psalms 86:13** *For great is thy mercy toward me; and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.*
5. This is NOT eternal judgment because there is yet a chance to learn of Jesus Even those in hell shall they be visited by Jesus.
 - a. Those who go to hell are taught, for Jesus went and preached unto the spirits in prison; **1 Peter 3:19**
 - b. The PURPOSE OF JESUS TEACHING the spirits in prison is so they

B. GRACE SAVES THROUGH FAITH.

1. James clarifies this as he challenges,
2. **James 2:14-25** *What profit is it, my brethren, for a man to say he hath faith and hath not works? Can faith save him? Faith without works is dead and cannot save you For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead,*
3. James also makes clear that “faith without works is dead.” So how do faith and works coexist within the framework of salvation?

WORKS

A. FAITH AND WORKS

1. **Matthew 7:30** *It is not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, that shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven.*
2. The Pharisees and Sadducees were told by John the Baptist, **Matthew 3:35** *Repent, therefore, and bring forth fruits meet for repentance.*
3. Many things could be listed under the heading of works: baptism, sacraments, other ordinances, care of the poor, paying tithes, prayer, church attendance, bearing testimony, and others.
4. Our reward and judgment will be according to our works
 - a. **Matthew 16:30** *For the Son of Man shall come in the glory of his Father, with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.*
 - b. **Revelation 20:12-13** *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works*
 - c. **Revelation 22:12** *And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me to give every man according as his work shall be.*
5. With this understanding of grace and works, the statement of Paul becomes most meaningful: **Philippians 2:12** *Work out your own salvation,*

B. IMPORTANCE OF WORKS IN THE PROCESS OF SALVATION

1. Further evidence of the importance of works in the process of salvation is found in Paul's letter to the Galatians. To those who felt works were unimportant, Paul wrote, *be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.* **Galatians 6:7**
2. John indicates that the blood of Jesus can cleanse us only if we walk in the light, as he is in the light. **1 John 1:7**

of the human body and that which causes disease.

- b. But would such belief in doctors save us from lung cancer if we continued to smoke?
2. Only as we live in accord with our belief can we thus be saved.
 - a. **Luke 6:4** *Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*
 - b. Belief alone is not enough.
 - c. Sincere belief leads to action!
 - d. Belief in Christ demands that we live by His teachings!

B. BELIEVE AND YOU ARE SAVED

Romans 10:9 *That if thou shalt **CONFESS with thy mouth** the Lord Jesus, and shalt **BELIEVE in thine heart** that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt **be SAVED**.*

1. When read in context, however, Paul is giving direction to his fellow ministers regarding taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to the nation of Israel. He describes the problem with Israel is their unbelief.
 - a. So he is emphasizing that if they (his fellow ministers) will preach about believing in Lord Jesus as savior, the road to salvation will opened up to them. Without belief, they are lost.
 - b. Without context, it sounds plausible when reading the verse alone. In context, it's clear that Paul was emphasizing that if Israel could not get over their unbelief, there could be no salvation for them.
2. This scripture is not intended to be a complete road map to salvation,
 - a. Where is baptism?
 - b. Where is enduring to the end?
 - c. Just believe and be saved? Really?

GRACE

A. WHAT ABOUT SALVATION BY GRACE?

1. We CERTAINLY believe that salvation comes by grace.
 - a. **Titus 2:11** *For the grace of God which bringeth salvation to all men, hath appeared;*
 - b. One great definition of grace: "Grace is the quality of God that causes Him to continue to reach out past the rejection of man, seeking to lift man from his fallen state and challenge him to live in accord with the good that was created in him."
 - c. Paul wrote of his deep gratitude: **Titus 3:7** *Being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*
2. The fact that GRACE INCLUDES WORKS is indicated by Paul,
 - a. **Ephesians 2:8-9** *For by grace are ye saved through faith—and that not of yourselves; but **it is the gift of God**—not of works, lest any man should boast.*
 - b. The works he speaks of in this verse are those of the Mosaic law in which the Jews had placed so much trust. Paul sought to shift there focus from works to grace.

*might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live in the spirit according to the will of God. **1 Peter 4:6***

ETERNAL JUDGMENT

A. THE JUDGMENT SPOKEN OF SO FAR IS NOT ETERNAL JUDGMENT—BUT IT IS COMING.

1. Even those consigned to hell will not remain there forever, for ***death and hell delivered up the dead*** which were in them; ... And ***death and hell were cast into the lake of fire***. This is the second death. **Revelation 20:13-14**
2. All men must one day face ETERNAL JUDGMENT.
 - a. We cannot escape responsibility for the way we live either on this earth or in eternity.
 - b. Following that judgment, some will live gloriously in the presence of God or in lesser glories of Terrestrial and Telestial.
 - c. Yet others WILL taste the second death.
3. God will not be vindictive in eternal judgment.
 - a. His mercy will be extended beyond the fondest hopes of man.
 - b. But the law of mercy cannot cancel the law of justice.

B. AS GOD IS INFINITELY MERCIFUL, HE IS ALSO INFINITELY JUST.

Alma 19:104-107 *But there is **a law given** and **a punishment affixed**, and **repentance granted**; which **repentance, mercy claimeth**: otherwise, **justice claimeth** the creature, and executeth the law, and the law inflicteth the punishment; if not so, the works of justice would be destroyed, and God would cease to be God. But God ceaseth not to be God, and **mercy claimeth the penitent**, and **mercy cometh because of the atonement**; and the atonement bringeth to pass the resurrection of the dead: and the resurrection of the dead bringeth back men into the presence of God; And thus they are restored into his presence; to be judged according to their works; according to the law and justice; for behold, justice exerciseth all his demands, and also mercy claimeth all which is her own; and thus, **none but the truly penitent are saved**. What, do ye suppose that mercy can rob justice? I say unto you, Nay; not one whit. If so, God would cease to be God.*

1. God **reaches with grace** even through life beyond in His attempt to save us.
2. There comes a time when a person, with sin left unchecked in their life, is **beyond salvation**.
3. Every person WILL stand before God to be judged and receive the rewards of their choosing—choices made in their lives up to that time.

BY WHAT SHALL MEN BE JUDGED?

A. JESUS IS BOTH THE JUDGE AND THE STANDARD OF JUDGMENT.

1. We will be judged:
 - a. According to OUR WORKS **Revelation 20:12-13; Matthew 7:31, 16:30; 2 Nephi 12:66; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Galatians 6:7-8**

- b. According to THE WORDS OF CHRIST *John 12:46-48; 2 Nephi 11:30*
 - c. By THE LAW *Romans 2:12-15; 2 Nephi 6:51-56*
 - d. Each of these is ultimately related to Christ.
2. By the law is established a basic way of life; by His words and life come the ultimate standards for humanity. Our works are the measure of our response to these standards set by Christ.

REWARDS OF GLORY

A. THE VERY NATURE OF JUSTICE TELLS US THAT NOT ALL MEN SHOULD RECEIVE THE SAME REWARD.

- 1. Judgment and reward depend upon our response to standards set by Christ.
- 2. Differences in people's response demand varying degrees of reward.
 - a. Jesus revealed this when speaking of *many mansions*. *John 14:2*
 - b. Paul also bore witness as he wrote of the glories of sun, moon, and stars. *1 Corinthians 15:41*

B. RESTORATION AND CHRISTIAN VIEWS OF SALVATION AGREE...IF!

- 1. We agree **IF** the definition of SALVATION is receiving the testimony of Jesus, being obedient to His commandments, and enduring to the end—whereby we receive the Holy Spirit in our lives and gain power through faith to overcome.
- 2. We do not agree **IF** the definition of SALVATION falls short of full salvation.
 - a. “Believe and Be Saved” and “Once Saved, Always Saved” are definitions of salvation that short-cut true salvation by seeking to make salvation as easy as possible.
 - b. Why are shortcuts promoted in many Christian denominations? For many reasons including financial gain, growing attendance numbers but not faithful souls, or perhaps skipping inconvenient scriptures that demand obeying Christ's doctrines making the job of fillings seats in a sanctuary harder.
 - c. It's human nature to respond to an easier path. IT'S SIMPLY EASIER!
- 3. Full salvation is understood in the Restoration as CELESTIAL GLORY.

C. IS THEIR HOPE OF SALVATION AFTER DEATH?

- 1. Even some Restoration Saints interpret that only those who accept the fullness of the gospel DURING THIS LIFE could ever attain such glory.
 - a. Such interpretation does injustice to the nature of God,
 - 1) For many have died and will yet die without any earthly opportunity to receive this fullness.
 - 2) The infinite justice and mercy of God DEMANDS that all men have opportunity to accept this fullness of Christ, either in this life or in the life to come.
 - b. *“All who have died without a knowledge of this gospel, who would have received it if they had been permitted to tarry, shall be heirs of the*

- d. Saved by THE FOOLISHNESS OF PREACHING *1 Corinthians 1:21*
- e. Saved by WORKS *James 2:14-25* ... and others.

- 3. Each of these has its place in the plan of salvation, but no one of them is complete without the others.

B. “ARE YOU SAVED?”

- 1. “Born Again” experience: Many Christians define “being saved” as a special spiritual experience in a specific moment of time.
 - a. I can personally testify of my own “born again” experience.
 - b. On August 26, 1999 (specific time) at the edge of Walker Pond in Camp Winniaguamauck, Maine (specific place), at approximately 1 o'clock am (specific time), Jesus spoke to me making it very clear that He was my Savior. I accepted that truth and from that moment on, I know He is my Savior. Personally. Eternally.
 - c. In my youth, my Christian friends asked me, “Are you saved?” Now, I can honestly say, “Yes, I am saved.”
 - d. However, it comes not from the knowledge that I am SAVED from that moment until now, but that I KNOW my Savior. I KNOW my salvation comes only in and through Him.
 - e. Scripturally though, I must also endure to the end. 3 Nephi 12:29 *And it shall come to pass, that whoso repenteth and is baptized in my name, shall be filled; and if he endureth to the end, behold, him will I hold guiltless before my Father, at that day when I shall stand to judge the world.*
- 2. Salvation is a process leading us back into the presence of God.
 - a. Yes, we should have special experiences, like mine, which indicate that this process has begun in our lives. But we can know this process has been complete and has achieved its purpose when we hear these words. *Matthew 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant...*
 - b. Am I saved? Yes! NOT because I am certain at this moment that the process is complete, but I KNOW my Savior, and His promises are sure. He is faithful. It only remains that I am faithful to be saved.
- 3. Jesus is faithful to His word. Can we be found faithful?
 - a. To say that we know we are saved is to say that either we can never sin again or that sin will no longer have any effect on our salvation.
 - b. To say that we have no sin within us is to classify ourselves with those who have not the truth within them (*see 1 John 1:8*).
 - c. To say that sin we commit no longer has effect on our salvation is to deny the purpose and power of righteousness. Paul warned the Saints, *Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed, lest he fall. 1 Corinthians 10:12*

IS BELIEF ENOUGH?

A. BY MISINTERPRETING SCRIPTURE, WE MIGHT SAY, “YES.” *John 3:15 Whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life,*

- 1. First, analyze the word “believeth” and see what part it plays in our salvation. Belief is very closely akin to faith, and in some scriptural references they can be used interchangeably.
 - a. Almost everyone believes in the ability of doctors to learn the function

person might achieve.

- a) Both Restoration and Christian understanding agree that full salvation comes only in and through Jesus Christ. However, the simplistic view of the reward of salvation being either Heaven or Hell is totally inadequate for the true justice of God.
- b) Paul's description of the three glories accounts for both those who are saved (celestial glory) and those who didn't qualify for salvation. The Restoration gospel adequately explains both God's mercy (salvation through Christ) and His justice (to reward every person for ANY good done).

REDEMPTION AND SALVATION

A. REDEMPTION IS DIFFERENT FROM SALVATION.

1. If not for the plan of redemption, there would be no resurrection and we would be devils of Satan,
2 Nephi 6:20-21 *For behold, if the flesh should rise no more, our spirits must become subject to that angel who fell from before the presence of the eternal God and became the devil, to rise no more. And **our spirits must have become like unto him, and we become devils**, angels to a devil, to be shut out from the presence of our God and to remain with the father of lies, in misery, like unto himself.*
2. The plan of redemption makes possible the resurrection from the dead and places man again under the law of God.
2 Nephi 6:10 *For it behooveth the great Creator that **he suffereth himself to become subject unto man in the flesh and die for all men**, that all men might become subject unto him.*

B. REDEMPTION IS NOT TO BE EARNED; IT IS A GIFT.

1. We can't redeem ourselves; it has to be done for us. Redemption makes possible the resurrection, the reuniting of the body and spirit, and bringing men back into the presence of God to be judged.
2 Nephi 1:71 *Redemption cometh **in and through the holy Messiah**; for he is full of grace and truth.*
2. Redemption is made possible through Jesus Christ, but it does not denote salvation.

CAN ONE KNOW THAT HE IS SAVED?

A. WHAT SAVES US?

1. First and foremost, JESUS SAVES US. **1 Thessalonians 5:9** *For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but **to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ**,*
2. Scripture enumerates several circumstances by which we are saved.
 - a. Saved by HOPE **Romans 8:24**
 - b. Saved by GRACE **Ephesians 2:8**
 - c. Saved by BELIEF **John 3:15-16**

celestial kingdom of God; also all that shall die henceforth without a knowledge of it, who would have received it with all their hearts, shall be heirs of that kingdom; for I, the Lord, will judge all men according to their works, according to the desire of their hearts" Joseph Smith from Church History, volume 2, page 16

D. THE GLORIES SIMPLIFIED

1. CELESTIAL GLORY

- a. **D&C 76:5b-e** *They are **they who received the testimony of Jesus, and believed on his name, and were baptized after the manner of his burial, being buried in the water in his name**, and this according to the commandment which he has given, that by keeping the commandments, they might be washed and cleansed from all their sins, and receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of the hands of him who is ordained and sealed unto this power; and who overcome by faith, and are sealed by that Holy Spirit of promise, which the Father sheds forth upon all those who are just and true;*
- b. **They are they who are the church of the Firstborn;**

2. TERRESTRIAL GLORY

- a. The terrestrial world differs in glory as the moon differs from the sun.
- b. In this kingdom will be **they who died without law D&C 76:6c**
- c. **the spirits of men kept in prison**, whom the Son visited and preached the gospel unto them, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, **who received not the testimony of Jesus in the flesh but afterwards received it. D&C 76:6c**
- d. They are also **honorable men of the earth, who were blinded by the craftiness of men. D&C 76:6d** These receive of the glory of God and the presence of the Son but not the fullness of the Father.
- e) **these are they who are not valiant in the testimony of Jesus; wherefore they obtained not the crown over the kingdom of our God. D&C 76:6g**

3. TELESTIAL GLORY

- a. As one star differs from another star in glory, it seems there are to be many degrees of reward in this glory.
 - 1) These are those who spend much time in hell.
 - 2) They do not come forth in the first resurrection but remain among the wicked during the millennial reign, when Christ will be on earth for a thousand years.
- b. Among them are liars, sorcerers, adulterers, and whoremongers—those who manifest all manner of evil, SAVE ONE: **They deny not the Holy Spirit D&C 76:7c**
 - 1) They eternally refuse to receive the gospel and testimony of Jesus.
 - 2) These have suffered the wrath of almighty God. As a result, they receive not the ministry of the Father or the Son in the eternal world.
 - 3) But they do receive **the administering of angels, who are appointed to minister for them. D&C 76:7f**
- c. **All shall bow the knee, and every tongue shall confess to him who sits upon the throne forever and ever. D&C 76:7u**
- d. **They shall be judged according to their works; and every man shall receive according to his own works and his own dominion in the**

mansions which are prepared; and they shall be servants of the Most High; but where God and Christ dwell, they cannot come, worlds without end **D&C 76:7v**

- e. Even telestial glory is beyond human comprehension. Only a deep conviction of the extent of God's love and mercy can explain it.
 - 1) These are those who reject God and Christ for countless ages of time.
 - 2) They will have paid the price of God's wrath on earth and through the long imprisonment of hell.
 - 3) Nevertheless, having paid this price, when they stand before the judgment bar, they receive a reward of glory according to the good they have done in their lives—little or great as it might have been.
- f. What great love our Lord extends to all men!

3. SONS OF PERDITION

- a. *D&C 76:4b-e they are they who are **the sons of perdition**, of whom I say it had been better for them never to have been born;*
 - 1) *for they are **vessels of wrath**, doomed to suffer the wrath of God, with the Devil and his angels, in eternity, concerning whom I have said there is no forgiveness in this world nor in the world to come;*
 - 2) *having **denied the Holy Spirit**, after having received it, and **having denied the only begotten Son of the Father**; ...*
 - 3) *these are **they who shall go away into the lake of fire and brimstone**, with the Devil and his angels*

WHAT OF ETERNAL PROGRESSION?

1. Eternal Progression imagines an afterlife where every person learns with Christ until eventually ALL are found in God's presence.
 - a. First, there is zero scripture to support this view.
 - b. To entertain this view requires imagination and speculation.
 - c. One scripture that remotely addresses it states *Where God and Christ dwell, **they cannot come**, worlds without end. D&C 76:7v*
 - d. To accomplish this, man's agency must be eliminated from God's plan for His children, and He simply won't break His word on that.
2. Alma tells the importance of using our *time of probation* wisely: *If we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness, wherein there can be no labor performed. Ye cannot say, when ye are brought to that awful crisis, that I will repent, that I will return to my God 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. For behold, if ye have procrastinated the day of your repentance even until death, behold, ye have become subjected to the spirit of the devil, and he doth seal you his."* **Alma 16:230233**

1. Our study of Chapter 15: Eternal Judgment adds great details to the glories, especially that found in Section 76 of the Doctrine and Covenant. But let's take a very brief look at the Restoration concept of Glories.
2. Salvation and the Glories
 - a. Most Christian denominations understand "being saved" as the one and only eternal condition existing in eternal life. This simplicity leads to understanding of only Heaven and/or Hell.
 - 1) This state of "being saved" must include all but the lowest reward—a kingdom of no glory.
***D&C 76:4b-c** they are they who are **the sons of perdition**, of whom I say it had been better for them never to have been born; for they are vessels of wrath, doomed to suffer the wrath of God, with the Devil and his angels, in eternity, concerning whom I have said there is no forgiveness in this world nor in the world to come;*
 - 2) Jesus apparently used "being saved" in a restricted sense to mean only the highest—celestial glory.
 - a) ***D&C 76:7i-j** And thus we saw **the glory of the celestial, which excels in all things**; where God, even the Father, reigns upon his throne for ever and ever, before whose throne all things bow in humble reverence and give him glory for ever and ever. They who dwell in his presence are the church of the First- born; and they see as they are seen, and know as they are known, having received of his fullness and of his grace;...*
 - b) The atonement of Christ brought about the resurrection of all men, and the law of mercy prepared the celestial glory for those who would live the celestial law.
 - 3) Many believe that all the glories are included in the term "being saved." This is true only if considered from the standpoint of what we are saved FROM.
 - a) The person who receives telestial glory is saved from the lake of fire and brimstone.
 - b) The person who qualifies for terrestrial glory is saved from the lesser rewards of the telestial glory.
 - c) A person can attain a lesser glory without accepting the gospel or the testimony of Jesus. In speaking of the telestial glory, *"These are they who . . . received not the gospel, neither the testimony of Jesus, neither the prophets; neither the everlasting covenant" (D&C 76:7m).*
 - 4) God prepared the lesser glories to satisfy His justice by rewarding every person for any good works done.
 - b. Jesus spoke of salvation.
 - 1) By His atonement, Jesus prepared the ONLY way for us to return the Father and inherit celestial glory.
***Mosiah 1:116** And moreover, I say unto you, that **there shall be no other name given, nor any other way nor means whereby SALVATION can come** unto the children of men, **only in and through the name of Christ**, the Lord Omnipotent.*
 - 2) Restoration understanding is a person who is qualified for full citizenship in the Kingdom of God (celestial glory) is "saved." Anything less is "not saved," regardless of what lesser glory a

the **being saved TO something worthwhile** or for some purpose. We have attempted ... to set up the idea that **we are saved for the possibility, for the great destiny, of being with God forever** and sharing with him in fellowship.

MAN'S FALL

A. DISOBEDIENCE CAUSED OUR FALL FROM THE GARDEN

1. Man was created, then placed in the garden of Eden where Adam lived **fully IN God's presence**.
2. Through their disobedient, Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden to live **OUT of God's presence**. *Alma 19:88 Our first parents were cut off, both temporally and spiritually, from the presence of the Lord.*
3. Because of the fall, a plan of salvation was prepared **from the very beginning**. This plan was revealed in the ministry of Jesus Christ, *Revelation 13:8 the lamb slain from the foundation of the world*.
 - a. Salvation lies in each of us **FINDING THE WAY** prepared. *John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way*
 - b. **And** us **QUALIFYING OURSELVES** to come again into God's presence. *D&C 77:1g 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"*

B. SALVATION CAN BE DESCRIBED AS TWO ACTS.

1. First, **REDEEMING US** from the fall.
2. Second, **BRINGING US BACK** into God's presence.
3. This is made possible only through God's gift of mercy.
 - a. Mercy can have no claim upon us **unless we REPENT**.
 - b. Repentance is not only **CEASING TO DO EVIL**, but also **LEARNING TO DO RIGHT**.*Isaiah 1:16-17 Wash ye, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; **cease to do evil; Learn to do well**; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.**Alma 19:106 None but the truly penitent are saved.*

MANY REWARDS OF GLORY

A. MOST CHRISTIANS ARE SHOWN ONLY GLIMPSES OF THE GLORIES.

*1 Corinthians 15:40-42 Also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial, and bodies telestial; but **the glory of the CELESTIAL, one; and the TERRESTRIAL, another; and the TELESTIAL, another.** There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differeth from another star in glory. **So also is the resurrection of the dead.***

B. RESTORATION SCRIPTURE ADDS TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE GLORIES as found in *D&C 76:3a-7w*.

CHAPTER 18. SALVATION

SALVATION

A. INDIVIDUAL SALVATION

1. Salvation is the chief objective of ALL Christian teachings.
 - a. Every religion—Christian, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism Hinduism, and others—holds out some hope of salvation.
 - b. Christianity, however, makes a bold claim.*John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: **no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.***
2. The Restoration presents a unique challenge to the religious world, including other Christians, in regard to the final destiny of the soul.
 - a. **FROM what** do we want to be saved?
 - b. **TO what** do we hope to be saved?
 - c. Salvation has these two sides from which it can be viewed— what we are saved from and what we are saved to.
 - 1) We may be saved from a burning house and still lose our stuff..
 - 2) A criminal may be saved from execution but still have a life sentence.
 - 3) In our spiritual warfare, we may be saved from everlasting torment but fall far short of celestial glory.
 - 4) We may be saved from the evils of society and yet fail completely to catch a glimpse of the Kingdom of God.
 - d. Jesus came preaching and teaching a way of life that would not only **save us FROM the terrible destruction** coming upon the earth but it would also **save us TO the Kingdom of God**.

B. REPENTANCE AND SALVATION

From a lecture "Whosoever Repenteth" by Elder L. Wayne Updike, 1957.

1. What do Repentance and Salvation have to do with Each Other? There is a great deal written about salvation and the place that the Christ plays in it, but not so much applying specifically to **Repentance as it contributes to our salvation**.*Genesis 5:1-2 And the Lord God called upon men, by the Holy Ghost, everywhere, and commanded them that they should repent; and **as many as believed in the Son, and repented of their sins, should be saved** And as many as believed not, and repented not, should be damned.**Genesis 6:30-31 And an hell I have prepared for them, if they repent not; and this is a decree which I have sent forth in the beginning of the world, from mine own mouth, from the foundation thereof; ...*
2. **There is a difference between being forgiven and being cleansed from our sins**. These two things should be considered as being related to each other but not necessarily the same thing.
 - a. **FORGIVEN**: First of all, there is the matter of **being saved FROM sin**, saved from the condition of continuing in sin, being saved from the situation in which we find ourselves if we are rebellious or if we are against God. We are saved from that condition.
 - b. **CLEANSSED**: But more than that, there is the other side of being saved-

RESTORED GOSPEL LIFE AFTER DEATH

