

The Greater Light

The End Time Messenger

'... Let all have Faith. Turn to The Lord and obey His Commands. Heed Repentance and Baptism that The Way of The Lord shall be among men. His Kingdom shall fill the whole earth. The hands must be laid upon all that THE GREATER LIGHT might come to them'

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Happy Easter

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Message 59:10

"The Lord is the resurrection and the life. He that believeth upon him and obey his will shall have the right to the tree of life and to eternity, and in them shall be seen the glory of God, for Christ came to redeem and to provide the way. Therefore, I come to point the way and that the Church of Christ, the Lamb's bride, may be prepared to meet him when he comes, when all men will live to serve the Lord, that the millennium reign shall be. And the great day of the Lord shall come, when all the earth shall rejoice and be glad for a new heaven and a new earth shall be in the Lord's planning."



The Church of Christ With The Elijah Message

THE ASSURED WAY OF THE LORD, Inc.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE AMERICAS, AFRICA, ASIA, AUSTRALIA, AND EUROPE

Articles of Faith and Practice

1. We believe in God The Eternal Father, who only is Supreme; Creator of the Universe; Ruler and Judge of all; Unchangeable and without Respect to persons.
2. We believe in Jesus Christ The Manifestation of God in the flesh, who lived, suffered and died for all mankind; whom we own as our Leader, Witness and Commander.
3. We believe in The Holy Ghost, The Spirit of Truth, The Comforter, which searcheth the deep things of God, brings to our minds things which are past, Reveals things to come, and is the medium by which we Receive Revelation of Jesus Christ.
4. We believe that men will be punished for their own sins and not for Adam's transgression, and that as a consequence of The Atonement of Christ "all little children are alive in Christ, and also all they that are without The Law. For The Power of Redemption cometh on all they that have no law; wherefore, he that is not condemned, or he that is under no condemnation, cannot repent, and unto such, baptism availeth nothing." (Moroni 8:22)
5. We believe that through The Atonement of Christ all men may be Saved by Obedience to The Laws and Ordinances of The Gospel; viz. : Faith in God and in The Lord Jesus Christ; Repentance and Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; Laying on of Hands for: (a) Ordination, (b) Blessing of Children, (c) Confirmation and The Gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 8:17), (d) Healing of the sick.
6. We believe in the literal second coming and Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ; in The Resurrection of the Dead, and in Eternal Judgment; that men will be rewarded or punished according to the good or evil they may have done.
7. We believe in The Powers and Gifts of The Everlasting Gospel: viz: The Word of Wisdom; The Word of Knowledge; The Gift of Faith; The Gift of Healing; Working of Miracles; Prophecy; Discerning of Spirits; Divers kinds of Tongues; Interpretation of Tongues.
8. We believe The Fruits of The Spirit to be Love, Joy, Peace, Long Suffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, and Temperance.
9. We believe that in The Bible is contained The Word of God; that The Record of the Nephites is an added Witness for Christ, and that these contain 'The Fullness of The Gospel.'
10. We believe in the principle of Continuous Revelation; that The Canon of Scripture is not full, that God Inspires men in every age and among all people, and that He speaks when, where, and through whom he may choose.
11. We believe that where there are six or more regularly Baptized members, one of whom is an Elder, there The Church exists with Full Power of Church extension when acting in Harmony with The Law of God.
12. We believe that a man must be Called of God by Revelation and Ordained by those having Authority, to enable him to Preach The Gospel and Administer The Ordinances thereof.
13. We believe in the same Church Organization as existed in the time of Christ and His apostles. The highest office in The Church is that of an Apostle, of whom there are Twelve, who constitute Special Witnesses for Jesus Christ. They have The Missionary Supervision and The General Watch care of all The Churches.
14. The primary function of The General Church, of which each Local Church is a component part, is Missionary and the building up and extension of The Kingdom of God in all the world.
15. We believe that Local Churches should govern their own affairs and that General Church officials should not dominate or interfere therewith. On invitation such general officers may, with propriety, give counsel and assistance. Local congregations are subject to The Articles of Faith and Practice and must be governed thereby.
16. We believe The Church of Christ comprehends The True Brotherhood of man where each esteems his brother as himself and wherein The Divine Command to 'love your neighbor as yourself' is demonstrated by the prevalence of social equality.
17. We believe that all men are Stewards under God and answerable to Him not only for the distribution of accumulated wealth, but for the manner in which such wealth is secured. The primary purpose of Stewardship is not the increase of Church revenue or the mere contribution of money by those who have to those who have not, but to bring men to a realization of The Common Fatherhood and the universal brotherhood of man in all the affairs and expressions of life, and to maintain such social adjustments that each may enjoy The Bounty and Gifts of God, and be free to exercise his talents and ability to enrich the life of all.
18. We believe that men should labor for their own support and that of their dependents. Ministers of The Gospel are not absolved from this responsibility, but when Chosen or Appointed by The Church to devote their entire time to Missionary Work, their families are to be provided for out of General Church fund. The Admonition of Christ that The Ministry should not provide purse or scrip for their journey, but go Trusting in God and the people, is applicable.
19. We believe that the temporal affairs of the General Church are to be administered by The General Bishopric under the supervision and direction of the general conferences of The Church. The temporal affairs of The Local Churches shall be Administered by local Bishops under the supervision and direction of the local congregations.
20. We believe that marriage is Ordained of God, and that The Law of God provides for but one companion in wedlock for either man or woman. In case of breach of this covenant the innocent one may remarry.
21. We are opposed to war. Men are not justified in taking up arms against their fellows except as a last resort in defense of their lives and to preserve their liberty.
22. We believe in The Literal gathering of Israel, and in The Restoration of The Ten Lost Tribes.
23. We believe a Temple will be Built in this generation, in Independence, Missouri, wherein Christ will Reveal Himself and Endow His Servants whom He Chooses with Power to Preach The Gospel in all the world to every kindred, tongue and people, that The Promise of God to Israel may be Fulfilled.
24. We believe that a New Jerusalem shall be Built upon this land 'unto The Remnant' of The Seed of Joseph. (Ether 6:6-8; III Nephi 10:17), which city be Built, beginning at The Temple Lot.
25. We believe The Ministry and Membership should abstain from the use of tobacco, intoxicating liquors and narcotics and should not affiliate with any society which administer Oaths or Covenants in conflict with The Law of God, or which interfere with their duties as freemen and citizens.

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If you do not have means to read *The Greater Light* from a computer or make a hard copy to read, then let The Headquarter Office know and a hard copy will be made and mailed to you.

Message 53:3, **'Give ear, Oh ye people of the earth. Hear The Warning today. I speak The Words and Will of The Lord. Let all have Faith. Turn to The Lord and obey His Commands. Heed repentance and baptism that The Way of The Lord shall be among men. His Kingdom shall fill the whole earth. The hands must be**

laid upon all that **THE GREATER LIGHT** might come to them.’

Message 53:10, ‘Yea, I have brought a Warning and few prepare for **THE GREATER LIGHT**, but be thou Faithful even all who hear, for The Lord’s Will shall be fulfilled in all things. All have their work to do and the day comes when The Lord shall breathe upon The Chosen and they shall do His Work in Mighty Power for their love toward the brethren. All that offend and that do not keep His Commandments shall not be His in the Last Day. Moreover, it is Christ’s Words that shall judge all men.’

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It is the agreement of *The Quorum of Twelve of This Church*, that no Minister is to Ordain any man into *The Min-*

istry until said candidate has with all his heart and soul confessed he agrees with everything written in *The Articles of Faith and Practice*.

It is each Elder's duty to Seek Guidance from and to keep The Territorial Apostle informed of his works in the region he is laboring.

Secretary For The Twelve

FOREWORD

THE GREATER LIGHT, the official publication of *The Church of Christ With The Elijah Message, The Assured Way of The Lord, Inc.*, comes to YOU as an expression of the Hope we have in Christ.

In its pages are found the thoughts and expression of a united people, whose only aim is to promote *The Cause of Christ* by spreading abroad to every nation, tongue and people, *The True Gospel of Christ* that through Obedience to His Laws we might be found worthy of *Eternal Life*.

In this publication, *The Record of The Nephites* is quoted many times. This Book was Revealed and Translated by *The Gift and Power of God*: the year 1829 marked the beginning of *The Restoration of all things*. It is a history of the people who once lived in the region around *The Great Lakes*, some of whom are Ancestors of The American Indians. Though it contains a Record of two other groups of people who once lived here, it is for the most part a Record of The People of Nephi.

The Messages so often mentioned in this publication are Messages from The Lord, brought to earth by His Chosen Servant, John The Baptist, who comes to earth in a Glorified Body to finish The Work given to him of God; that of Restoring all

things (Matthew 17:11-13). The Angel first came in 1829, and Restored *The Authority Of The Son Of God*, that *The Church of Christ* might be Established as in The Days of The Apostles.

In 1927, The Angel Messenger again appeared, and on numerous subsequent visits, has brought to us *The Word Of The Lord* that *The Church of Christ* might be set in Order, that a people might be Prepared to be *The Bride Of Christ*. This is *The Elijah Message* so many have looked for, *The Midnight Cry* has been Proclaimed, *A Warning of Destruction*, but to *The People Of The Lord*, a Message that Christ's soon Coming is near at hand. Fear God and give *Glory to His Name*, for *The Hour of His Judgment* has come. Awake thou that sleepest and Arise from the dead, and Christ will give you *Light*.

We hope that whosoever reads these pages might make it a matter of Prayer and Fasting in Humility before God, that they may know for themselves, that God has again Spoken and Revealed *His Will* from Heaven. To this end, we Dedicate *The Greater Light*.

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Secretary-Treasurer of Bishops'
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THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST TODAY

To All People

Message 81

In this month of March the messenger appeared to me on two different occasions. The room each time was light as noon day. He stood looking at me and smiled each time, but disappeared before I could arise. I felt he would come again soon and leave a message. Many were praying for his return to bring more of the words and will of the Lord. He appeared the third time, March 30, 1965, at 2:40 AM at my home, 1500 West Lexington Ave., Independence, Missouri and left the following message. He spoke slowly and I wrote it word for word as he gave it. He left at 4:31 AM, thus he was with me lacking nine minutes of being two hours. – W.A. Draves

1. “Arise and take the message I will give you.

2. Fret not nor worry not, this is the Lord’s work. I have come to you and given the message. The authority and trust is upon you. No one nor none other can take it from you. All that they have, you have given them of the Lord’s calling.

3. Some will turn against this work. Some will let Satan destroy them, others will be true. Some will yet arise to faithful works, upholding you and the message I bring from the Lord’s planning and will.

4. You have done the Lord’s will and work. Preserve the work and keep sacred the authority, and the Lord’s power will be upon you. Stand firm, hold to your calling.

5. Let none destroy the plan nor the power

or sacredness of the holy priesthood after the order of the son of God that was once delivered to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdrey, and faithfully preserved to this day and time through the remnant unto whom the Lord has sent me, and I have continued to come to, sent of the Lord God, establishing anew through the command of obedience of baptism through the Lord’s servant Otto Fetting and your fellow leader who was faithful in his day of works.

6. Now that you have been faithful to set firm, legally establishing the line of authority, preserved unto the remnant of God shall call – through whom his work shall be accomplished.

7. Adjust yourselves to be up and doing.

8. Those that hinder, let them be removed for already they doubt the words I bring, and fail to see the Lord’s hand moving.

9. Add to your faith knowledge, wisdom and obedience in all things, hope in the eternal salvation.

10. Ye that are afar off, ye that are near, ye that are almost persuaded, come into this way and work of the Lord. Greater responsibilities will be yours to have and to hold in service to the Lord in His way.

11. Seek to save yourselves, endure and seek to bring salvation to others, bring them into this work.

12. Fear not what man may say of you and your work. There are those when they hear will go all the way with you and the message I bring.

13. Remember the Lord Jesus Christ is the truth, the way and the life. No

other way can mankind be saved and that in the life of the flesh, this life of probation only. Mankind chooses this day what his destiny shall be in the hereafter – in the resurrection.

14. When the Saints gather for their prayers and humbly seeking the Lord, in their communion, the Lord's supper or sacrament, let them partake the bread and emblem of the Lord's body: the wine unfermented grape juice from the fruit of the vine, the emblem of the blood of the Lamb of God spilled for all mankind that the sins of the truly repentant that look to him may be forgiven and have life and find it more abundantly.

15. He that striveth of for the mastery, let him be temperate in all things.

16. The tongue of fire kindeth a world of iniquity. Watch therefore and pray. Go therefore and deliver the decrees to those that are ordained of this work – that they may keep them.

17. Let all come to attendance to exhortation to doctrine that greater light may come, and it will to those that prepare for it, unto the measure of Christ, in all things showing good works.

18. Remember there is one God, one Jesus Christ, between God and man who gave himself a ransom for all – that mankind may be redeemed, even the savings of sinners, a way of deliverance.

19. Let the shepherds that feed the flock that they fear no more, and they shall not want. Let your cloak and mantle be humility, for grace shall come to all such. Christ giveth the life that they may have it more abundantly, a pure heart and faithful works, a good conscience toward God and your fellowmen.

20. Let the words I bring be the rule

and guide with the *Articles of Faith and Practice*, for upon all the Lord's words, will and planning shall this work be built.

21. Let the house of the Lord be built, and the Church of Christ with the words I bring, the Elijah message be established everywhere. Come! All that love the Lord in this work, work together. This is the Lord's anointed and appointed, the associated ones of faith. Peace be unto all.

22. Many represent Christ, but you men are to represent Christ and his church.

23. The church is organized. I have given the type and leadership, the way through the gates is open. Repentance and faith are the beginning, worship and receive the gift. The hands must be laid upon all that the Spirit might come to those that prepare for it.

24. Heed my message for this is my mission. The doctrine is given, and is set forth in the *Bible, The Record of the Nephites and the Word of the Lord*, the words I bring.

25. I am John the Baptist, the Spirit and power of Elias, the Elias, the Elijah which was for to come to restore all things. I am the elect one, the horn, the Ancient of Days, I am the forerunner, I am the messenger of the covenant, the promised one. I came before the Christ, preached repentance in the wilderness. I proclaim the word again before the Christ shall come again. I shall be with him when he comes to claim his bride, the church.

26. This is the assured way, the way of life and salvation. Let all man flow into this way.

27. As mankind subdues the earth and climbs to other spheres and planets, learns God's great universe, the closer comes to unveiling all mysteries and understandings

be uncovered.

28. I have come at the Lord's appointing. I have been sent. May the church be steady for time of the end draws nigh.

29. Let the message and word of life be broadcasted everywhere, to every nation, language and tongue, to every heart.

30. Let the work continue everywhere, far and near. Let all take courage for the Lord has sent me. I am your fellow servant. I bring the warning of Christ coming and instructions of his will to the church.

31. Let Steve Martin be set apart as an elder; the Lord has heard his prayers and knows is humility.

32. Let Raymond Ridgell and Milford O. Walberg come in this work and let them be set apart as elders, moreover as the evangelists in this work. The Lord will bless them in their faith and efforts. Much good can be done. Many can be brought to know the truth, the way of life.

33. As I speak to you, so is my message to all. Give this message to the brethren, the church, let it be published with the rest.

34. Peace I leave with you. Amen."

APOSTLES

The following article was approved and submitted by Apostle Eddie Lee.

Dear brothers and sisters,

I greet you in the name of our Savior, Jesus. The Lord has put it up on my heart to share with you a revelation. He gave this to me years ago concerning a verse in the hundred sixth message verses 14-15 "Behold, seek to please the Lord. Pray not in confusion, nor of a great noise, for God loveth serenity and quiet comity, words

well-said, well-spoken from the heart. Who heareth a roaring noise? Can God hear? He will not bless confusion neither will he hear the same." The key word in this verse is **pray**. Pray is one of our most sacred gifts we offer up to a holy God. Jesus said in Matthew 5: 23-24 "Therefore, if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there remembers that thy brother have ought against thee, Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." And when ye stand praying, **forgive**. If ye ought against any, that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your trespasses. In order for us to forgive one another there trespasses we must have charity, the pure love of God.

I Corinthians chapter 13 talks about charity the pure love of Jesus the Christ. As we read in Message 106, we will find that the true love of Jesus was not present among the people of God. I Corinthians 13:1 "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and not have charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tingling cymbal." We know these instruments make noise. If we do not have charity we are noise makers in the sight of the God. Message 106:34 "Give this message to the church and the brethren of the Temple lot group, and to all restoration. Here the call of God."

Why did the Lord have to send this message to all these groups? Is it because of all the confusion, contention, division and separation amongst his children? Message 106:24 "... Here this message, obey this baptism, cleanse your minds of bitterness, of separations, of the divisions

over doctoral points. Learn the truth, the humble gospel way.”

The Temple Lot brethren was warned in Message 106:5-7 “...blindness has befallen them. They sought not further light nor direction, moreover closing their minds to my message which the Lord has sent me to bring for the last work in the latter days... Now hear this message and be firmly established in obedience to the commandment of this baptism I bring to rid yourselves of the sins and traditions of man-made doctrines wherein Satan has deceived and befuddled the work of God. Thus blindness has been in part... Received this baptism...”

Message 106:20 “Why is the rejection and contention of the Lord’s people? Will you accept this baptism I bring? Rid your minds of sins, traditions and doctrines of men.” The Lord wants to know why there is rejection and contention of the Lord’s people. He is telling his people that their minds are full of sins, traditions and doctrines of men. Verse 21 “Thus saith the Lord, if you will here and obey I will lift that which has befallen and will close up the breach thereof. I will cleanse the ruins and it shall be built as in the days of old, even the Temple of the Lord.”

Why did the Lord Jesus have to tell us in The Church of Christ with the Elijah in Message 106:22 “These are my people, they have kept Sacred the special spot for the Temple, the holy sanctuary of my planning,” saith the Lord.” The answer is you thought the Lord had rejected them. This caused pride to come amongst us, because Jesus called us to do a special work for him. Jesus had to let us know that the brethren on the Temple lot are his children, and he loved them even though

they are not in the Church of Christ With the Elijah Message. In verse 20 the Lord tells his people to rid their minds of bitterness, of divisions, separations, of the divisions over doctoral points. When we as the children of God come into his present to offer up our most holy offerings to him, he sees of bitterness separation division and confusion. This is a great noise coming up before him sounding brass and tinkling cymbals. He hears nothing but great noise, because there is no true love shown to him. Jesus love serenity and quiet comity, pray with peaceful and untroubled. We were standing beside each other in our places of worship and prayers, we were praying before a holy God with hate and bitterness in our hearts toward each other. This is praying in confusion and of a great noise. Look at us today? There is a roaring noise and confusion going up before God. Who amongst you will call for a solemn assembly of true repentance?

Why did Jesus tell us in Message 106:28 “Bringing forth repentance...Seek ye the extra oil in your lamps in vessels, your lives and your work.”

See what Jesus is saying to us in Message 106:26 “Thus saith the Lord, ‘I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you, and you shall walk in my statutes...’” Why does Jesus have to tell us that he will give a new heart and a new spirit? Because the Spirit and heart we have was not pleasing to him. Jesus wants us to bring forth true repentance, reconciliation and obedience in our lives. The Lord wants to bring restoration and healing to his people. He wants us to meet in our solemn assembly and cried mighty unto him. Many times in the Word of the Lord he told us when we meet in our solemn assembly to

cry mighty unto him. Have we obeyed? Message 6:6 calls for a solemn assembly with fasting weeping and mourning. There is only one way to turn the judgment of God and that is true repentance.

Message 39: 23 “Be kind to those that come to learn of truth. Meet in the assembly and cry mightily unto the Lord, for many shall come to learn truth. Be not contentious but let the Lord direct.” I have heard it asked, how do we cry mightily to the Lord? We must lift our voices up to our Father in heaven. Psalms 100:1, 4 “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands... Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name.” Psalms 47:1 “Oh, clap your hands, all ye peoples; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.” Psalms 150:1-6 “Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in the firmament of his power... Praise him with the sound of the trumpet; praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance; praise him with stringed instrument and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals semicolons praise him upon the high sounding symbols. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.”

The Record of the Nephites book of Enos 1:4 “And my soul hungered: and I kneeled down before my maker, and I cried unto him in mighty prayer and supplication for mine own soul, and all the day long did I cry unto him; yea, and when the night came, I did still raise my voice that it reached the heavens.” II Chronicles 5:11-14 “And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place (for all the priests who were present were sanctified, and did not then wait by course)...It came

even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were at one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praise the Lord, saying for he is good; for his mercy endures forever – that then the house was filled with a cloud even the house of the Lord. So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God.” Jesus wants us to worship and praise him, lift up our hands in worship and say hallelujah with a loud voice. Revelations 5:11-12 “And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne in the beast and the elders, and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a they loud voice, worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.”

On the day of Pentecost when the 120 gather to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit came in like a rushing mighty wind. It filled the house where they were sitting. When the Holy Ghost came upon them the people thought they were drunk with wine. In Message 85:30 “this is the midnight cry—the great confusion must fall. Pentecost must come, the outpouring of the Spirit must be even to those that are afar off.” What are we going to do when the new Testaments Saints are filled with the Holy Spirit as on the day of Pentecost. Let us not miss out on this great event by our traditions. I speak to you with love of Jesus. Be blessed.

Your sister in Christ,
Stella Dickens

Articles

History Repeats Itself

Ellen Draves

In 1929 prior to the 12th Message the Temple Lot and the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints transferred membership one to the other. Many people thought at that time that once they were baptized in one church that they did not have to be rebaptized because both churches were restoration.

Message 12:4 “Behold, the Lord has rejected all creeds and factions of men, who have gone away from the word of the Lord and have become an abomination in his sight, therefore, let those that come to the Church of Christ be baptized, that they may rid themselves of the traditions and sins of men; preparing themselves, that they may be fit and worthy for the Spirit and power of the Holy Ghost, and as the greater power shall come, that they may be ready to receive it with joy. For this is the time of the restitution and restoration of all things, and this must come to all that shall be permitted to dwell in the presence of Christ, for sin cannot receive the glory of God, nor the power of the Holy Ghost.”

Many of the people at that time who joined the church and had not transferred in did not get rebaptized. Although there were many members who felt that they should be rebaptized. The group that got rebaptized started The Church of Christ with Elijah Message. The Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints, Temple Lot and Church Christ with Elijah Message all believed in restoration but they were three different churches. Each of these churches had their own requirements for membership.

Today there are three different Church of Christ with the Elijah Message. All three believe in the Messages, The Record of the Nephites and the Bible, but they are three different churches and separate one from the other. Each of these churches also has their own requirements for membership. The Church of Christ with the Elijah Message, Assured Way of the Lord believes that you must be a baptized member of this church to take sacrament. If you belong to one of the other groups and have taken sacrament from them then you are classified as a member of that church and **cannot** take sacrament with us. When you come this way then you would have to be rebaptized in order to be a member and take sacrament.

I would like to give you this in scenario. I am going to the store to buy a new mix master. I look at Hamilton Beach, Black & Decker and Kitchen Aid. Each of these machines main purpose is to mix the food, but each of these machines has different attachments to do different things. Each of them has a warranty. If I bought a Black & Decker mix master I could not take it to Hamilton Beach or Kitchen Aid to have it fixed or get an attachment from them and expected it to work in my Black & Decker mix master. Hamilton Beach and Kitchen Aid would not accept Black and Decker’s warranty. They are different companies that make similar products that do the same thing.

It is the same with The Church of Christ Assured Way of the Lord. We have a standard that we follow. We believe that all must be baptized members of this church to partake of sacrament. We do not knowingly allow people from other churches to take the sacrament.

Just as it was in 1929 we have to make a stand on what we believe and follow through. I hope this clears up why we require individuals that come from other Church of Christ churches to be baptized in order to partake of the sacrament. We want to keep the holy priesthood sacred and the line of authority to remain pure.

Holy Week

Ellen Draves

Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, which is marked on Good Friday. Christ rose three days later. These three days are known by Christians as the Easter Triduum.

The Easter season begins on Ash Wednesday. This is the first day of Lent which lasts 40 days. This is a time when some Christians fast or give up a particular food or vice. The fasting period is to remember when Jesus went into the wilderness and fasted 40 days despite being tempted.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, which may also be known as Passion Sunday in some denominations. Traditionally, Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Jesus's entry into Jerusalem was noted by the crowds present who shouted praises and waved palm branches. Jesus rode into Jerusalem humbly on a donkey, reminiscent of a Davidic victory procession, and how people placed palms on the ground in front of him. Immediately following this great time of celebration over the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem, He begins his journey to the cross. The blessing is thus followed by a procession or solemn entrance into the church, with the participants holding the

blessed branches in their hands.

Ash Wednesday takes place after Shrove Tuesday. Some people call this Pancake Day because rich food like eggs were used up before Lent and the fasting period begins.

We have Maundy Thursday which marks the Last Supper Jesus had with his twelve disciples. In Jesus' time it was the time of Passover which was a Jewish celebration. It was because of Passover that the disciples and Jesus were sharing a meal together. The tradition was to have roast lamb, bread and wine. This was Jesus' last meal before he was killed which is why we now call it the Last Supper.

Jesus' actions during the dinner have a crucial role in Christianity. During the meal he is said to have taken the bread and wine and offered them to the disciples saying they were his body and blood. This is now emulated in Sacrament services today in remembrance of what happened.

The word Maundy comes from Latin and means 'to command' - this is because Jesus 'commanded' them to think of him when they broke bread and wine together after he was killed.

Also on Maundy Thursday we have the washing of the feet. Jesus is reported to have washed his disciples' feet to show how he served. Washing feet was normally done by the lowest servants, as people wore sandals and could end up with very dirty feet, so Jesus' action would have been very symbolic.

This is the same day that Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray knowing what would happen to him the next day. It is here he was betrayed by Judas and taken by the guards. He was arrested and taken to trial.

Good Friday is what Lent has been building up to – Jesus’ death. It may seem strange to call a day someone died as 'good' but at the time it really meant 'holy'. Christians remember how Jesus was flogged and taken, as he carried the cross, to the hillside where he was crucified with two criminals, even though he had done nothing wrong.

He was nailed to the cross there and left to die. This is why a cross is used as a symbol of the Christian faith.

The day before Easter Sunday, is called Easter Saturday. The day between Good Friday and the Sunday is known as Holy Saturday and it still has a role in the weekend. Most churches won't have a service, but have a vigil instead - this used to be at midnight, but many churches now hold them earlier, in the evening. The idea was to hold a service that would end by welcoming in Easter - and Jesus rising from the death with the dawn.

It is the most important day of the church year for Christians. It is when Jesus rose from the dead three days after he was killed. It is called the 'resurrection'. The Bible says the women returned to the tomb and found it open. They were told to go and tell the disciples 'He is Risen'. It is only later, when Jesus is on the road and joins the disciples walking that he shows himself again. The Bible says when they were all gathered Jesus revealed himself to them, and doubting Thomas touches his wounds as proof of who he was.

Easter Sunday is also the end of Lent. That means the end of whatever has been given up and eggs. Eggs are often associated with Easter because they are a symbol of new life and fertility. Some Christians believe that the opening of the

egg represents the opening of the tomb. They can also be seen to represent Spring and celebrate rebirth and reinvigoration after the harshness of winter.

Prayer & Fasting

Ola Dawn Thompson

I have been thinking a lot about prayer and fasting and how it benefits one; I might add the church as well. There are several scriptures in all three scriptures books, with promises that we will be blessed. So in my studies, I have found it's so very important not only as a person but as a church group to come together in humble prayer and fasting.

I always felt this must have been a very important thing as Jesus himself went up into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil and when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, after he was hungry. And when the tempter (devil) came to him, he said if thou be the son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But He (Jesus) answered and said *'It written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.'*

Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple. and saith unto," If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down for it is written, He shall give His Angels charge Concerning Thee: And in Their Hands They Shall Bear Thee Up, Least at Any Time Thou Dash Thy Foot Against A Stone. 'Jesus said unto him (devil), *It is written again thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy Lord thy God.*

Again the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain and sheweth him

all the kingdom of the world, and the glory of them, and he saith unto him, all these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee Hence, Satan: *For it is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.*

The devil leaveth him and, Behold, Angels came and ministered unto him (Matthew 4:1-11)

The way I see this is Jesus is our example and there is spiritual strength in fasting and praying for the things that pertain to God.

So with this said, let us take a look at what the scriptures says about fasting and praying and why it is important.

One of my favorite scripture is in the record of the Nephites Book Moroni 6: 5 “And the church did meet together oft, to fast and to pray, and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls:” (continue reading through verses 6-9)

Matthew 6: beautiful chapter worth reading the whole thing. Today though, go to verse 17: Jesus words: “But when thy fastest anoint thine head and wash thy face that thy appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy father which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.”

Message 14:5 “Be not boastful, neither harsh with the people, when you take the message to them, be humble and full of Love. and when you are in need of light from Heaven, wash yourself that you may be clean, anoint your head with oil, and in fasting and humility go before our God, that he might direct you in His work.”

Message 116: 5 “When you are in need of light, wash yourselves that you will be

clean. Consecrate your heart to serve the Lord. Seek Him in earnest prayer and He will give you the light you need.”

Helaman 3:35 “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 the purifying and the sanctification of their hearts, which sanctification cometh because of their yielding their hearts unto God.”

Message 37:17 “...Teach All to pray in service and in the secret closets, pouring out the heart to God ...”

Message 37:20 “Let the church (PEOPLE) pray earnestly and often that all will come closer unto the Lord that they may Know HIS Spirit. Follow the doctrine taught in the scriptures.”

Message 40:12 “Be prayerful and the Light the Lord shall send will point the way. The spirit of the Lord shall fill the hearts of men and the desire in their hearts shall find joy in the Lord.”

Alma 6: 6 “Nevertheless the children of God were Commanded that they should gather themselves oft, and join in Fasting and Mighty prayer, in behalf of the welfare of the souls of those who knew not God.”

Message 6:6 “...I gave you a Commandment that you should call your solemn Assembly; that your fasting and your Mourning (deep praying) might come up into the ears of the Lord your God.”

With these few scriptures, you can see how important that Prayer and fasting is not only to pray and fast on our own but also as a people gather to worship and seek deeper things of the Lord, and to fast and pray mightily for the lost souls for those who know not God .

One of the verses years ago that started my journey on fasting and praying was Jeremiah 33:3 “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knoweth not.”

This really touched me and then I started search into the scriptures “call unto me and found most lead to deep prayer and fasting.

Jeremiah 29:11-14 (whole chapter wonderful) “For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, Saith the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil to give you and expected end.

Then shall you call upon me and ye shall go and pray unto me and I will hearken unto you. And that ye shall seek me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." This got me to thinking, seek God with all my heart, so that prompted me to go to into the Scriptures and seek out prayer and fasting.

In all my days, I can actually say every fast that I have done over the years has brought me much blessings, healing of the heart, and given the strength to endure no matter what was set before me. Today, still when I am troubled or mindful of questions, needed healing, seek for loved ones help whether it be spiritual, mental, physical, or family problems, or church problems, or even just wanting that Holy unction to fill my soul and give me much joy in the Lord I have found fasting and prayer has never been wasted efforts.

I have seen broken hearts healed, relationships healed, church things come together as God would have, family members hearts changed and friends healed. Some even develop stronger faith to stand on their own. I have seen people coming together in love after a fasting and praying.

Brothers and sisters there is a healing in coming together in fasting and prayer.

When I am grieved over something or having trouble forgiving or letting go of something, I have found fasting and prayer is the healing balm with the blessed oil that has many times lifted me from despair and discouragement. Many times my tears have been wiped dry by the Holy Spirit of our Lord all through your prayer and fasting.

So with this said, I hope if you haven't ever fasted and prayed you will give it a try. It is healing to the soul and it gives you strength to endure. May we all take time to spend with just the Lord Jesus Christ and try this fasting and prayer. It works and Jesus our healer will meet you right where you are and you will see the hand of God move in such a wonderful way.

Your sister in Christ.

Testimony

J. J. Simmons

Isaiah 53:1-6

Who has believed our report?

To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

He is despised and rejected of men. A man of sorrow and acquainted with grief. He was oppressed and afflicted yet He open not his mouth.

He was brought as a Lamb to the slaughter. A sheep before her shearers is dumb. All like sheep have gone astray.

Everyone to his own way. The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Lord, I believe the report that I, Jesus have sent my angel to testify unto the church.

Love to all. It is praying time.

Young Adults

Putting God First

Brenda Humpert

One of my grandmother's favorite quotes was Matthew 6:33, But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. She used to say this to me often and I'm glad she did. It took a while but it finally sunk in.

What does it mean to put God first?

Putting God first requires us to talk to Jesus every day. Pray for God's blessing and guidance. Putting God first means taking time to read His word and go to services. God will bless you for doing these things. Imagine if you had a friend that you really loved and every time you came around they would ignore you. Every time you called they were too busy to talk to you. Suppose this friend made time for everyone else but hardly took time for you. After a while you would stop coming around and calling. No one likes to be ignored, especially Jesus. Because He loves us so much that it hurts the heart of God if we never take time for Him. He desires to bless us and if we don't have a relationship with Him He can't. You might say "well I've been baptized". That is a wonderful thing but that is just the beginning.

Matthew 22:36-39 Jesus tells us here what is expected of us,

36) Master which is the great commandment in the law? 37) Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38) This is the first and great commandment. 39) And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt**

love thy neighbor as thyself.

What does the scripture mean when he says all these things will be added unto you? If we go back to Matthew chapter 6:31-32, **Therefore take no thought, saying what shall we eat? Or, What shall we drink? Or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32) (For after all these things so the Gentiles seek:) For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.** What Jesus is telling us is if we will put Him first, Pray, read, attend services He will bless us with whatever we might need.

As we take time to remember and worship Jesus this Easter, all that Christ has done in forgiving our sins, let's renew our hearts and our commitment to Jesus. Let's take time with Him and put Him first in our lives, take time to study His word, pray and attend services.

I love you and pray God bless you in whatever you need.

Junior Department

Thresa Ray

Dear Youth,

You can read the Easter story about Jesus' death and resurrection in the Holy Bible, Matthew chapter 26 – 28, Mark chapter 14-16, Luke chapter 22-24 and John chapter 13-21.

After Jesus' resurrection, He stayed on the earth for 40 days appearing to his disciples and followers in Israel and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3) During those 40 days, Jesus also came to the land now known as North America and appeared to the people of Nephi.

III Nephi 11:9-17 "And it came to pass

that He stretched forth His hand and spake unto the people, saying.

10) behold, I am Jesus Christ, of which a prophets testified that should come into the world;

11) And behold, I am the light in the life of the world; and I have drank out of the bitter cup which the father have given me, and have glorified the father in taking upon me the sins of the world, in that which I have suffered the will of the father in all things from the beginning.

12) And it came to pass that when Jesus had spake these words, the whole multitude fell to the earth, for they remembered that it had been prophesied among them that Christ should shew himself unto them after his accession into the haven.

13) And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto them saying,

14) Arise and come forth into me, that ye may thrust your hands into my side, and also that we may feel the prints of the nails in my hands and in my feet, that ye may know that I am the God of Israel, and the God of the whole earth, and have been slain for the sins of the world.

15) And it came to pass that the multitude went forth, and thrust their hands into his side, and did feel the prints of the nails in his hands and in his feet; and this they did do, going forth one by one, until they had all gone, and did see with their eyes and did feel with their hands, and did know a surety, and did bear record, that it was he of whom it was written by the prophets that should come.

16) And it came to pass that when they had all gone forth and had witness for themselves, they did cry out with one accord saying,

17. Hosanna! Blessed be the name of the

most high God! And they did fall down at the feet of Jesus, and did worship Him."

Jesus taught the people of Nephi the proper way to baptize, the Beatitudes, the Godhead, the Lord's prayer, and many other things concerning the kingdom of God and his truths and how we should live our life on earth.

III Nephi 17:9 "And it came to pass that when he had thus spoken, all the multitude, with one accord, did go forth with their sick, and their afflicted, and their lame, and with their blind, and with their dumb, and with all they that were afflicted in any manner, and he did heal them everyone as they were brought forth to Him,"

III Nephi 17:20-21 "... He said unto them, Blessed are ye because of your faith and now behold my joy is full. 21) And when he had said these words, he went, and the multitude bear record of it, and he took their little children, one by one, and blessed them, and prayed unto the Father for them."

He taught the tithing law. III Nephi 24:10 "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meet in my house; and prove me now here with, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Jesus chose twelve disciples from the Nephites and gave them the power of the Holy Ghost so they could continue His Church after he ascended into heaven.

III Nephi 19:4 "And it came to pass that on the morrow, when the multitude was gathered together, behold, Nephi and his brother whom he had raised from the dead, whose name was Timothy, and also his son, whose name was Jonas, and also Mathoni, and Mathonihah, his brother, and Kumen,

and Kumenonhi, and Jeremiah, and Shemmon, and Jonas, and Zedekiah, and Isaiah; now these were the names of the disciples whom Jesus had chosen and it came to pass that they went forth and stood in the midst of the multitude.”

III Nephi 19:17-18 “And it came to pass that when they had all knelt down upon the earth, he commanded his disciples that they should pray.

And behold, they began to pray; and they did praying unto *Jesus calling him their Lord and their God.*”

III Nephi 19:26-36 “And Jesus saith unto them, pray on, nevertheless they did not cease to pray. And he turned from them again, and went a little way off, and bowed himself to the earth; and he prayed again unto the Father, saying, Father, I think thee that thou hast purified those which I have chosen, because of their faith, and I pray for them, and also for them which shall believe on there words, that they may be purified in me, through faith on their words, even as they are purified in me. Father, I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given unto me out of the world, because of their faith, that they may be purified in me, that I may be in them as thou, Father, art in me, that we may be one, that I may be glorified in them.

And it came to pass that when Jesus had spake these words, it came again unto his disciples, and behold they did pray steadfastly, without ceasing, unto him: and he did smile upon them again; and behold they were white, even as Jesus.

And it came to pass that he went again a little way off and prayed to the Father; and tongue cannot speak the words which he prayed. And the multitude did hear, and do bear record, and there hearts were open, and

they did understand and their hearts the words which he prayed. Nevertheless, so great and marvelous were the words which he prayed, that they cannot be written, neither can they be uttered by man.

And it came to pass that when Jesus had made an end of praying, he came again to the disciples, and saith unto them, So great faith have I never seen among all the Jews; wherefore I could not shew unto them so great miracles, because of their unbelief. Verily I say into you, there are none of them that have seen so great things as ye have seen; neither have they heard so great things as ye had heard.”

God blessed these disciples in the church was because of their great Faith!

Jesus also taught them what to call His Church. III Nephi 26:21 “And they which were baptized in the name of Jesus, were called The Church of Christ.”

III Nephi 27:5-8 “Have they not read the Scriptures, which saith ye must take upon you the name of Christ, which is in my name? For by this name shall ye be called at the last day; and whoso taketh up on him my name, and in endureth to the end, the same shall be saved at the last day; Therefore whatsoever ye shall do, ye shall do it in my name; *therefore ye shall call the church in my name*; and ye shall call upon the Father in my name, that he will bless the church for my sake; And how be at my church, save it be called in my name? For if a church be called in Moses’ name, then it be Moses’ church; or if it be called in the name of a man, then it be the church of a man; but if it be called in my name, then it is my church, if it so be that they are built upon my gospel.”

How many churches can you think of are called not by Christ’s name? Christ’s

Church must be his church in name and action. Message 81:22 tells us that, “Many represent Christ, but you represent Christ and His Church.”

Just as we read from III Nephi, we must be a good representation of Christ by having clean hands and pure hearts and our garments white because we have rid our life of sin.

Just as Jesus said in Revelations 2:10 “...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life.” He told the disciples and the church: III Nephi 27:16 “...whoso repentant and is baptized in my name, shall be filled; and if he and endure to the end, behold, him will I hold guiltless before my father, at that day when I shall stand to judge the world.”

I am going to close here, for now. Take time to read III Nephi chapters 11 through 28. It is so uplifting to read how Jesus dwelt with the people on the continent now called North America. I am sure you will be blessed and feel his spirit as you read this wonderful account.

May God bless you and give you understanding of his words as you study.

Remember this verse II Timothy 2:15 “study to shew thyself approved unto God...”

Praise Jesus! He loves us so much! The nails did not hold Jesus on the cross. It was his love for us that held him to the cross! We are so blessed to have a Lord and Savior that loves us so much and he was willing to die on the cross for our sins – that though believe in Him and accepting Him as our Savior, we might have everlasting life.

What Does Easter Mean?

Matthew 27:33-39 “And when they were come unto a place called Golgotgha, that is to say, a place of a skull, 34) They gave him vinegar to drink, mingled with gall; and when he had tasted it, he would not drink. 35) And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots. 36) And sitting down they watched him there. 37) And set up over His head his accusation written, This Is Jesus, The King of the Jews. 38) Then were two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another of the left. 39) And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads.”

Matthew 28:1-11 "in the end of the Sabbath as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchuer. 2) and, behold, there was a great earthquake; for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and set up on it. 3) His countenance was like lightning, and his remnant white as snow; 4) and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead 5.) And the angel answered and said unto the women, fear not; for I know that ye see Jesus, who was crucified.6) he is not here; he is risen as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7) and go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee. There shall ye see him; low, I have told you. 8) and they departed quickly from the sepulcher with fear and great joy, and did run to bring his disciples word. 9)

Primary Department

Joy Ellen Draves-Dreher

and they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying All Hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worship him. 10) then said Jesus unto them, be not afraid; go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me. 11) Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and showed it to the chief priests all the things that were done."

It would be good to read all of chapter 27 if you have time to do so. It speaks of Jesus trial and ridicule and abusive treatment from the soldiers.

Jesus had to die and shed His blood so we could be brought back into relationship with God. He was the final sacrifice. It is by Jesus blood our sins have been washed away. Then through His resurrection (coming back to life), we too can be risen to new life in Him. When we come to the Lord, we are new creations. We have Jesus resurrected life in us.

Easter isn't at all about Easter bunnies and Easter eggs as such, though these things are nice to have at Easter time. I've heard it said that the Easter egg represents new life – as a chicken hatches from an egg. It is okay to enjoy chocolate bunnies and Easter eggs at Easter time, but let us not forget the real meaning of Easter.

* * *

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." John 11: 25

Jesus, I thank you that you died. Your spilled blood was for me. Death could not hold you in the grave. But you rose victoriously.

The Road Not Taken

Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Marianna Johnson's favorite poem.

