

REASONS

WHY

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The question is asked by the many in the different factions of the Restoration movement today "Why the necessity to organize The Church of Christ Anew in 1929, when The Church of Christ had been organized a hundred years before or on the 6th day of April, 1830?" Also the question is asked, WHY the necessity of what they term Rebaptism? Well, dear reader, if you will bear with me for a while I will endeavor to bring to your minds a few of the reasons WHY?

In the first place The Church of Christ that was organized on the 6th of April, 1830, was organized according to the laws of the land, BUT NOT according TO THE LAWS OF GOD; and as the Apostle Paul says in his letter to the Thessalonians the 5th, ch. and the 21st verse, "Prove all things; hold fast, that which is good." Also in the 2nd Corinthians 13: 1st verse, This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established. The Prophet Isai@ih said (Isaiah 8:20): "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word it is because there is no light in them."

So let us take the testimony of some of those men that lived at that time, and let them be the witnesses; as we have their testimony recorded in different books, published by the different factions of the Restoration movement today.

First let us turn to the Book of Doctrine and Covenants of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the 83rd sec. 8th par. and read, "And your minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received, which vanity and unbelief hath brought the whole Church under condemnation. And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all; and they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written, that they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father's Kingdom. Otherwise there remaineth a scourge and a judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion for, shall the children of the kingdom pollute My holy land? Verily, I say unto you, Nay."

Now the above revelation was given to Joseph Smith, Jr., and six Elders on the 22nd and 23rd of September, 1832, or just a little over two years after the Church was organized on the sixth of April, 1830, and we find that their minds had been darkened and that they had treated lightly the things they had received which vanity and unbelief had brought the **WHOLE CHURCH UNDER CONDEMNATION** and this condemnation rested upon the children of Zion, even all: and they were to remain under it until they repented and remembered the New Covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which the Lord had given them, **NOT ONLY TO SAY, BUT TO DO ACCORDING TO THAT WHICH THE LORD HAD GIVEN THEM**, otherwise there remaineth a scourge and a judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion.

Now, dear brothers and sisters of The Church of Christ and of the Restoration Movement I want to ask this question: Was the scourge and judgment spoken of here, poured out? I know that you will all have to say it was, because the most of the members of the different factions have read the history of how in less than a year from the time that this above mentioned revelation was given, the members of that Church were driven from Zion, and suffered the Haun's Mill Massacre; and of how they were driven from pillar to post till 1844 when Joseph and Hyrum Smith were killed and the members scattered to

the four winds.

Let us go back in history a little farther and see if we can find some of the things they treated lightly. Turn with me to the Book of Commandments, (a book published by W. W. Phelps & Co., in Zion, Jackson County, Missouri, in 1833, for The Government of The Church of Christ, organized according to law on the 6th of April, 1830). Some people say that this book was never completed before the printing press was destroyed in 1833 at the time they were driven out of Jackson County but that is a mistake, for it was completed and I have in my possession one of the original copies. *Read David Whitmer's Book, Chapter 16, the 10 and 11 verses and we find that David Whitmer and Oliver Cowdery were called to be Apostles; and in the 27th verse we find the number or how many Apostles there were to be at one time; and in the 42nd, we find that Oliver and David were told to search out the twelve. This was given in June, 1829. You can find this same revelation recorded in the book of Doctrine and Covenants of the Reorganized Church, Page 30, section 16, but it isn't worded just as it is in the Book of Commandments, another error that the members of the Church drifted into, (changing the Revelations) but I won't go into that now. If the reader wishes to look into this farther you can write The Church of Christ, 822 West Kansas Street, Independence, Missouri, and for 5¢ purchase a tract "Change Of Revelations" by Daniel Macgregor.

So we find here one of the commandments that they treated lightly. Over three years later they hadn't ordained any Apostles, but they had, on Jan. 25th, 1832, ordained Joseph Smith, President of the High Priesthood. (See Life of Joseph the Prophet, page 140, also Reorganized Church History Vol. 1, page 244) some three years and three months before there was any revelation creating the office. See Doctrine and Covenants, "Reorganized" section 104, par 11 and 42 given in March 1835; see also Millennial Star Vol. 15, page 246, and, they never put the apostles in The Church of Christ that was organized on the 6th of April, 1830; but on May the 3rd, 1834, at a conference, they changed the name of the Church from "The Church Of Christ" to "The Church Of The Latter Day Saints." See Reorganized Church History Vol. 1, pages 463 and 454, also Evening and Morning Star, Vol. 2, page 352, and Doctrine and Covenants, section 108, page 239, and we find that they again treated lightly the things they had received and broke another command of God and drifted farther into error. See Doctrine and Covenants, 16:4: "Take upon you the name of Christ," and again in section 17:1: "The rise of The Church of Christ in these last days." See also Book of Commandments, Chapter 24, 1st verse and chapter 15, verses 1 and 23, and Book of Mormon, Authorized Edition, pages 672 and 673, the 12 ch. of the Book of Nephi, verses 17, 18: "Ye must take upon you the name of Christ." They left out the name of Christ entirely and followed after the persuasions of man into one error after another.

In 1835 the book of Doctrine and Covenants was first published. See Doctrine and Covenants section 108-A page 239, par. 4 "Book of Doctrine and Covenants of the Church of the Latter Day Saints," and they choose the Twelve apostles in the Church of the Latter Day Saints on Feb. 14th, 1835. They were chosen by the three witnesses, namely, Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, and Martin Harris, another mistake, because the Revelation plainly states that O. Cowdery and D. Whitmer were to search out the twelve; and God does not change nor vary from that which he has said. See, "Life of Joseph The Prophet," for the above, page 150.

Then in 1838 on the 26th of April they changed the name again to "The Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints" from "The Church of Latter Day Saints." They claim to have a revelation to change the name, but God does not change nor vary from that which he has said. Man changes, but God never. See, Reorganized Church History, Vol. 2, page 161, (footnote) also Millennial Star, Vol. 16, pages 147, 148, and note Doctrine and Covenants section 110, "To the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints," then on July 12, 1843, the Revelation on Spiritual Wife Doctrine was given. See Vol. 1, of "THE TRUE LATTER DAY SAINTS HERALD," page 24, also pages 8 and 22, and then in June 1844, the scourge and Judgment spoken of in section 83, par. 8, was complete. Joseph and Hyrum Smith were killed and the members scattered to the four winds and branched out in many different Factions, each claiming to be the true Church, and each Faction having some of the gifts of the Gospel.

I would like to call your attention to another Revelation recorded in the Book of Commandments, ch. 4, verse 5, "And thus, if the people of this generation harden not their hearts, I will work a reformation among them, and I will put down all lyings, and deceivings, and priestcrafts, and envyings, and strifes, and idolatries, and sorceries, and all manner of iniquities, and I WILL ESTABLISH MY CHURCH like unto the Church which was taught by my disciples in the days of old." Those that believe the revelations in the Book of Commandments to be of God will have to admit that all lying and all manner of iniquities were not put down in the generation that this revelation was given and, therefore, will have to admit that the Church was not established. This revelation was given in March, 1829.

In the True Latter Day Saints Herald, Vol. 2, page 12, we read that the Church organized April 6th, was rejected: "Therefore the Church was rejected and disorganized," and on pages 19 and 20, we read, "We must confess that the Church did not hearken to the voice of the Lord, otherwise it would not have been moved out of their place." This was only a part of the penalty for hearkening not to the voice of the Lord. After repeated warnings the time had come when God declared that He would release Himself from His oath and His promises unto the Church, and instead of blessings, they were to receive cursings, wrath, indignation, and judgments if they did not do the things He said. If He only moved them out of their place because they would not hearken unto Him, then He only fulfilled His word in part, but if he brought all these evils upon the church, according to His word, the church was rejected, for when it was cut off from the promises and blessings of the Church, it became a rejected church." See page 95--these writers believed that the church that was organized April the 6th, 1830, was rejected and disorganized; one faction believes it is the true church and another, that it is; until we now have or have had at some time or other some 43 different church organizations that have come out of the restoration movement, all claiming to be the church. Well, they could all be wrong, but only one could be right.

Now let us examine another witnesses testimony. We will see what David Whitmer said as we will quote from his Address To All Believers In Christ, page 37- "If you believe my testimony to the Book of Mormon, if you believe that God spake to us three witnesses by his own voice, then I tell you that in June, 1838, God spake to me again by his own voice from heaven and told me to 'separate myself from the Latter Day Saints, for as they sought to do unto me, so should it be done unto them'." Now the question is what did they intend to do to David Whitmer? History tells us that they intended to cut him off from the

Church; and the history also states that they did have a church trial and cut David Whitmer off from the Church; and I believe that God did as he said he would, namely, cut the Church off.

Now let us see what was revealed to another witness along the uneven journey of life. On or about the 9th of April, 1870, G. D. Cole had a Vision. I will quote from the vision as it is printed in the Zions' Advocate for October, 1935. I will quote just a part of the vision as it is too lengthy to quote it all. I begin with the fourth par.: "I turned to my right, facing the northeast, for at first I was facing the west, and as I turned I saw a stump somewhere near the west of where the building now stands on the Temple Lot, but at that time there was not anything on the lot, not even a switch nor a fence.

"The stump was about three feet high and two and a half feet across the top. It was a beautiful stump. A small branch grew out of the stump near the top, about twelve inches long, with about six or seven large, healthy looking buds on it, ready to put forth when the time came; for this was impressed on me that that was the mind and purpose of the Lord. And as I looked steadfastly on it the voice said, "That is The Church of Christ that was Organized on the 6th of April, 1830."

"I was impressed that the tree had become defective, for which cause the tree had been removed, a small part of the blemish or defect extended a short distance down from the top of the stump, as though in cutting off the tree a part was left in the stump on the south side about as broad as the hand.

"Notwithstanding it was only about or looked to be two and one-half feet across the top of the stump, there were quite a number of people on top of it moving around, and I knew, or seemed to know, the most of them.

"There were some engaged in joking, treating lightly their surroundings and as they would come near that affected place in the stump, they would raise an axe to strike it in their light minded way; but just as they would start to let fall the axe something would hinder or stop them, and that voice said to me that the Lord would not let them (strike the stump).

"I was impressed again that if the Lord didn't hinder them they would destroy it.

"I said, 'Lord, where is the top?' He said, 'look.' I looked just across the road running east and west, just north of the Temple Lot, and there lay the butt end of the tree. He said it was cut off as the Church but not as individuals. I saw the sear of the axe on the butt end of the tree. The top extended miles and miles, and as it extended from the Temple Lot the top gradually bent to the west until the extreme top was lying in a westerly direction.

"I could see that the tree was dead and the leaves were wilted and turning brown. While I was still standing on that stone up in the air He said 'look!' and I looked towards the dead tree. He said, "Behold the elders of Israel." I looked and saw the day that will come when the messengers of the Lord will go through that top. It seemed to me like they were pruning the tree, but not as we prune a tree, for we would bring from it the dead branches, but they did bring out the green twigs from the dead tree."

I will now quote from some Messages given in our day or a few years ago. First though I will quote from a Revelation given through James E. Yates in Independence, MO., Sunday, May 1st, 1927. I only quote a few paragraphs: 1."By the quickening power of the Holy Spirit this is given the word of the Lord to all who will open their souls to hear My voice," saith the Lord.

2. "Your prayers are before Me, Ye who have asked that I shall lead you, and behold, I am willing to lead all My people who put their trust in Me, but Ye must hear My voice if I am to be your leader indeed, and thus are you to know how to follow.

3. "Ye have asked of Me to know My will, YET, WILL YE HEARKEN WHEN I SHALL SPEAK? WILL YE OBEY IF MY WORD SHALL CONFLICT WITH THE THOUGHTS AND BELIEFS OF YOUR IMPERFECT HUMANITY?

4. "Behold, thus saith the Lord, I will lead My people when they have courage to follow Me, and to keep My commandments.

7. "But, thus saith the Word of the Lord to all My people everywhere who will open their hearts to hear the voice of My Spirit as given through My servant in these words. Verily I have rejected the Reorganized Church with its sins and its follies and its system-making, because they have departed from Me, and by the deceptions of the wicked one their leaders have caused a defilement of much of Mine heritage."

Now I will quote a part of the Message as given through the late Otto Fetting to him through the Angel John, the same that is called John the Baptist in the scriptures. 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 Spirit." Message 39:5, 6, 7. "Thus saith the Lord: Many that profess My name have sinned and gone astray. They have counted that which is holy, not holy, and My commandments they have forgotten. For one hundred years much of My design and law you have turned aside. Return unto Me and I will return unto you.

"Hear ye! Hear ye! I am establishing My kingdom to never again be overthrown and it shall fill the whole earth, and all men will obey Me for out of Zion shall the gospel be taught and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

"Heed ye My words even the voice of My Messenger. Make ready for I your Lord soon comes to claim all that know and obey My voice."

Message 19:12, 15. "For one hundred years the Lord waited and yet they have not heeded His words, this people that profess His name; but the Lord will ESTABLISH His Church in its fullness, and will do the work among the nations, but the work will be done in haste."

"To all those that will repent and be baptized and prepare themselves and walk humbly, the promise is that they shall receive the greater light and power to carry on the work of the Lord."

Now we have the word of five different men and their testimony that God or one of His Angel messengers spoke to them, or revealed to them in dream or vision. We have quoted from the Manifestations received by them, so let us take a summary of what they had received.

First what Joseph Smith received: he was told in 1832 that they had treated lightly the things they had received, that the whole Church was under condemnation, and the

condemnation was on the children of Zion, even ALL: and they would remain under this condemnation until they repented and not only say, but do according as the Book of Mormon and former commandments says, otherwise there remained a scourge and a Judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion. Well dear readers, the Judgment was poured out, as they didn't repent, but went farther and farther away from the truth and from one false doctrine to another. They put in a President and High Priests without any authority to do so. Christ is our last great High Priest and He ever liveth to make intercession for us, see, Hebrew 7, verses 13, to the end of the chapter and again in the 10 ch. verses 21 and 22; and Christ is the Head of The Church of Christ; see Ephesians 1:22.

Then they changed the name of the Church in 1834 and changed it again in 1838, and when they chose the Twelve in the Church of the Latter Day Saints three men did the choosing when the revelation plainly states that two were to choose them namely O. Cowdery and D. Whitmer.

Remember that man may change but God never does; see Ecclesiastes 3:14; also Malachi 3:6.

David Whitmer said God told him that He (GOD) would cut the Church off.

Geo. D. Cole said the tree was cut off, that part of the defect was on the stump, the whole tree was dead, and the time would come when God would send His servants (Missionaries) to prune out the live twigs.

James E. Yates says that the revelation that was given to him was that the Lord had rejected the Reorganized Church.

Otto Fetting said that the Messenger John the Baptist told him that God had REJECTED ALL CREEDS AND FACTIONS OF MEN. (That takes them all in does it not?)

Well dear readers, these are a few of the Reasons WHY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST WAS ESTABLISHED by the touch of an Angel's hands in 1929 anew. Because as Joseph Smith said, they treated lightly the things they received; as David Whitmer said, they were cut off; as Geo. D. Cole said, the tree was cut off, the tree was dead, there was a small branch or sprout growing out of one side of the stump near the top with six or seven buds on it, showing that there was still Life in the stump. Christ used that little bit of life described here to start to prepare to establish His work for the last time. This little faction was known to the Restoration Movement as the Hedrickites, and some came to this little group from the different factions. He called the apostles, but remember, many are called, while few are chosen. In 1929 The Church Of Christ was established anew for the last time. Now the time has come that Geo. D. Cole saw in vision when Christ is sending out his ministry to prune the tree and bring out the live twigs and graft them into The Church of Christ. No, dear brother and sister, not by letter of transfer from one dead branch to another, but by the law of adoption, "BAPTISM", birth into the Kingdom so that we are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God. (Eph. 2:19) Having one Lord, one Faith, and one Baptism of Water and of the Spirit. Not many Faiths, creeds, doctrines and Baptisms joined together by a letter of transfer or some other man made doctrine. Let us see what the Book of Commandments says about that. Turn to chapter 23, "Behold, I say unto you, that all old covenants have I caused to be done away in this thing, and this is a new and an everlasting covenant; even that which was from the beginning. Wherefore, although a man should be baptized an hundred times, it availeth him nothing; for you can not enter in the straight gate by the law of Moses,

NEITHER BY YOUR DEAD WORKS; for it is because of your dead works, that I have caused this last covenant, and this Church to be built up unto Me; even as in days of old. Wherefore, enter ye in at the gate, as I have commanded, and seek not to counsel your God. Amen." You can also find this in the Doctrine and Covenants of the Reorganized Church, section 20.

James E. Yates was asked with others in a revelation given through him on May the 1st, 1927. "Ye have asked of Me to know My will, yet, will ye hearken when I speak? Will Ye obey if My word shall conflict with the thoughts and beliefs of our imperfect humanity?"

When the Lord sent His Messenger from the courts of Glory over two years later, July 18, 1929, telling them that He had REJECTED ALL CREEDS AND FACTIONS OF MEN, and gave a command for baptism to right such a condition, how many obeyed? Just about one half of those who had accepted Him as the Messenger of the Lord. Why? Because his words conflicted with their thoughts and beliefs. All had to come in by the door of the sheep fold. Oh yes, some were called before that and they were told in the Fifth Message that they had been set apart to represent Christ, and that many were representing Christ, but not Christ and His Church. But they were called to represent Christ and His Church, with the same authority as the apostles of old. While many are called but few are chosen. Those that were obedient to the command given were the chosen ones. Nephi and the eleven chosen when he was called. (see Book of Mormon, Aut. Edit. page 635, Nephi 6:45,) and do you suppose they would have been His Chosen Twelve if they hadn't been obedient to the command given to be Baptized? (see, Nephi Page 655, ch. 9, verse 13.) They belonged to The Church Of Christ, or they thought so, at least. See, Book of Mosiah, page 224 ch. 3, verses 8 to 20. (Please turn to it and read.)

So we bid all to come to Christ and enter in at the door of the Kingdom and learn of the Angel's Message which is truly the Angel's Message. The Messenger Of The Covenant is truly at the Helm and is preparing the way for our Lord and Master. True, He is an Angel Messenger, a Spiritual Being as the Master is a Spiritual Being. John The Baptist came as a natural man the first time He came to prepare the way for Christ, and Christ came a natural man the first time, but now we look for a resurrected being this time.

For references of John to prepare the ways for Christ, see, St. Luke 1:76 and 77. "And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest; for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare His Ways. To give knowledge of salvation unto His people by the remission of their sins." See also 17th verse of the same ch. "And he shall go before Him in the Spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the Wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

So we see that he, John the Baptist, has a big work to do, then let us all move forward and do the work entrusted to our care, and help all we can, and try and not treat lightly the things we have and will receive in the future. Let us not hinder the work or we will be removed. Men may fail but The Church of Christ will go on and answer the purpose of its creation and existence.

These are a few of the REASONS WHY. Come let us reason together.