

Following Jesus Christ through Prophets vs The World & social Norms

- **Intro**
 - Joel Osteen jokes
 - Preaching to the choir, 8% active in Utah
 - What does that really mean? Many have begun the journey into E ternal life holding to the Ironrod and have abandend, distracted. Cares pleasures riches of this world
 - Representation of microphone vs person, distance continues to separate
 - Whatever is at the center of a person's life forms their conscience
- **Leaders are teaching us, not telling us - Observation**
 - No one likes to be told what to do
 - Principle of heaven, not to be control not handles expect on the principles of...
 - We are agents unto ourselves, to act, not to be acted upon
 - "I teach them correct principles and let them govern themselves." Joseph Smith
 - God saves people not churches
 - Church is scaffolding for the soul
- **Difference between leaders and world**
 - You don't ask a plumber how to do heart surgery
 - "Care for the Life of the Soul" Neal Maxwell
 - What have you done for your soul lately? Sacrament, only official ordinance we perform for our soul
 - Social mirror vs spiritual mirror
 - Spiritual being have a temporal experience, not temporal being have a spiritual experience
 - Story of young man in college who asked if there was a shorter route out. Yes they're always is but it depends on what you want to make your self. To make a solid oak take the hundred years war to create a squash six months.
 - "I am more interested in the long here after then the brief present." Cicero
 - The simple essential test is?
 - "The 76th section of the Doctrine and Covenants makes it clear that being "valiant in the testimony of Jesus"²⁸ is the simple, essential test between those who will inherit the blessings of the celestial kingdom and those in the lesser terrestrial kingdom. To be valiant, we need to focus on the power of Jesus Christ and His atoning sacrifice to overcome death and, through our repentance, to cleanse us from sin, and we need to follow the doctrine of Christ.²⁹ We also need the light and knowledge of the Savior's life and teachings to guide us on the covenant pathway, including the sacred ordinances of the temple. We must be steadfast in Christ, feast upon His word, and endure to the end." Valiant in the Testimony of Jesus," Quinten L. Cook
 - Fed but not nourished
 - Deer in Blacksmith fork canyon
 - "For it must needs be, that there is an opposition in all things. If not so, my

firstborn in the wilderness, righteousness could not be brought to pass, neither wickedness, neither holiness nor misery, neither good nor bad. Wherefore, all things must needs be a compound in one; wherefore, if it should be one body it must needs remain as dead, having no life neither death, nor corruption nor incorruption, happiness nor misery, neither sense nor insensibility." 2 Nephi 2:11

- "Wherefore, the Lord God gave unto man that he should act for himself. Wherefore, man could not act for himself save it should be that he was enticed by the one or the other." v.16

- **The World**

- What is the purpose of the world?
 - It has a divine design, created by God for a righteous person
 - We are meant to succeed in life
 - Eve. "Is there no other way?"
- "To error regarding the purpose of life is to error everlastingly." Neal Maxwell
- Many will fall prey (even the very elect will be deceived)
 - "Sooner or later everyone has to sit down to a banquet of consequences." Quinten L. Cook "Valiant in the Testimony of Jesus"
 - <https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2016/10/valiant-in-the-testimony-of-jesus?lang=eng>
- The devil deceives, distracts, diverts, manipulates
 - The great and spacious building is actually a dumpy third class hotel.
- Jewish rabbi chided for not eating pork. "Isn't it wonderful, there are 5 billion people in the world and God cares what to eat for dinner."
- It's all about agency and how to enforce it (Satan)
- What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and loose his own soul.
- When you understand your true worth and value you'll stop giving people discounts.
- Imps got into the store

- **The Gospel**

- God is serious about joy and completing our mortal journey
- "My focus today will be on the joys and advantages of gospel living. The focus is on joy, brothers and sisters, because sometimes at your ages we may seem to emphasize the seemingly stern gospel requirements without consistently and helpfully identifying the joys, the blessings, and the advantages of gospel living—both here and now and in the there and then. I do not mean to imply that the pursuit of all terrestrial objectives is useless and joyless. We can, in pursuing terrestrial objectives, have "joy for a season." Some of the commandments of men, though lesser commandments, may, at times, be aligned with certain gospel values and principles. But keeping the commandments of men is not going to bring us a fullness of joy. In fact, we cannot expect to have a fullness of joy in this life until, as the scriptures inform us, the body and spirit are "inseparably connected" (D&C 93:33). But we can still have much joy and much happiness in life. In fact, God is delighted when His children keep His commandments because then His children are truly happy! And He wants us to be happy. After all, His plan is called "the plan of happiness." Conversely, on occasion, God weeps over the needless suffering of His children (see Moses 7:28, 32–33, 37).

- True doctrine understood and replied changes maybe if you're faster than the study of behavior changes behavior.” Boyd K. Packer
 - When we lack this we are not able to “see afar off.”
- Do not expect the world to understand or help
- God wants our hearts
 - “Our will is the only truly unique thing we can give to God, everything else he has already given us” Neal Maxwell
- **What are you deprived of from fully living the Gospel?**
 - "Brim with joy." 8:20 Neal Maxwell
 - “What are you actually and specifically deprived of by serious gospel living?” Ponder these several examples. By complying with the revealed Word of Wisdom, you are much more likely to be deprived of lung cancer, and surely deprived of becoming an alcoholic. You are much more likely to miss out on AIDS if you keep the seventh commandment and refuse to use drugs.
 - Before you die, my young brothers and sisters, you will thank Heavenly Father many times for the advantages of abstinence! Regarding certain destructive things, abstinence is so much easier than moderation! Meanwhile, you will see those about you who are surfing life’s pleasures indulgently. They will eventually crash against the reefs of reality.
 - By responding to the strong gospel emphasis on education, you will also be deprived of being ignorant.
 - You will be deprived of that large dose of human despair that “cometh because of iniquity” (Moroni 10:22). You will also miss out on the exhausting and finally futile calisthenics of trying to mold a meaningful morality by using the Play-Doh of permissiveness. It just won’t work!
 - Yes, you will be tested and puzzled, but because of your faith in God’s plan of salvation, you will thereby be deprived of cynicism, that corrosive emotion that relentlessly expresses itself in a hundred different ways. By having faith in Heavenly Father’s plan of salvation, you will be inspired not only to keep the law of chastity, but you will be able to cope with adversity.
 - “Any response but righteousness is risky.”
- **Comparison - Chart**
 - They have some things in common
 - Pleasure is perishable. Spiritual things have a short shelf life.
 - They aren't evil, but The things that matter most should never be at the mercy of things that matter least.
- **Observations**
 - Faith is acting on truth not knowledge. My faith should always be greater than my knowledge.
 - “You receive no witness until after the trail of your faith.”
 - Philosophies of men mingles with marketing
 - Book “Hooked” everyone is hooked or addicted to something
 - Misinterpretation of knowledge
 - See “knowledge, wisdom,
 - Assurance and testimony is more valuable and lasting than answers. All the

answers aren't always before us. We're called to walk by faith.

- "I am grateful that the restored gospel of Jesus Christ has answers to the most complex questions in life. These answers are taught in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They are true, plain, straightforward, and easy to understand. They are inspired, and we teach them to our three-year-olds in the Sunbeam class."
- "If you have never felt such wonder and joy, I invite you to seek, study, and ponder the simple yet profound truths of the restored gospel. "Let the solemnities of eternity rest upon your minds."5 Let them bear testimony unto you of the divine plan of salvation."
- <https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2016/10/o-how-great-the-plan-of-our-god?lang=eng> Uchdorf

• **End**

- Invitation - "It's better to walk alone, than with a crowd going in the wrong direction."
- "A religion that does not require the sacrifice of all things never has power to produce the faith necessary unto life and salvation." Joseph Smith
- Testimony
 - The price of salvation is high but Christ paid an infinite and eternal sacrifice for us. Fully comprehending and fully saving saviour
 - "If our sins are as high as the mountains, the ocean of His atonement is like Noah's flood, covering the utmost summit." Charles Spurgeon

• **Others**

- D&C manual student. Section 63 & 64
- "In him all things hold together." Neal Maxwell
- "The Precious Promise" Neal Maxwell 3:55
- 1 Nephi 19 <https://www.lds.org/scriptures/bofm/1-ne/19?lang=eng>

The World	The Gospel	Reference
Feel good gospel	Fullness of the gospel	
Eat drink and be marry	Eat the body & drink the blood of Christ, & get married	
I might change my heart	A mighty change of heart	
The spotlight of the world	Light of Christ	
Consumers of Government	Children of God	
	Care for the life of the soul	

Follow the crowd	Converted to Christ	
Take society and the sensual to be your guide	Take the Holy Spirit to be your guide	
Traditions (of fathers)	The truth shall set you free (What is truth and eternal)	
All roads lead to Rome (Wide is the gate and broad the way)	Straight and narrow	
Compare, compete, contend against others	Charity for others	
Instant gratification (instant potato society)	Law of the Harvest	
Overcome the chains of religion	Overcome the natural man	
Be Busy (Being under Satan's yolk)	Be Still	
Develop perishable skills (mortician's aren't the only ones that will have a vocational crisis in the hereafter)	Develop eternal and portable skills	
Philosophies of men mingles with marketing		
Look beyond the mark (Jews, Jacob 2)	Look unto the Master	
Keep yourself comfortable	Keep His commandments	
Seek the temporal	Serve in the temple	
What is legal and political		

Moral Relativism (irrelevance) Religious truth is a burden and restrictive	More religion	See President Hinckley quote
Selfishness	Selflessness	
Soak up the sitcoms	Search the scriptures	
YOLO (you only live once)	SMILE (to be spiritually minded is life eternal)	2 Nephi 9
FOMO (fear of missing out)		
Knowledge of the secular	Knowledge of the Savior	
	Hold to the Iron Rod	
Body & image (silicon)	Spiritual strength	
Self-esteem	God-esteem	Work out your salvation. Work on your salary.

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