

volumes have been written asking that question. The only true answer that has been given was given by the Lord to the Prophet Joseph Smith.

"And truth is knowledge of things as they are, and as they were, and as they are to come." (D. & C. 93:24.) In other words, truth is that which endures. All else must perish. This being true, it behooves us to search for truth—this truth the Savior spoke of that makes us free.

Not all truth is of the same value or importance. Some truths are greater than others. The greatest truth, or the greatest truths, we find in the fundamentals of the gospel of Jesus Christ. First of all, that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world, who came into this world to die that men might live. That truth we should know. It is far more important to know that Jesus Christ is our Redeemer, that he has given unto us the principles of eternal life, than it is to know all that can be obtained in secular education.

It is far more important to know that baptism is for the remission of sins, and when properly performed by one who has the authority, remission of sins will come, and through the baptism following, of the Holy Ghost, we come back into the presence of God our Father, at last, through the guidance of the Holy Ghost.

To know the way to eternal life is far more important than all the learning that the world can give. We find that in the sacred principles which have been revealed for the last time, and in these ordinances which are being performed

for the last time—that is, in the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times—for the gospel will never be restored again. It has been restored to remain. The Lord has ordained his servants, and has given them authority to execute his laws, to preach his gospel, to cry repentance, to call upon men to humble themselves and receive these fundamental principles of eternal life.

The way of eternal life is here. The covenants that were promised that lead to that great gift are here. All men on the face of the earth have now the privilege not only of repentance, but also of remission of sins through the waters of baptism, and the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands, and to receive the covenants and obligations which were promised anciently that will bring them back into the presence of God, our Father.

These blessings are free. They are the most important truths in all the world. Brethren and sisters, we have received them. Let us be true and faithful, turning neither to the right nor to the left in the keeping of the commandments of the Lord, and by example as well as by precept, serve him, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

President Joseph Fielding Smith, President of the Council of the Twelve, has just spoken to us, and we shall now hear from Elder Oscar A. Kirkham of the First Council of Seventy, who will be our concluding speaker.

ELDER OSCAR A. KIRKHAM

Of the First Council of the Seventy

I TRUST THE Lord will be with me and bless me as I address you. In the Third Epistle of John, the fourth verse, are these words:

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

The greatest gift that can come to a boy, as I review the humble experiences of my own life, is that he may have

good guidance, that he may sense a faith in God, and enjoy the gospel of Jesus Christ, that he may receive the gift of the Holy Ghost and hold worthily the Holy Priesthood.

The other evening a lad came to our home. He was accompanying a high priest. They were our ward teachers. The high priest said as he addressed us, "Brother Kirkham, we have a little

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message for you from our bishop concerning our religion." The message was given. We felt the spirit of it. It was simple and sincere. I thanked them, then the high priest turned to the boy of fourteen, a teacher in the Aaronic Priesthood, and said, "John, you say a prayer for Brother Kirkham and his family." We were appreciative and listened, for we know that we have no greater joy than to know that we walk in truth.

Coming down on the elevator in our office building the other day, a young man recognized me and he said, "This is my mother, Brother Kirkham. I'm just back from my mission. She has worked continuously for me while I've been away. She has kept me. She saw that my check came every month to pay my expenses. Now, the Lord being willing, Mother is going on a mission. I will pay her way." The greatest gift that comes to us in early life is to be guided in simple truths, and to do the will of our Heavenly Father. As President McKay said to us this morning, "We are concerned with those simple, vital things that help us." That boy you meet tonight or tomorrow morning or the next day and what you say to him and do for him is all-important.

I know a boy in Iowa who one day was plowing in an open field. He did not know at the time that a very distinguished gentleman was passing by, but the man said, "The furrow in that open field was plowed so straight that I had to stop. Did you plow the first furrow in this field?" "Yes," said he. "They did not peg it off for you?" "No, sir." Then my friend said to the boy, "You'll plow many straight things in life. Good-bye."

Several years went by. My friend came again to Iowa. He was met by a gentleman, this time in a fine automobile. "Do you remember being in these parts about twelve years ago?" "Yes, I have a note here in my book of a straight furrow plowed in an open field by a boy." "Well," said the man, "I don't want you to say anything to these people about this incident, but I am the mayor of this city. I want to say to you, I was behind that plow. I was that boy. You journeyed on over the

hill that day on your way. What you said as we chatted about 'The straight furrow' has lingered with me through these years. I wanted you to know that those few words have given me encouragement ever since that day."

We philosophize; we delve into great truths—these things enrich our lives, but it is still the simple things that are effective. We "have no greater joy than to hear that our children walk in truth."

May God bless us that this joy may ever be ours and that we may ever appreciate the sacred words of the Lord as given in the Holy Scriptures and with courage and simplicity live the truth, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

We have just listened to Elder Oscar A. Kirkham of the First Council of Seventy.

Tonight the Deseret Sunday School Conference will convene in the Salt Lake Tabernacle at 7:00 p.m. All Sunday School workers should be in attendance; others are cordially invited. We are informed by the Superintendent that provision will be made for overflow audiences in the Assembly Hall and in Barratt Hall.

We express our appreciation to you ushers who have rendered such excellent service this day. We commend you for the orderly manner in which you have performed your duties.

We also express appreciation to the public press, to the reporters for their fair and accurate reports. Thank you. To the various radio and television stations, we wish to say that your assistance rendered here in our own city and state and in other states named throughout the sessions, has been the means of permitting tens of thousands to hear the proceedings of this Conference.

We have had a most unusual storm, you might find the roads still slippery. We caution drivers to be careful after the dismissal of this meeting. Practice courtesy. That is a great safety means on the highway, just simple courtesy.

The singing for this afternoon has been furnished by the Tabernacle Choir, with Elder J. Spencer Cornwall conducting and Elder Alexander Schreiner