

ELDER S. DILWORTH YOUNG

Of the First Council of the Seventy

Many years ago in our town we were given by a generous man a four-inch reflector telescope for the boys of our community. The first night we tried it out we managed to focus on the moon. In a sense it was a new revelation to see the moon in three dimensions. But the emotional thrill we experienced as we gazed on the physical features of the satellite was as nothing compared to the effect on us when we were able to focus on Jupiter. There, hanging in the heavens, was the planet about the size of a baseball, and there, too, were four smaller Jupiters about the size of marbles. They resembled the celestial exhibit in our school laboratory, except that they looked real—and they were real. There they were rushing through empty space at immense speed, but always falling in a circle around the sun.

The meaning of space

Space? We do not grasp its meaning! Endless? We do not conceive what it means, either.

By the Spirit of Christ, which is available to all men, imaginative men have had inspiration given them to theorize, to measure, to reach out, to prove, to move on, until they have reached so far out into space that it is difficult to describe what has been discovered by words that convey meaning to us. They have found that light from a distant cluster of stars traveling at the rate of 186,000 miles per second takes thousands of light years to reach us. We cannot conceive of that, even though we can understand the mathematical formula it represents on paper. Then, just as we read that the limits may have been reached, it is learned that there are uncountable island universes—not just stars, but whole universes—still farther away, their diameters thousands of millions of miles across, yet so distant that they are but points of light in the telescope.

A controlling intelligence

Anyone who contemplates this mighty

spectacle of the skies and realizes its perfect order cannot fail to know that it must be controlled by an intelligence greater than he can imagine.

And this brings one to the worship of the Father of us all and his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. We do not know the means by which the worlds are brought into being, live out their destiny, and are destroyed, although there are theories about it. But that they are created and controlled by the power of faith and priesthood is amply stated by the revealed word of God. Hear the witness of their Creator, for it is God who speaks:

“And by the word of my power, have I created them, which is mine Only Begotten Son, who is full of grace and truth.

“And worlds without number have I created; and I also created them for mine own purpose; and by the Son I created them, which is mine Only Begotten.” (Moses 1:32-33.)

Jesus Christ, the Creator

The Lord Jesus Christ was not only the Redeemer but also the Creator. Paul understood this, for he said:

“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

“And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.” (Col. 1:16-17.)

The Lord himself declared it to the ancient Nephites:

“Behold, I am Jesus Christ the Son of God. I created the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are. I was with the Father from the beginning. I am in the Father, and the Father in me; and in me hath the Father glorified his name.” (3 Ne. 9:15.)

With awe we contemplate the perfection of this Firstborn of God, his power, his glory. Ours is more than the simple act of worship as an end. We

testify that his purpose and mission are to make it possible for us to come into his presence, be like him, and share his honor and his glory forever. He said, ". . . this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man." (Moses 1:39.)

Offer of eternal lives

An earthly father shows his love for his children by giving them all the earthly advantage within his power. How much greater is the love of the Christ, who becomes our Father by our acceptance of his offer to us not only of earthly development but also of salvation, exaltation, and eternal lives. In the gospel of Christ he offers us the opportunity to become not just gazers into the wonders of the heavens, but creators of them. We sing unto heaven paeans of joy for our opportunity. The plan is very simple and very grand:

1. Accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and believe on his holy name and repent of our sins.
2. Accept the ordinance of baptism, at the hands of the priesthood of God, as a covenant with him. Baptism is symbolic of his death and resurrection.
3. Receive the gift of the Holy Ghost by those he has authorized to give it.
4. Receive and honor the holy priesthood.
5. Keep his simple commandments.

Relationship with fellowmen

Most of these commandments are guides to our relationship with our fellowmen. One does not need to look at the stars with mathematical mind to become a son of God and to participate in these great creations; he needs to be kind to his neighbor. He does not need to visit the moon; he needs to tell the truth, be honest, and be honorable. He does not need to fly to Venus in a spacecraft; he needs to visit the widow and orphan in their affliction (as James pointed out). He does not need to count the rings of Saturn; he needs to honor his father and his mother, render them obedience in his youth, and respect and succor in their old age. He does not need

to plumb the milky way; he needs to support the organized Church and its priesthood. He does not need to analyze an island universe; he needs to love the Lord his God with all his might, mind, and strength, and seek to learn his ways.

In a word, he needs to repent of his sins, his evil acts, and live as a son of God would live, putting first in his life the first and second commandments, which have to do with loving one's fellows, and especially the Lord.

Love of Christ

I listened to President George F. Richards [of the Council of the Twelve] one time as he told of a dream. In the dream he saw the Savior. There came to him at the moment of that seeing such a feeling of love, he could not describe it. It overpowered him, and he said that he made up his mind that if that was love of Christ, he was going to do all he could to keep it all his life and through all eternity. We need to love the Lord too.

Eternal family relationships

A vital requirement, often overlooked, is that a man be sealed in eternal marriage to a woman who has the same desire as does he to be exalted. They then live together in love, practicing in the home with the children, and with each other, the love, charity, long-suffering, kindness, virtues, and actions of eternal beings who expect to become sons of God. Theirs is not just an earthly paradise, but it is truly the beginning of exalted eternal life.

You and I will not win the mansions of our Father by waiting until after we leave this life, but rather each degree of glory is anchored to our actions on the earth. Eternal life begins when a couple is sealed in marriage by the Lord's authority. In their lives together they are given a taste of eternal life—or, if they ignore righteous principles, a taste of the hell which can await them if they do not strive to practice the principles of eternal life here.

Remarkably, when these acts are

accepted as a course of action by anyone, new life comes into him. He has peace in his heart and gladness in his soul, while the sweet whispering of the Spirit gives him a taste of what is in store for him.

When will he reach the goal? Not in this life, although he may have a foretaste of its magnitude in this life. But he lays the foundation of character and love in this life upon which his eternal being is constructed. He is watched by the angels. His record of accomplishment toward the goal is recorded, and his reward is sure.

Obedience to first principles

It is wondrous to know that the most magnificent of God's creations may be duplicated—not by technical knowledge gained here, although this may be of help, but by such simple acts as being kind to and honest with all people. By obeying the first principles and ordinances, one places himself in harmony with eternal teachings that will lead him to the presence of the Creator, and from him he will learn to take part in the acts of creation.

We understand that these wondrous accomplishments will not come without work. We know we must learn all we can of the truth of things in this life, and that we shall have to

conquer eternal physics, eternal chemistry, eternal biology, and all eternal arts to give eternal science beauty. But our Lord and Master will guide the teaching, and the truth will be the text.

No wonder that we bow in worshipful praise and adoration! No wonder that the name of Jesus Christ is used only in adoration and love!

All glory to the Lord God. He revealed himself to Joseph Smith and pointed the way, giving to Joseph the keys of the kingdom in this the dispensation of the fulness of times. With those keys operative today, through President David O. McKay, we may enter at the strait gate which leadeth to life eternal, and may become among the few who find it. I bear witness with words of soberness to the truth of our eternal destiny in the kingdom of heaven. I pray we may be alert to and worthy of these blessings, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Alvin R. Dyer

Elder S. Dilworth Young of the First Council of Seventy has just addressed us.

We shall now hear from Elder Eldred G. Smith, Patriarch to the Church.

ELDER ELDRED G. SMITH

Patriarch to the Church

As we celebrate this Easter season, we remember the promise of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

“... I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.” (John 11:25.)

With the assurance of this great promise, obedience to eternal law should be a joy, not a burden, and give each the incentive to not just be passive members of the Church but to be diligent in trying to further advance his kingdom on the earth.

Parable of the sower

The Savior, speaking in parable, told the story of the sower: how some seeds fell by the wayside, some upon stony places, some among thorns. Then he told of the seed that fell into “good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.” (Matt. 13:8.)

“... his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be?” (Luke 8:9.)

He answered, saying: “Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.” (Matt.