

D & C Lesson 23

“SEEK LEARNING, EVEN BY STUDY AND ALSO BY FAITH”

Prepared by Duane S. Crowther, July 2001

1. The importance of gaining knowledge and intelligence

A. *D&C 130:18-19*: “Whatever principle of intelligence we attain unto in this life, it will rise with us in the resurrection. And if a person gains more knowledge and intelligence in this life through his diligence and obedience than another, he will have so much the advantage in the world to come.”

B. *D&C 131:6*: “It is impossible for a man to be saved in ignorance.”

2. God will give knowledge to those who diligently seek it; more knowledge promised

A. *D&C 136:32-33*: “Let him that is ignorant learn wisdom by humbling himself and calling upon the Lord his God, that his eyes may be opened that he may see, and his ears opened that he may hear; for my Spirit is sent forth into the world to enlighten the humble and contrite, and to the condemnation of the ungodly.”

B. *Jn. 16:13*: “The Spirit of truth . . . will guide you into all truth.”

C. *D&C 121:26-33*: “God shall give you knowledge by his Holy Spirit.” A glorious promise that future knowledge is to be revealed.

D. *Al. 12:10*: “He that will not harden his heart, to him is given the greater portion of the word, until it is given unto him to know the mysteries of God until he know them in full.”

3. Gain secular knowledge, to prepare ourselves for the Lord’s service

A. *D&C 88:118*: (***Two types of learning: study and faith***) “As all have not faith, seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; ***seek learning, even by study and also by faith.***” [also *109:7*]

B. *D&C 88:77-80* [also *97:14*]: (***The Pyramid of Gospel Knowledge***) “Teach ye diligently . . . that ye may be instructed more perfectly (A) in theory, (B) in principle, (C.) in doctrine, (D) in the law of the gospel, (E) in all things that pertain unto the kingdom of God, that are expedient for you to understand; (***Secular knowledge commanded***) (1) of things both in heaven and (2) in the earth, and (3) under the earth; (4) things which have been, (5) things which are, (6) things which must shortly come to pass; (7) things which are at home, (8) things which are abroad; (9) the wars and perplexities of the nations, (10) and the judgments which are on the land; (11) and a knowledge also of countries and of kingdoms—that ye may be prepared in all things . . .”

C. *D&C 90:15*: “Study and learn, and become acquainted with all good books, and with languages, tongues and people.”

D. *Dan. 1:4*: They were children who were “skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king’s palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.” [*1:17*] “As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.”

E. ***The dangers of learning without faith in God and obedience to His commandments:***

1. *2 Tim. 3:7*: “Ever learning, and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

2. *2 Ne. 9:28-29*: “O that cunning plan of the evil one! O the vainness, and the frailties, and the foolishness of men! When they are learned they think they are wise, and they hearken not unto the counsel of God, for they set it aside, supposing they know of themselves, wherefore, their wisdom is foolishness and it profiteth them not. And they shall perish. But to be learned is good if they hearken unto the counsels of God.” [See *9:42; 26:20*]

3. *1 Cor. 2:14*: “The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

4. *Col. 2:8*: Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”

5. *2 Tim. 2:15-17*: “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness, and their word will eat as doth a canker.”

6. *1 Cor. 5:21*: “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”

4. Learning by faith: Commandments to study the scriptures

A. *The Old Testament*

1. *Deut. 5:1*: “Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may *learn them, and keep, and do them.*” [Moses to all Israel]

2. *3 Ne. 23:1*: “Ye ought to search these things. Yea, a commandment I give unto you that ye search these things diligently; for great are the words of Isaiah.

3. *Jn. 5:39*: “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”

B. *The New Testament and the Inspired Version of the Bible*

1. *2 Ne. 32:3*: “Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do.”

2. *D&C 11:22*: “Study my word which hath gone forth among the children of men, and also study my word which shall come forth among the children of men, or that which is now translating, yea, until you have obtained all which I shall grant unto the children of men in this generation, and then shall all things be added thereto.”

C. *The Book of Mormon*

1. *Mos. 1:1-8*: King Benjamin’s counsel to his sons Mosiah, Helorum, and Helaman: Remember that these sayings and records are true: search them diligently.

2. *2 Ne. 4:15*: “Upon these I write the things of my soul, . . . for my soul delighteth in the scriptures, and my heart pondereth them, and writeth them for the learning and profit of my children.”

D. *The Doctrine and Covenants*

1. *D&C 1:37*: “Search these commandments, for they are true and faithful, and the prophecies and promises which are in them shall all be fulfilled.”

E. *All the scriptures*

1. *D&C 26:1*: “Let your time be devoted to the studying of the scriptures.”

2. *D&C 84:85*: “Treasure up in your minds continually the words of life, and it shall be given you in the very hour that portion that shall be meted unto every man.”

5. Scripture study principles

A. *1 Ne. 19:23*: “I did liken all scriptures unto us, that it might be for our profit and learning.” [2

Ne. 2:14] “I speak unto you these things for your profit and learning.”

B. Al. 13:20: “Behold, the scriptures are before you; if ye will wrest them it shall be to your own destruction.”

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