

Undelivered Talks

1969 OCTOBER CONFERENCE TALK

Never Used

In our family we have a saying which we use with our children as occasion requires. It is: “Remember who you are and act accordingly.”

Our purpose in using this slogan is to remind our children that as McConkie’s they are expected to live according to the standards of the family. They are to keep the commandments and obey the laws of the gospel. They are not to do anything which might bring stigma or disrepute upon the name they bear.

My father used the same pronouncement with me and my brothers and sister: “Remember who you are and act accordingly.”

In principle this way of encouraging good behavior on the part of children is patterned after our Lord’s system of putting his name upon his saints and then calling upon them to honor that name, and to avoid doing anything; which might cause stigma, or taint, or disrepute to fall upon it.

In tune of 1829, as a prelude to the setting up of his kingdom again on earth, our Lord issued this invitation to all men everywhere:

“Take upon you the name of Christ, and speak the truth in soberness. And as many as repent and are baptized in my name, which is Jesus Christ, and endure to the end, the same shall be saved. Behold, Jesus Christ is the name which is given of the Father, and there is none other name given whereby man can be saved; Wherefore, all men must take upon them the name which is given of the Father, for in that name shall they be called at the last day; Wherefore, if they know not the name by which they are called, they cannot have place in the kingdom of my Father.” (D. & C. 18:21-25.)

Those who take upon themselves the name of Christ do so by accepting his gospel and joining his Church. They gain a new Father and become sons and daughters in a new family, the family of Christ. Thus we find our Lord, after the organization of his Church, again inviting men to take his name upon them in these words:

“Hearken and listen to the voice of him who is from all eternity to all eternity, the Great I AM, even Jesus Christ—The light and the life of the world; a light which shineth in darkness and the darkness comprehendeth It not; The same which came in the meridian of time unto mine own, and mine own received me not; But to as many as received me, gave I power to become my sons; and even so will I give unto as many as will receive me, power to become my sons. And verily, verily, I say unto you, he that receiveth my gospel receiveth me; and he that receiveth not my gospel receiveth not me. And this is my

gospel—repentance and baptism by water, and then cometh the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost, even the Comforter, which showeth all things and teacheth the peaceable things of the kingdom.” (D. & C. 39:1-6.)

Each time we partake of the sacrament we renew the covenant made In the waters of baptism and promise anew, worthily, to take upon ourselves the name of Christ.

King Benjamin told the believing Nephites of his day: “Because of the covenant which ye have made ye shall be called the children of Christ, his sons, and his daughters; for behold, this day he hath spiritually begotten you; for ye say that your hearts are changed through faith on his name; therefore, ye are born of him and have become his sons and his daughters.”(Mosiah 5:7.)

Thus our Lord, before his birth into mortality said to an ancient Jaredite prophet: “Behold, I am he who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem my people. Behold, I am Jesus Christ. I am the Father and the Son. In me shall all mankind have light, and that eternally, even they who shall believe on my name; and they shall become my sons and my daughters.” (Ether 3:14.)

And thus, after his resurrection, the Risen Lord said to the saints of old: “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.” (Rev. 21:6-7.)

Now, since we have taken upon ourselves the name of Christ, since we are members of his family, since we are his sons and daughters, since he is our Father—what manner of men ought we to be? His own answer to this query, as given to the Nephite Twelve, “And whoso taketh upon him my name and endureth to the end, the same shall be saved at the last day. (3 Nephi 27:6) was “Verily I say unto you, even as I am.” (3 Ne. 27.)

I think we should remember who we are and act accordingly, that we should “retain” his “name written always in our “hearts,” “For how knoweth a man the master whom he has not served, and who is a stranger unto him, and is far from the thoughts and intents of his heart?” (Mosiah 5:12-13.)

God grant us the sense and wisdom to remember who we are and to act accordingly.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.