The Challenge of Spiritual Edification

As our society swiftly turns from spiritual values to embrace secularism and materialism, our need for spiritual edification has never been greater. The challenge we face is indeed an important one by which our eternal destinies will be decided.

Since God's manifold wisdom was made known by the church "according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Eph. 3:10-11), it is understandable that adequate provisions would be made for the well-being of His church. Those provisions would include a sure and all-sufficient guide, which we have in writing, the Bible. Those instructions would also include instructions for spiritual growth, and warnings of things which would hinder spiritual growth. God, in His inspired word, has set forth a challenge to those who would choose to serve Him in an acceptable manner.

In the September issue, we discussed "The Urgent Need For And Basis Of Optimism Within The Lord's Church." We pointed out a number of things which give us reason to be optimistic. We also noted some things which could be detrimental to a spirit of optimism. We may have some repetition in our present discussion since there is a strong relationship between the two. But due to the importance of both, some repetition may well be in order and for our benefit.

I. DEFINITION OF TERMS

While we may have a fairly good understanding of terms used in God's word, or in the discussion of various biblical subjects, we may sometimes pass over things without giving serious thought to the same. I guess I mean to say that we just don't take those things to heart as we should. For example, edification is essential if we are going to grow spiritually from childhood to adulthood. That should be on our minds continually. We just sort of take for granted growth in the physical realm, whereas spiritual growth is something to which we must give the most serious attention. We grow spiritually because we make use of the means which God has provided for such growth, and not without those means.

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EDIFICATION. In the Greek language in the New Testament the noun “OIKODOME” —
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denotes (a) the act of building; (b) a house, a home, and (c) to build; this is also only figuratively in the NT. In the sense of edification, the primary or (c) spiritual has to do with the invisible part of man, “the inner man.” Man is a physical and a spiritual being. We do not see the spiritual person but the evidence of the “inner man” is often seen in the physical man. Scripture is not concerned with spiritual man, only the physical.

James says, “For we are the body with the spirit made dead, so death with the wicked is dead also” (2:5). The word “dead” is sometimes used to refer to the invisible, intangible part of man. Christ said, “And they said to them which kill the body are not able to kill the soul” (Matt. 10:28).

When we speak of “spiritual” edification in this discussion, we refer to that inner man and the spiritual gift with which.

CHALLENGE. According to Young’s Analytical Concordance, the word “challenge” is used only once in the Bible (Ex 22:9). But the idea of a challenge is used many times. Webster defines challenge as: “1. a summons to engage in contest as of skill or strength; 2. something that by its nature or character acts as a review test; 3. a call to fight or a duel.”

The word “dual” the Christian has been called to fight. Pentecost time to “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called and niped” (1 Tim. 6:12). Paul calls this “a fight” I have found and conquer. I have lost the fight.” (2 Tim. 4:7). Paul used the challenge of fighting a good fight and keeping his faith. These many challenges set forth in the New Testament apply to us. The Corinthians was challenged to be “without blame while always walking in the path of the Lord, and so not sin in the Lord” (I Cor. 15:58). Tuls asks, “Is it not needed to walk worthy, and entertain such as he also has been convicted [as a combatant]—(Phil. 1:27)?”

Christ tells us to “run with patience the race that is set before us” (Heb. 12:1). Christians are told to “fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called …” (2 Tim. 4:7). Jude said, “It was needful to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend as a combatant” (Jude 1:23; 2 Tim. 4:7). Christ tells us to “run with patience the race that is set before us” (Heb. 12:1). This is a serious challenge.

One great problem within the church today is the fact that many fail to realize that true Christianity is a militant religion. Militancy is well demonstrated in the early days of the church, when the members faced many enemies. The church would be much stronger today if all its members had a spirit of militancy in fighting for the faith. We are indeed to be fighters for the cause of Christ. But some times ...
It is Sunday morning at my home church, or yours.

PRIOIRITY AND RELATIVE VALUE

First, it is a privilege to represent the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We believe in the restored gospel of Jesus Christ as brought forth by the Prophet Joseph Smith. We also believe in the importance of spiritual growth and edification in our lives. These are some of the primary reasons why I participate in the Church and why I believe it is important for others to do the same.

DOING WHAT GOD SAYS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EATING, OR IF YOU’RE STARVING...

And when he had said this, sixty and forty and forty, he said unto him, What shall we eat? (see Matthew 4:1-34).

DOVING ONE’S LIFE TO JESUS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ALL OF HIS POSSESSIONS

Jesus said unto him, If thou wouldest be perfect, go, sell that which thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. (see Matthew 19:21-22).

PREACHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN A FUNERAL FOR YOUR FATHER.

And he said unto him, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father: and when he shall have buried him, he will come and follow thee. (see Luke 9:59-60).

TELLING PEOPLE THE TRUTH IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THEIR FEELINGS.

But he answered him, and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. (see Matthew 4:4).

LEARNING THE WILL OF JESUS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN HOSPITALITY.

Imagine hosting Jesus of Nazareth; his needs, his values, his world view, his priorities—what would be important to him? I believe that hospitality is not one of them. Jesus was more concerned with the spiritual than the material. He taught that the greatest commandments were to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. He also taught that the greatest gift we can give is our time and talents. I believe that this is true for all people, regardless of their beliefs.

SPIRITUAL FOOD IS NECESSARY.

Just as physical food is necessary for our survival, spiritual food is necessary for our spiritual growth. The Bible is the primary source of spiritual food, and it contains the words of Jesus Christ, the words of his apostles, and the words of the prophets. These words are not just for the saved, but for all people. We are all children of God, and we all have a right to hear the words of Jesus.

TESTIMONIALS FROM THE BIBLE

There are many examples in the Bible of people who were disciples of Jesus and lived in poverty. For example, in Luke 5:3-11, we read about the Pharisees who were possessed by unclean spirits. Jesus cast them out and gave them new life. This is a testimony that the Bible is the word of God and that it contains the words of Jesus Christ.

We can also look to the early church for examples of disciples who were poor. In Acts 4:32-35, we read about the early church and how they shared their possessions with one another. They gave up all their possessions and distributed them to needy brothers and sisters. This is a testimony that the Bible is the word of God and that it contains the words of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I believe that spiritual growth is necessary for our survival. It is more important than any material possessions we may have. We should be careful not to chase after a materialistic lifestyle at the expense of spiritual growth. We should strive to live in a way that honors God and his word. We should be careful not to chase after an easy lifestyle. We should strive to live in a way that honors God and his word. We should be careful not to chase after an easy lifestyle. We should strive to live in a way that honors God and his word.
mill of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (I Pet. 2:2).

What a wondrous example you Peter! We know that a new born, if healthy, will live and will set about as long as food is available. Spiritually speaking: this desire for food is not limited to babies in Christ but includes those who are no longer babies. Peter was not writing to babies, but simply wrote that example of desire for food which shall characterize every member of the church.

When we consider the desire for that which is fed to many a flock today it is unusual to realize that spiritual nourishment is a serious problem. Elsewhere to “feed the flock of God…” (I Pet. 5:2) but in fact too many cases it is as if a cattle rancher feeding his flock on hay. Go with e’en coming times in all too little food is dropped in gos. Some odler feed their flock on entertainment, fun and fistic. Too many “meat” is not a part of the diet since the flock does little “meat.” “Mill” is for “a bale” (Eph. 5:22-24). These are in our flock who do not want anything meaty. That is, if something is above a third grade level they don’t want to perform the necessary effort to make us of that food. Some efforts involved in feeding ourL….m. Things Which Hinder Spiritual Edification. We are asked as we can which can be fed effectively in the learning of God’s word and spiritual growth with some as “learning things” to eat spiritual meat. False teachers. The misuse of Bible warnings about false teachers would make for a long list indeed. Let us consider only a few examples

First, the newspapers state that “truant, teachers and administrators of Trinity Christian are left to determine whether the refusal of a popular religious belief was the ‘Christian’ thing to do.” I must ask, “Will we’re there people who are being taught this decision the way has been was ‘inexplicable’ and a rule that must exist?” Do you get the idea that people are treated differently because of who they are? Does the same thing not occur times and again today with popular, a rule still stands? If it right when some people can escape from a rule that should apply to everyone? The proof is for teaching our country — from the halls of Congress to the Oval Office of the White House.

The second part of your point is really not even demanding. We forcing this popular truant out of school the “Christian” thing to do? So many go the extra mile to leave the impression that this truant is and we can not take him in. “They shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; for the earth is full of the knowledge of the Lord.” (Rev. 3:4-4-4) “there were false prophets among the people, even as there shall

Cultural Crisis Or Defiant Clash With God’s Word?

The Tuesday, December 21, 2004 Dallas Morning News letter from the mail section by Kent Fischer about an 18-year-old honor student at Trinity Christian Academy who was forced from school because he is "gay." He is a truant teacher in practice in a popular school. He is in God’s word? Peter says we are to "sanctify the Lord in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (I Pet. 3:15). How many of us can actually do that? If we God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (I Pet. 3:15). How many of us can actually do that? If we can’t, whose fault is it? If from personal observation, fifty years ago, there were many men of our birth, and whose capable of "holding up the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:20). A. Yes. Not necessarily, but that is when the church was going about rather than declining as it is the case today. Such that even another point of the church ("They live in their Bible.") When have you lately heard that?

Tools That Can Help Us Learn God’s Word. Of course, only God’s word is suitable. But there are tools which can be very helpful in learning God’s word. Just to read God’s word is good, but it is so very much better to study it. There are so many useful and well-studied tools: A. A good Bible Dictionary. B. An annotated atlas. C. A concise Dictionary Of New Testament Words. D. A good English Dictionary. E. Wilson’s Word Studies Of The Old Testament. F. Reliable Commentaries on both the Old and New Testament can be used effectively, with the understanding that commentaries are not just pillars. Anything taught in a commentary must be upheld by the Bible, as expected.

Spiritual Food Is Available. Think of many of our church members of ages of years, they what accomplishment. Their old man is something to us. Some had little formal education yet because very was adaptable in God’s word. After years, when not involved in making a living they realized, sometimes by coal oil lamps. They were able to defend the faith against error, both in private settings as well as in public, teaching and defending. As a matter of fact, many people who they came to a knowledge of the word, be a life of instruction. Let sin rear its ugly head and you will quickly separate the chaff from the wheat! Even in this world, the Lord’s church, some will buck popular sentiment and stand with Christ, and some will not. The homosexual problem may be called a “cultural crisis,” but in the world of the Lord, it is really a “Defiant Clash With God’s Word” (Acts 20:29-30). Yet in God’s word. Peter says we are to “sanctify the Lord in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (I Pet. 3:15)
ACLU Sues Georgia School District

June Coulter

The ACLU sued a school district in Cobb County, Georgia, for putting stickers in biology textbooks that urge students to study evolution "with an open mind, studied carefully, and critically considered." The suit was filed against the superintendent, the school board, and the science teachers at more than 40 schools in the district. The plaintiffs argued that the stickers violated the First Amendment, which guarantees the right to religious freedom. They also contended that the stickers were an attempt to undermine the teaching of evolution, which is a widely accepted scientific theory. The district denied the charges and vowed to defend its educational policies in court. The case was later settled out of court, with the district agreeing to remove the stickers from the textbooks. The settlement also included a provision that allowed the district to challenge the constitutionality of the lawsuit in a higher court. The decision in that case is pending. The ACLU has been involved in many similar cases across the country, seeking to ensure that students have access to a full and accurate understanding of the scientific theory of evolution. The organization has been successful in many of these cases, compelling school districts to remove religious or anti-evolution materials from the curriculum.

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do not love it to the end, until we use it. It helps, and we need to think about a spiritual gift, in terms of physical gifts and development. There are many instances in this world, when we are living according to the law of God, and we are not necessarily thinking of it. It is a matter of the law of God, which is a matter of the law of God.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In my almost 53 years of preaching, I have been on many occasions where the law of God is not set forth in its fullness. They do not know of the times when the law of God was much more committed to fol- 

owing its word, than the case of today. In many cases, the law is not known to the law.

Children are now we are often called to think of a church. The influence of a church and its person is having a telling effec- 

Time is past. We must make a move where the church is seeing the way of thinking in their parents.

Think About What God Has Done For Us. 

Every day that we sing, we sing the Gospel. We should think of what God has done for us. He gave His Son for us, and His Son was willing to go for every person, for every sin that comes up in the church. But this passage is for one having a personal offence against another. It is to be settled between two, or three, or more of the church. When there are two or more persons to be settled, with a written form, it is very clear that this is a personal offence of one against another.

While we have been upon each other in the church, by the life lived (1 Cor. 5), there is no doubt but that is a need for improving, adjusting, and changing. That one is to be turned over to Satan because it is wiser to model the whole. We have always to be on our guard.

Concern For Our Children. My wife and I have four children; two boys and two girls. I have always loved our children and had concern for their well-being. But I can see today, that merely to take care of our child and to be just we've got to be just as negative with those in error, the church cannot be without spot and blemish (Eph. 5:27).

Concern For Children Within The Church.

By this, I mean the children whose parents are members of the church. Children, the truth, are not members of the church until they become of age to obey the gospel and do so.

And once more, children are grown up under circumstances where the truth of God is not set forth in its fullness. They do not know of the times when the church was much more committed to fol- 

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Things Observed As A Christian Over 62 Years

Joe C. Turbeville

Recently while viewing a religious program on television, I observed a man who purposely was explaining himself. He became a Christian. He exactly explained why: "I accepted Jesus as my Savior. It is not only to see at that end of the year that he accepts those who purposely accepted Jesus. We must tell them to go back to their communities and join in the church of their choice. It is not wise to go to the church you choose to be saved. It is necessary to see if accepting Jesus as one's Savior is enough or if obedience to the Gospel is necessary.

The phrase "faith only" is a small word in the context of the biblical concept. "It is not faith alone. In Acts 2:38, "...at the name of the Lord" (Acts 2:47). This means faith in the name of Jesus is necessary. Peter says that "...if he believes in Jesus, he is saved" (Jas. 1:5-6).

I am well pleased; hear ye him. So, what would Christ, who has all authority (Matt. 28:18), tell a person that has not been saved? He would say to those who believe in Jesus, "...if he believes in Jesus, he is saved" (Jas. 1:5-6).

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A MUSLIM IN THE HOUSE

We are not speaking here of a Muslim occupying someone's personal property. We are dealing with the way it will be better if it will be all white with the case. We speak, not of a Muslim living in the United States being elected to the House of Representatives in the federal government. On election day (November 7, 2006) a message repeatedly flashed across the TV screen announcing, "This is certainly a "first" in our history." Try the following excerpt from an article by BBC NEWS:

First Muslim congressman elected
Keith Ellison, a Democrat, has become the first Muslim to be elected to the US Congress by winning a Minnesota seat in the House of Representatives.

He has called for the immediate withdrawal of US troops from Iraq.

Although he is a Muslim himself, he denies that he is the "Muslim candidate" for Congress.

"But I hope you won't label me 'a Muslim,'" he said. "There are Muslims in America, but I am an American Christian."

The Reverend Jesse Jackson, a former candidate for the presidency, told the BBC that he "is not the 'Muslim candidate' for Congress."

A First: Woman Becomes Head Bishop Of Episcopal Church

Our title is actually the headline of a CNN.com article, posted November 7, 2006. In the following we shall set forth some information from an AP article:

It is said that Katherine Jefferts Schori took office as the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church in the United States. This is a first in the worldwide Anglican Communion. The well-wishes at the Washington National Cathedral were said to number more than 3,000.

This woman bishop appears to be the culmination of a long process of change in America. It will signal to Muslims that we should engage in the American political system. It will signal to Muslims that we should not be afraid of our identity.

The Episcopal Church is said to be a 2.3 million member denomination. Some Episcopal members are opposed to this woman bishop, but only time will tell how long they will hold out.

What difference does it make that a woman, the first, has become the head of the Episcopal Church? In reality it makes little difference when the woman situation is considered. Of course, the Episcopal Church has never had a woman in its hierarchy. The Episcopal Church is said to be the oldest Christian church in the United States. The Episcopal Church is said to be the Church of the priests and the people. The Episcopal Church is said to be the Church in America. The Episcopal Church is said to be the Church in the United States.

We are encouraged as we look back over fifteen years of our work. More than 7,000 copies of the paper go out each month, hundreds to other countries. The thanks we receive from readers are many. Brethren have been so good to support our work in a financial way as well as in other ways.

Although our national holidays are not observed by us as religious days, they do offer a great opportunity to be with friends and loved ones more than at most other times.

We wish for everyone a very safe and happy holiday season. We pray that the New Year will bring many blessings to you and us as we serve the Lord in sincerity and truth.

With Christian love, Walter and Naomi

New: This is a bit early, but we know that some of you will get out and start your in time.