

July 16, 2023

Dear Brethren: First Presidency and Quorum of the 12 of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

RE: My feelings on true temple worship

I love the symbolism of the temple. To me it is about who we really are and what we are to become in character and attribute, nothing else implied for both the living and the dead. It seems to me the LDS Church has drifted away from this truth.

“Moneychangers”] Matthew 21:12-13; Mark 11:15-17; Luke 19:45-47] for temple attendance through the temple recommend interview was not a requirement when the Prophet Joseph was alive. This is so hypocritical and if Christ were here, He would turn over the moneychangers and cleanse the temple! ***Tithing should never be a requirement for temple attendance!*** Christ would proclaim that the temples of “brick and mortar,” “made with hands” is not the focus of true temple worship, nor is it for doing baptisms for the dead! It should be for doing baptisms for the living and the symbolism of that is to immerse ourselves into the attributes, character and perfection of godliness! The endowment ceremony should be teachings from “Lectures on Faith” and “Sermon on the Mount” preparing us for the Coming of Christ personally, individually [Lecture 2: 55] [JST Mathew 7: 32-33]! Lectures on Faith and the Sermon on the Mount is for the living and the dead, who are “spiritually dead” on both sides of the veil and need to awaken, it is the only way we can truly be sealed to Father and Christ and become one with Them, fulfilling Malachi 4: 5-6, when the hearts of the fathers and children are one in righteousness and holiness of character!

“The glory which the Father and the Son have, is because they are just and holy beings; and that if they were lacking in one attribute or perfection which they have, the glory which they have, never could be enjoyed by them; ***for it requires them to be precisely what they are in order to enjoy it:*** and if the Savior gives this glory to any others, he must do it in the very way set forth in his prayer to his Father: by making them one with him, as he and the Father are one [referring to our mind and heart].

“These teachings of the Savior must clearly show unto us the nature of salvation [in Celestial Glory]; and ***what he proposed unto the human family when he proposed to save them—That he proposed to make them like unto himself;*** and he was like the Father, the great prototype of all saved beings: ***And for any portion of the human***

*family to be assimilated into their likeness is to be saved*; and to be unlike them is to be destroyed [damned]: and on this hinge turns the door of salvation.

“Who cannot see, then, that *salvation is the effect of faith*? for as we have previously observed, *all the heavenly beings work by this principle*; and it is because they are able so to do that they are saved: *for nothing but this could save them*. And this is the lesson which the God of heaven, by the mouth of all his *holy* prophets, has been endeavoring to teach to the world” [Lectures on Faith 7:15-17].

I would admonish all to ponder the “*effects of faith*.” Then these scriptures will make perfect sense and our focus on the temple will be where it should be! I AM the temple of the living God. [see (New Testament | 1 Timothy 1:3 – 17.)]

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; *for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. Let no man deceive himself.*” (New Testament | 1 Corinthians 3:16 - 18)

"For *ye are the temple of the living God*; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." (2 Corinthians 6:16 - 18).

"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, *dwelleth not in temples made with hands*; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things" (New Testament | Acts 17:24 - 25).

"FOR we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, *we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*" (New Testament | 2 Corinthians 5:1).

Please take the time to read from our LDS Bible Dictionary, the word “Holiness.” “Holiness,” comes only from one place, within us, it’s called the “*effects of faith*.”

Your brother in the bonds of holy fellowship in “the doctrine of Jesus Christ,” [Lectures on Faith 1: 1]

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