

**July 21–27: Doctrine and Covenants 81–83 "Where Much is Given Much is Required"**

Service

From the Header to Section 81:

Frederick G. Williams is called to be a high priest and a counselor in the Presidency of the High Priesthood. The revelation should be regarded as a step toward the formal organization of the First Presidency

D&C 81:1,4-7

1 Verily, verily, I say unto you my servant Frederick G. Williams: Listen to the voice of him who speaketh, to the word of the Lord your God, and hearken to the calling wherewith you are called, even to be a high priest in my church, and a counselor unto my servant Joseph Smith, Jun.;

4 And in doing these things thou wilt do the greatest good unto thy fellow beings, and wilt promote the glory of him who is your Lord.

5 Wherefore, be faithful; stand in the office which I have appointed unto you; succor the weak, lift up the hands which hang down, and strengthen the feeble knees.

6 And if thou art faithful unto the end thou shalt have a crown of immortality, and eternal life in the mansions which I have prepared in the house of my Father.

7 Behold, and lo, these are the words of Alpha and Omega, even Jesus Christ. Amen.

What can we learn from this admonition that will help us “do the greatest good... and promote the glory... [the] Lord” in our lives?

(be faithful; stand in the office which I have appointed unto you)

Gordon B. Hinckley

“Your obligation is as serious in your sphere of responsibility as is my obligation in my sphere. No calling in this church is small or of little consequence. All of us in the pursuit of our duty touch the lives of others.

To each of us in our respective responsibilities the Lord has said:

‘Wherefore, be faithful; stand in the office which I have appointed unto you; succor the weak, lift up the hands which hang down, and strengthen the feeble knees.’...

“You have as great an opportunity for satisfaction in the performance of your duty as I do in mine. The progress of this work will be determined by our joint efforts. Whatever your calling, it is as fraught with the same kind of opportunity to accomplish good as is mine. What is really important is that this is the work of the Master. Our work is to go about doing good as did He.” (CR, April 1995)

Repentance

D&C 82:3-7

3 For of him unto whom much is given much is required; and he who sins against the greater light shall receive the greater condemnation.

4 Ye call upon my name for revelations, and I give them unto you; and inasmuch as ye keep not my sayings, which I give unto you, ye become transgressors; and justice and judgment are the penalty which is affixed unto my law.

5 Therefore, what I say unto one I say unto all: Watch, for the adversary spreadeth his dominions, and darkness reigneth;

6 And the anger of God kindleth against the inhabitants of the earth; and none doeth good, for all have gone out of the way.

7 And now, verily I say unto you, I, the Lord, will not lay any sin to your charge; go your ways and sin no more; but unto that soul who sinneth shall the former sins return, saith the Lord your God.

What can we learn about repentance and forgiveness from these verses?

(he who sins against the greater light shall receive the greater condemnation  
justice and judgment are the penalty which is affixed unto my law  
none doeth good, for all have gone out of the way  
unto that soul who sinneth shall the former sins return)

Craig A. Cardon

“He does not excuse us in our sins. He does not condone our return to past sins.... The Lord ‘cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance,’ yet He differentiates the relative gravity of some sins.... He has said that ‘he who sins against the greater light shall receive the greater condemnation.’ Yet, in His mercy, He allows for improvement over time rather than demanding immediate perfection....

“His compassion and grace do not excuse us when ‘[our] hearts are not satisfied. And [we] obey not the truth, but have pleasure in unrighteousness.’ Rather, after we do all we can do, His compassion and grace are the means whereby ‘in process of time’ we overcome the world through the enabling power of the Atonement....

“The Lord looks upon the light we have received, the desires of our hearts, and our actions, and when we repent and seek His forgiveness, He forgives.” (CR, April 2013)

Law of Consecration

D&C 82:17-22

17 And you are to be equal, or in other words, you are to have equal claims on the properties, for the benefit of managing the concerns of your stewardships, every man according to his wants and his needs, inasmuch as his wants are just—

18 And all this for the benefit of the church of the living God, that every man may improve upon his talent, that every man may gain other talents, yea, even an hundred

fold, to be cast into the Lord's storehouse, to become the common property of the whole church—

19 Every man seeking the interest of his neighbor, and doing all things with an eye single to the glory of God.

20 This order I have appointed to be an everlasting order unto you, and unto your successors, inasmuch as you sin not.

21 And the soul that sins against this covenant, and hardeneth his heart against it, shall be dealt with according to the laws of my church, and shall be delivered over to the buffetings of Satan until the day of redemption.

22 And now, verily I say unto you, and this is wisdom, make unto yourselves friends with the mammon of unrighteousness, and they will not destroy you.

In what way does the law of consecration “benefit... the church of the living God”?

(every man may improve upon his talent, that every man may gain other talents

to be cast into the Lord's storehouse, to become the common property of the whole church

Every man seeking the interest of his neighbor, and doing all things with an eye single to the glory of God)

D. Todd Christofferson

“Unity with our brothers and sisters in the body of Christ grows as we heed the second commandment—inextricably connected to the first—to love others as ourselves. And I suppose an even more perfect unity would obtain among us if we followed the Savior's higher and holier expression of this second commandment—to love one another not only as we love ourselves but as He loved us. In sum, it is ‘every man seeking the interest of his neighbor, and doing all things with an eye single to the glory of God.’” (CR, April 2023)

Marion G. Romney

“As the works of the flesh have universal application, so likewise does the gospel of peace. If one man lives it, he has peace within himself. If two men live it, they each have peace within themselves and with each other. If the citizens live it, the nation has domestic peace. When there are enough nations enjoying the fruit of the Spirit to control world affairs, then, and only then, will the war-drums throb no longer.” (“The Price of Peace,” Ensign, Oct. 1983)

The Lord makes clear who is responsible for the welfare of children under the law of consecration

D&C 83:4-6

4 All children have claim upon their parents for their maintenance until they are of

age.

5 And after that, they have claim upon the church, or in other words upon the Lord's storehouse, if their parents have not wherewith to give them inheritances.

6 And the storehouse shall be kept by the consecrations of the church; and widows and orphans shall be provided for, as also the poor. Amen.

How can we apply this principle in our day?

Joseph F. Merrill

"All children have claim upon their parents for their maintenance until they are of age.

"Thus divine law, as well as civil law, makes the parents responsible for their children. No Latter-day Saint lives a worthy life in the eyes of the Lord who neglects to do everything feasible to bring up his children according to gospel standards. Let every parent take heed of these requirements." (CR, April 1946)