

GIVEN THE UNCERTAINTIES OF THE FUTURE: HOW CAN WE BEST PREPARE? WHAT IS THE BEST THING WE CAN DO?

C.S. Lewis, as he synthesized the true purpose of Christianity in his biography, *Surprised by Joy*, came to the conclusion that, “Joy is the serious business of heaven!” With all the uncertainties of a materialistic world that is falling apart, what does one do? As from the lyrics of the song, “Where can I turn for peace? Where is my solace?” And the answer is, “He, only One.” The only thing that is not uncertain in these very uncertain times is that God is; He loves us, and absolutely the best thing we can do is to do His will. His will is to love Him and His children. This sounds so simplistic, but is most profound and far reaching. In so doing, we lay up treasures in heaven where moth nor rust can corrupt and thieves cannot break through nor steal – bringing love, joy, and peace to our souls.

The certainty of the future is the Lord is Coming, and He will receive His Bride. He will not come until She is ready. The beautiful message from the scriptures is that that Bride is a Zion society and we can be part of it. His Coming commences His reign as King of kings and Lord of lords during His grand millennium – designed to prepare a people to be delivered to the Father into celestial realms. There, as Lewis found, we will be “Surprised by Joy” to such a large measure we cannot now comprehend. The Father calls it a, “Fullness of joy.”

Since God is Love, and charity is the pure love of Christ, absolutely the best thing we can do is to learn to love as He loves.

Let thy bowels also be full of charity towards all men, and to the household of faith, and let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the dews from heaven. The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion, and thy scepter an unchanging scepter of righteousness and truth; and thy dominion shall be an everlasting dominion, and without compulsory means it shall flow unto thee forever and ever. (Doctrine and Covenants 121:45-46)

And charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all

things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are nothing, for charity never faileth. Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail— But charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love, which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son, Jesus Christ; that ye may become the sons of God; that when he shall appear we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is; that we may have this hope; that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen. (Moroni 7:45-48)

Peace, love, and joy are the characteristics of a true Christian – having received the sanctifying power of the atonement. While the world spirals down in immoral decadence, as Satan strives to make everything impure, defiled, and contaminated with the filth blasted forth by the media, he is infiltrating every aspect of society. The great division prophesied by Nephi has begun (2 Nephi 30:10). That great division is around whether we are Christ centered or otherwise. Our choices make all the difference, and we need to look to him in every thought (D&C 6:36) – Well did Nephi also say:

They wear stiff necks and high heads; yea, and because of pride, and wickedness, and abominations, and whoredoms, they have all gone astray save it be a few, who are the humble followers of Christ; nevertheless, they are led, that in many instances they do err because they are taught by the precepts of men. (2 Nephi 28:14)

For those who will not only truly turn to Christ, but turn their lives over to Him, so that His atonement is received in full measure, then they are not only filled with His love, joy and peace, but the Holy Ghost will tell them all things what they should do – for He is the way, the truth, and the life:

And now, behold, my beloved brethren, I suppose that ye ponder somewhat in your hearts concerning that which ye should do after ye have entered in by

the way. But, behold, why do ye ponder these things in your hearts? Do ye not remember that I said unto you that after ye had received the Holy Ghost ye could speak with the tongue of angels? And now, how could ye speak with the tongue of angels save it were by the Holy Ghost? Angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, they speak the words of Christ. Wherefore, I said unto you, feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do. Wherefore, now after I have spoken these words, if ye cannot understand them it will be because ye ask not, neither do ye knock; wherefore, ye are not brought into the light, but must perish in the dark. For behold, again I say unto you that if ye will enter in by the way, and receive the Holy Ghost, it will show unto you all things what ye should do. (2 Nephi 32:1-5)

The Lord has organized the whole kingdom of heaven to help us during our mortal journey that we may return to Him. Filled with heaven's love, His angels are commissioned to do the following:

...they are subject unto him, to minister according to the word of his command, showing themselves unto them of strong faith and a firm mind in every form of godliness. And the office of their ministry is to call men unto repentance, and to fulfil and to do the work of the covenants of the Father, which he hath made unto the children of men, to prepare the way among the children of men, by declaring the word of Christ unto the chosen vessels of the Lord, that they may bear testimony of him. And by so doing, the Lord God prepareth the way that the residue of men may have faith in Christ, that the Holy Ghost may have place in their hearts, according to the power thereof; and after this manner bringeth to pass the Father, the covenants which he hath made unto the children of men. And Christ hath said: If ye will have faith in me ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me. And he hath said: Repent all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me, and be baptized in my name, and have faith in me, that ye may be saved. (Moroni 7:30-34)

It is easy to get caught up in the fear of the times: Will they try to confiscate guns, force vaccinations, take God out of everything, foster sexual liberalism (anything goes), continue to increase the pornography barrage. We are surrounded by evil; what do we do? Moving into fear of all these things is exactly what

Satan wants as his minions continually tempt us. Fear, hate, doubt, and anxiety come of the devil. This is a test for true Christians for “perfect love casteth out all fear.” Satan has no power unless we heed his minions. As we look to Christ in every thought and are filled with his love, He has promised and His promises are sure – in spite of all the uncertainties – that as we hearken to His voice (His angels that are always round about us – whispering the right way) he will guide us through any and all the storms of life. He will teach us how to love as He loves – even all our enemies.

Another very important commandment for our time is to be a watchman on the tower, so that we are not deceived or lulled away into carnal security, but are anchored in the word, which is Christ and His teachings (JSM 37). For the Lord has truly said:

Mine indignation is soon to be poured out without measure upon all nations; and this will I do when the cup of their iniquity is full. And in that day all who are found upon the watch-tower, or in other words, all mine Israel, shall be saved. And they that have been scattered shall be gathered...

Therefore, let your hearts be comforted concerning Zion; for all flesh is in mine hands; be still and know that I am God. Zion shall not be moved out of her place, notwithstanding her children are scattered. They that remain, and are pure in heart, shall return, and come to their inheritances, they and their children, with songs of everlasting joy, to build up the waste places of Zion— And all these things that the prophets might be fulfilled. And, behold, there is none other place appointed than that which I have appointed; neither shall there be any other place appointed than that which I have appointed, for the work of the gathering of my saints— Until the day cometh when there is found no more room for them; and then I have other places which I will appoint unto them, and they shall be called stakes, for the curtains or the strength of Zion. Behold, it is my will, that all they who call on my name, and worship me according to mine everlasting gospel, should gather together, and stand in holy places; (D&C 101:11-22)

During this great division, Satan will deceive and destroy as many as possibly – to carry their souls down to hell, while the Lord will work his mighty work, and “Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion.” (Isaiah 52:8)