

December 2–8: Moroni 1–6, “To Keep Them in the Right Way”

Gospel Ordinances

Moroni 1:1-4

1 Now I, Moroni, after having made an end of abridging the account of the people of Jared, I had supposed not to have written more, but I have not as yet perished; and I make not myself known to the Lamanites lest they should destroy me.

4 Wherefore, I write a few more things, contrary to that which I had supposed; for I had supposed not to have written any more; but I write a few more things, that perhaps they may be of worth unto my brethren, the Lamanites, in some future day, according to the will of the Lord.

What reason does Moroni give for writing “a few more things” in the record?

(that perhaps they may be of worth unto my brethren, the Lamanites, in some future day)

Among the things that he believes it is important for us to have is how gospel ordinances are to be administered

Moroni states how the twelve received the power to administer the gift of the Holy Ghost

Moroni 2:1-3

1 The words of Christ, which he spake unto his disciples, the twelve whom he had chosen, as he laid his hands upon them—

2 And he called them by name, saying: Ye shall call on the Father in my name, in mighty prayer; and after ye have done this ye shall have power that to him upon whom ye shall lay your hands, ye shall give the Holy Ghost; and in my name shall ye give it, for thus do mine apostles.

3 Now Christ spake these words unto them at the time of his first appearing; and the multitude heard it not, but the disciples heard it; and on as many as they laid their hands, fell the Holy Ghost.

Elders (apostles?) had the authority to ordain priest and teachers

Moroni 3:1-4

1 The manner which the disciples, who were called the elders of the church, ordained priests and teachers—

2 After they had prayed unto the Father in the name of Christ, they laid their hands upon them, and said:

3 In the name of Jesus Christ I ordain you to be a priest (or if he be a teacher, I ordain you to be a teacher) to preach repentance and remission of sins through Jesus Christ, by the endurance of faith on his name to the end. Amen.

4 And after this manner did they ordain priests and teachers, according to the gifts

and callings of God unto men; and they ordained them by the power of the Holy Ghost, which was in them.

How to administer the sacrament

Moroni 4:1-3

1 The manner of their elders and priests administering the flesh and blood of Christ unto the church; and they administered it according to the commandments of Christ; wherefore we know the manner to be true; and the elder or priest did minister it—

2 And they did kneel down with the church, and pray to the Father in the name of Christ, saying:

3 O God, the Eternal Father, we ask thee in the name of thy Son, Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this bread to the souls of all those who partake of it; that they may eat in remembrance of the body of thy Son, and witness unto thee, O God, the Eternal Father, that they are willing to take upon them the name of thy Son, and always remember him, and keep his commandments which he hath given them, that they may always have his Spirit to be with them. Amen.

Moroni 5:1-2

1 The manner of administering the wine—Behold, they took the cup, and said:

2 O God, the Eternal Father, we ask thee, in the name of thy Son, Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this wine to the souls of all those who drink of it, that they may do it in remembrance of the blood of thy Son, which was shed for them; that they may witness unto thee, O God, the Eternal Father, that they do always remember him, that they may have his Spirit to be with them. Amen.

Peter F. Meurs

"The prayers explain that we partake of the bread in remembrance of the body of the Son, which He gave as a ransom to qualify all for resurrection, and we drink of the water in remembrance of the blood of the Son, which He freely shed so that we might be redeemed on condition of repentance.

"The prayers introduce the covenants with the phrase 'that they are willing.' This phrase has so much potential power for us. Are we willing to serve and participate? Are we willing to change? Are we willing to address our weaknesses? Are we willing to reach out and bless others? Are we willing to trust the Savior?

"As the promises are stated and as we partake, we confirm in our hearts that we are willing to:

Take upon ourselves the name of Jesus Christ.

Strive to keep all of His commandments.

Always remember Him.

"The prayer concludes with a sublime invitation and promise: 'That they may always have his Spirit to be with them.'" (CR, Oct. 2016)

According to Elder Meurs, What covenants do we make every time we partake of the sacrament?

(Take upon ourselves the name of Jesus Christ.
Strive to keep all of His commandments.
Always remember Him)

What promise do we receive if we strive to obey these covenants?

(That they may always have his Spirit to be with them)

Moroni helps us to judge when someone is ready and worthy to be baptized

Moroni 6:1-3

1 And now I speak concerning baptism. Behold, elders, priests, and teachers were baptized; and they were not baptized save they brought forth fruit meet that they were worthy of it.

2 Neither did they receive any unto baptism save they came forth with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, and witnessed unto the church that they truly repented of all their sins.

3 And none were received unto baptism save they took upon them the name of Christ, having a determination to serve him to the end.

What requirements must someone meet before they are worthy to be baptized?

(witness... they truly repented)
(take on the name of Christ – determined to serve him)

D&C 20:37

And again by the way of commandment to the church concerning the manner of baptism--All those who humble themselves before God, and desire to be baptized, and come forth with broken hearts and contrite spirits, and witness before the church that they have truly repented of all their sins, and are willing to take upon them the name of Jesus Christ, having a determination to serve him to the end, and truly manifest by their works that they have received of the Spirit of Christ unto the remission of their sins, shall be received by baptism into his church.

Bruce R. McConkie

“No price is too great to pay for the privilege of receiving this holy ordinance. We must prepare ourselves for baptism; we must be worthy to make a covenant with the Holy One; we must have a fixed and unalterable determination to conform to his will. Otherwise baptism profiteth nothing. No ordinance is binding on earth and in heaven unless it is ratified and sealed by the Holy Spirit of Promise, and this Spirit is given only to those who are just and true. Just as those who partake unworthily of the sacrament

eat and drink damnation to their souls, so those who are baptized unworthily receive cursings instead of blessings.” (A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, pg. 248)

Responsibility of Church Members

After baptism they received the gift of the Holy Ghost and were numbered among the church of Christ

Moroni 6:4

4 And after they had been received unto baptism, and were wrought upon and cleansed by the power of the Holy Ghost, they were numbered among the people of the church of Christ; and their names were taken, that they might be remembered and nourished by the good word of God, to keep them in the right way, to keep them continually watchful unto prayer, relying alone upon the merits of Christ, who was the author and the finisher of their faith.

As outlined in this verse, what blessing take place after baptism?

(wrought upon... by the power of the Holy Ghost
cleansed by the power of the Holy Ghost
numbered among the people of the church of Christ
their names were taken, that they might be remembered and nourished)

Why are our names recorded as members of the church of Christ?

(that they might be remembered and nourished by the good word of God)

Who has the responsibility to see that both longtime and new members are remembered and nourished by the good word of God?

Members are responsible for each other

Gordon B. Hinckley

“Any convert whose faith grows cold is a tragedy. Any member who falls into inactivity is a matter for serious concern. The Lord left the ninety and nine to find the lost sheep. His concern for the dropout was so serious that He made it the theme of one of His great lessons. We must constantly keep Church officers and the membership aware of the tremendous obligation to fellowship in a very real and warm and wonderful way those who come into the Church as converts, and to reach out with love to those who for one reason or another step into the shadows of inactivity.” (Church News, 8 April 1989)

According to President Hinckley, how should we approach new members and members who have gone astray?

(We must constantly keep Church officers and the membership aware of the tremendous obligation to fellowship in a very real and warm and wonderful way reach out with love)

Gordon B. Hinckley

“With the ever increasing number of converts, we must make an increasingly substantial effort to assist them as they find their way. Every one of them needs three things: a friend, a responsibility, and nurturing with the good word of God.” (CR, April 1997)

According to President Hinckley, what is it that every new convert needs?

(a friend
a responsibility
nurturing with the good word of God)

Who’s responsibility is it to make sure that these things are provided?

Gordon B. Hinckley

"In these days as in those days, converts are 'numbered among the people of the church.. [to] be remembered and nourished by the good word of God, to keep them in the right way, to keep them continually watchful unto prayer.' Brethren, let us help them as they take their first steps as members.

"This is a work for everyone. It is a work for home teachers and visiting teachers. It is a work for the bishopric, for the priesthood quorums, for the Relief Society, the young men and young women, even the Primary." (CR, April 1997)

Moroni 6:5-6

5 And the church did meet together oft, to fast and to pray, and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls.

6 And they did meet together oft to partake of bread and wine, in remembrance of the Lord Jesus.

Why are church members commanded to “meet together oft”?

(fast, pray, sacrament, speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls)

Spencer W. Kimball

“We attend sacrament meetings to worship the Lord. If the meeting is conducted or if we attend with any other thought, we have missed the spirit of the occasion. Those who attend meeting only when the speaker is

eloquent, the lecturer is noted, or the music is excellent, are far ahead of the high purpose and loftiness of this meeting in the house of prayer... we do not go to Sabbath meetings to be entertained or even solely to be instructed. We go to worship the Lord. It is an individual responsibility, and regardless of what is said from the pulpit, if one wishes to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth, he may do so by attending his meetings, partaking of the sacrament, and contemplating the beauties of the gospel. If the service is a failure to you, you have failed. No one can worship for you; you must do your own waiting upon the Lord.” (The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, pg. 514-15)

Moroni 6:9

9 And their meetings were conducted by the church after the manner of the workings of the Spirit, and by the power of the Holy Ghost; for as the power of the Holy Ghost led them whether to preach, or to exhort, or to pray, or to supplicate, or to sing, even so it was done.

What did Moroni teach about how Church meetings were conducted?

(after the manner of the workings of the Spirit)

David B. Haight

"Moroni include in his closing record the instructions by his father, Mormon, on the ordinations, the sacrament, and practices of the Church. Noteworthy is this testimony about their meetings: 'Their meetings were conducted by the church after the manner of the workings of the Spirit, and by the power of the Holy Ghost' (Moroni 6:9).

"That is the spirit that can and should characterize our worship and our sacrament meetings.

"A sister remarked to me after one such spiritual meeting, 'I don't recall all that was said—but I remember how we felt as we sang the closing hymn and bowed our heads in prayer.'

"May God bless us all to remember the Savior and His atoning sacrifice and to unite in making our sacrament meetings a time of reverence, remembrance, and worship." ("Remembering the Savior's Atonement", Ensign, April 1988)