

Christ – Don't Limit your view of his Role Outline – Mike Baird

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Context – By grace we are saved

- Gospel is a covenant
(From Robert L. Millet, *Selected Writings of Robert L. Millet: Gospel Scholars Series*, 512)
 - Lord - does for us what we could never do for ourselves:
 - Forgive our sins
 - Lift our burdens
 - Renew our souls
 - Re-create our nature
 - Raise us from the dead
 - Qualify us for glory hereafter
 - We - promise to do what we can do:
 - Receive the ordinances of salvation
 - Love and serve one another (see Mosiah 18:8-10)
 - Do all in our power to put off the natural man and deny ourselves of ungodliness (see Mosiah 3:19; Moroni 10:32).
- We tend to view grace as a "cherry on top" to make up the difference after all we can do
- Grace is a gift that may and must be in effect every hour of every day
- Christ did more than just atone for our sins (Alma 7:11-13)

Who is in control?

- We like to think we are – yes?
- The world today teaches us that we must be in control of our lives
- (From Robert L. Millet, *Selected Writings of Robert L. Millet: Gospel Scholars Series*, 512)
 - Principles such as self reliance and self control important in dealing with this life
 - But eternally what is *essential* to receive grace is:
 - Surrender
 - Submission
 - Eye single to the Glory of God
- Robert Millet

"It is as if the Lord inquires of us: "Do you want to be a possessor of all things such that all things are subject unto you?" We of course respond in the affirmative. He then says: "Good. Then submit to me. Yield your heart unto me." The Lord asks further: "Do you want to have victory over all things?" We nod. He follows up: "Then surrender to me. Unconditionally." Odd, isn't it? We incorporate the powers of divinity only through acknowledging our own inabilities, accepting our limitations, and realizing our weakness. We open ourselves to infinite strength only through accepting our finite condition. We in time gain control through being willing to relinquish control" (Selected Writings of Robert L. Millet: Gospel Scholars Series, 498)
- To often we want to succeed according to our own plan and not God's will

Christ's Role – Limited view

- Too often we limit the role of Christ in our lives
- Sometimes we focus on one thing to the exclusion of another
- subtle yet important points
- Two areas that we can view but if only viewpoint is a limiting one:

"Cheerleader"

- Robert Millet
"All too often, however, my actions have betrayed my limited orientation, my vision of Christ as a type of spiritual adviser, a sort of celestial cheerleader who stands on the sidelines and whispers encouragement, but not the Lord God Omnipotent who came to earth to make men and women into new creatures through empowering them to do what they could never do for themselves." (Selected Writings of Robert L. Millet: Gospel Scholars Series, 499)
- Christ is pulling for us and walking with us but that is not all and is not the most important

"Older Brother"

- Robert Millet
"In an eagerness to draw closer to Christ, some members of the Church have begun to cross a sacred line and go beyond that reverential barrier that must be observed by true followers of the Christ. They speak of Jesus as though he were their next door neighbor, their buddy or chum, their pal. This is not the way to intimacy with the Savior.." (Selected Writings of Robert L. Millet: Gospel Scholars Series, 499)
- Christ is our elder brother – true but that is not the most important relationship and should not be our focus
 - No where does it mention this in the Book of Mormon – only as the Lord God Omnipotent
- Bruce R McConkie
"It is a fine and sacred line, but clearly there is a difference between a personal and intimate relationship with the Lord, which is improper, and the one of worshipful adoration, that yet maintains the required reserve between us and Him who has bought us with His blood." ("Our Relationship With The Lord" A devotional speech given March 2, 1982, at Brigham Young University)
- The problems is with a primary focus on these roles we tend to view ourselves in control and try to "perfect ourselves"

Christ's Role – in whom do we trust?

- If I trust completely in the Lord – how much do I trust in myself?
 - None
 - I must do my part of the covenant but...*that is not sufficient!*
 - Requires the all of the finisher of our faith (Heb 12:2)
- 2 Nephi 2:3
"Wherefore, thy soul shall be blessed, and thou shalt dwell safely with thy brother, Nephi; and thy days shall be spent in the service of thy God. Wherefore, I know that thou art redeemed, *because of the righteousness of thy Redeemer*, for thou hast beheld that in the fulness of time he cometh to bring salvation unto men"
- 2 Nephi 31:19
" ... *relying wholly* upon the merits of him who is mighty to save"
- Moroni 6:4
"... *relying alone* upon the merits of Christ, who was the author and the finisher of their faith"
- Alma 22:14
" And since man had fallen *he could not merit anything of himself*, but the sufferings and death of Christ atone for their sins, through faith and repentance, and so forth; and that he breaketh the bands of death, that the grave shall have no victory, and that the sting of death should be swallowed up in the hopes of glory"
- D&C 45:3-5
"Listen to him who is the advocate with the Father, who is pleading your cause before him—
Saying: Father, *behold the sufferings and death of him who did no sin*, in whom thou wast well pleased; behold the blood of thy Son which was shed, the blood of him whom thou gavest that thyself might be glorified;
Wherefore, Father, spare these my brethren that believe on my name, that they may come unto me and have everlasting life."

Christ – not limited

- Redeemer
- Savior
- Intercessor
- Advocate
- Lord God Omnipotent
- Judge