

Gaining the Celestial Kingdom Outline – Mike Baird

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Are you going to heaven?

EYES closed quiz:

1. How many believe that they will still be sealed to their spouse after this life is over?
 2. How many believe that President Dalton & Dana will be sealed after their lives are over?
 3. How many believe that if you were to die tomorrow you would be sent to the Celestial Kingdom (Not talking about highest degree, simply the Celestial Kingdom?)
 4. How many believe that President Dalton is going to the Celestial Kingdom?
 5. How many believe you have to be perfect in this life to enter the Celestial Kingdom?
- Why is it more of us think we will still be sealed yet won't make it to the Celestial Kingdom?
 - Why it is everyone thinks President Dalton will make it yet not everyone thinks they will?
 - Lets talk a little further

The Gate

- What is the gate to enter into the kingdom of God?
 - Repentance & baptism
 - 2 Nephi 31:17
"For the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water; and then cometh a remission of your sins by fire and by the Holy Ghost."

What happens at baptism?

- Born into the kingdom of Heaven
 - Moses 6:59-60

"even so ye must be born again into the kingdom of heaven, of water, and of the Spirit, and be cleansed by blood, even the blood of mine Only Begotten...
For by the water ye keep the commandment; by the Spirit ye are justified, and by the blood ye are sanctified"
- We join the church – Body of Christ
 - 1 Corinthians 12:12-13(12-27)

"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.
For by one Spirit *are we all baptized into one body*, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."
- We join the church - Christ is bridegroom
 - Matt 9:15

"And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast"
 - Matt 5:1-13 (Parable of 10 virgins)
 - D&C 133:10,19
 - Daniel Ludlow:

"The Old Testament prophets often compared the spiritual relation between God and his people to a betrothal or marriage; apostasy, through idolatry or other sin, was likened to unfaithfulness on the part of the marriage partner. (Isa. 1:21; Jer. 3:1-20; Ezek. 16, 23; Hosea 2.)"
(Companion to Your Study of the Doctrine and Covenants, vol. 2)
- We are justified
 - We are declared "not guilty"
 - How
 - Through faith in Christ
 - On account of his righteousness

- We are Sanctified
 - Made Holy
 - By receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost
- **Another way to say it:**
 - ***We join the kingdom of God with a covenant***
 - We can only enter the gate by making a covenant

Proper Perspective

- Members of church have already taken steps to enter into the kingdom of God
 - Entered into the covenant
 - Part of the body of Christ
 - heirs of Christ
 - Justified & Sanctified
 - ***You and I have entered into the covenant***
- **How many believe** that if you were to die immediately after your baptism and receipt of the Holy Ghost you would be sent to the Celestial Kingdom?
- **What is different now** than immediately after baptism
- In both cases what makes it possible to go to the celestial Kingdom?
- Let talk a little further

The Straight & Narrow Path

- Once we have entered the gate we are on the straight and narrow path
- Where does the path lead?
 - 2 Nephi 31:18
"And then are ye in this strait and narrow path which leads to eternal life..."
- What do we do once we are on the path – is that all – get on the path?
 - 2 Nephi 31:20
"... press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ..."

What happens if you endure to the end?

- You have eternal life (Celestial Kingdom)
 - 2 Nephi 31:15
"And I heard a voice from the Father, saying: Yea, the words of

- my Beloved are true and faithful. He that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved"
- 2 Nephi 31:20
" Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life"

Enduring to the end and Covenants

What does it mean to endure to the end?

- Some think of physical endurance - like the **pioneers**
- Maybe we think of it as holding on through **endless days of diapers** and non-adult conversation
- Maybe we think we need to get **horrible lingering disease** and handle it gracefully for years lifting up everyone around us
- We think maybe of a forever of **white-knuckle effort** to overcome our imperfections
- We think maybe of becoming **perfect before we die**
- **What keeps our sealing in force?**
- **This is the way I have come to think of it:**
 - ***Enduring to the end is to keep the covenants I have made***
 - Baptismal covenant
 - It was anticipated we would sometimes break this covenant
 - A way prepared for us to renew the covenant
 - Repent and partake worthily of the sacrament weekly
 - Notice that is only through the grace of Christ that it is possible to keep our covenants
 - Holy Ghost shows us the way
 - 2 Nephi 32:1-5

Perspective & Hope

- Goals are perspective & hope
 - Focus on keeping covenants – keeping in – gives hope
 - President Hinckley – Hope & positive