

Believing Christ

What I learned about the Atonement from reading the book

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Main points to make

- The Dilemma
- Partnership with Christ (Parable of the bicycle)
- Covenant we make to be justified and receive grace
- Atonement for everyday not a "cherry on top"
- Breadth and depth of the atonement

The Dilemma

- D&C 1:31
For I the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance
- Romans 3:23
For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God
 - "Holiness to the Lord"
- Leaves a chasm between us and the Lord

Good News - Atonement

- Atonement – make one, reconcile
- Isaiah 1:18
 - Gives us hope
- Believing Christ
 - Often we believe that the gospel works for others and not me
 - Believe in Christ
 - Believe what he says
 - Has power to do what he says
- Demand for perfection
 - Can overwhelm us (Sister Robinson)
 - Christ the only way
 - Sister Robinson
 - "New the demands, but not the goodness of the gospel"
- Do we believe in being saved?
 - Yes – He is the Savior

Partnership with Christ

- Me + infinite = infinite
 - Corporation example
 - Team sports example – Christ as quarterback and captain
- Parable of the bicycle

Covenant - Justification

- To be declared "not guilty"
- By law – never sin
- By Faith in Christ
 - Enter into a covenant with him
 - Same rules
 - Now in partnership with Christ
 - What did we just learn about the partnership?

Covenant terms

- Faith, Repentance, Baptism, Holy Ghost
- Attitude - Broken heart & contrite spirit
- Acceptable to do your best and with all your heart

Saved by Grace

- Partnership
 - Christ meets the demands of Justice
 - We receive the benefit of mercy
 - Grace of Christ: He is willing to pay for our sins and extend mercy
- Grace
 - We can't earn it, or deserve it
 - We need it – we *are* saved by grace
 - Pg 66 "no grace, no volunteer; no volunteer, no savior; no savior no salvation.
- We must participate
 - We must accept the gift
 - Meet and keep the conditions of the covenant
- Resisting Grace
 - When I have perfected myself then I'll be worthy of the Atonement
 - Backwards!

- We don't exalt ourselves
- Atonement is for every day!

Misunderstanding Grace

- "Easy Grace"
 - Can not just "take it easy" and be "saved by grace"
 - We need to do all we are able and not feel guilty about that which we can't
- "After all we can do"
- 2 Nephi 25:32

For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.

 - "after"
 - Not chronologically
 - Logically
 - Pg 91
 - "After all is said and done"
 - "all we can do"
 - Not: "every single good deed we could conceivably have ever done" - Nonsense
 - "everything we can do" or "whatever we can do"
 - "when have we done enough?"
 - Wrong! "When is my offering acceptable", "When acceptable for the time being"
- Heavy demands and analogy of the weight lifter
- Don't let fear get in the way

Christ

- Son of God – Divine
- Son of Man – born of Mary
- Was tempted in all things
- Descended below all
 - Took upon himself
 - Our sins
 - Our guilt
 - Our pains
 - Our suffering
 - Understands all that we know/feel
 - We can not say – "you don't understand"
- Infinite
 - Took upon himself all for all