

LESSON 1

The Purpose of Family History and Temple Work

QUOTES AND SCRIPTURES

D&C 128:24

“Let us, therefore, as a church and a people, and as Latter-day Saints, offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness; and let us present in his holy temple, when it is finished, a book containing the records of our dead, which shall be worthy of all acceptance.”

Joseph Fielding Smith (Doctrines of Salvation [Bookcraft, 1955], vol. 2, 146.)

“The Lord has given to the Church the responsibility of preaching the Gospel to the nations of the earth. This is the greatest responsibility of the Church. Men are to be taught the Gospel and called to repentance and warned. When they refuse to heed the warning they must be left without excuse. The Lord has also placed upon the individual members of the Church a responsibility. It is our duty as individuals to seek after our immediate dead those of our own line. This is the greatest responsibility that we have and we should carry it through in behalf of our ‘fathers’ who have gone before.”

Elder Henry B. Eyring (Satellite Training Broadcast, May 2000.)

“When you [are doing your] Family History, don’t see that single person. See hundreds and perhaps thousands of their ancestors who will be praying to be found and liberated, and think of the faithful missionaries who have waited with them. As you do, you will feel not only the urgency of your service, but confidence that prayers, some from this side of the veil and more on the other will be answered.”

President Howard W. Hunter (“Exceeding Great and Precious Promises,” Ensign, November 1994, 8.)

“I invite the Latter-day Saints to look to the temple of the Lord as the great symbol of your membership. It is the deepest desire of my heart to have every member of the Church worthy to enter the temple. It would please the Lord if every adult member would be worthy of - and carry - a current temple recommendation. The things that we must do and not do to be worthy of a temple recommendation are the very things that ensure we will be happy as individuals and as families. Let us be a temple-attending people. Attend the temple as frequently as personal circumstances allow. Keep a picture of a temple in your home that your children may see it. Teach them about the purpose of the house of the Lord. Have them plan from their earliest years to go there and to remain worthy of that blessing”

TALKS BY GENERAL AUTHORITIES (<http://www.lds.org>)

“Hearts Bound Together” by President Henry B. Eyring (Liahona, May 2005, 77-80).

“Family History: In Wisdom and in Order” by Elder Dallin H. Oaks (Ensign, June 1989, 6).

“Turning the Hearts” by Elder Hartman Rector, Jr. (Ensign, May 1981, 73).

