

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MORMONISM



Edited by
Daniel H. Ludlow

*The History, Scripture, Doctrine, and Procedure
of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

Macmillan Publishing Company
New York

Maxwell Macmillan Canada
Toronto

Maxwell Macmillan International
New York Oxford Singapore Sydney



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compulsion to be constantly busy. Church members are encouraged to use judgment in how much they undertake and are counseled not to run faster than they have the strength (Eccl. 9:11; Mosiah 4:27; D&C 10:4).

The importance of work is to be balanced with other worthwhile pursuits. Members are exhorted to be anxiously engaged in a good cause (D&C 58:26–28), including the fine arts, music, dance, and literature (D&C 88:118; 136:28). Brigham YOUNG taught the need for a balance between physical and mental labor: “Some think too much, and should labor more, others labor too much, and should think more, and thus maintain an equilibrium between the mental and physical members of the individual; then you will enjoy health and vigor, will be active, and ready to discern truly, and judge quickly” (JD 3:248).

The Latter-day Saint work ethic was clearly evident during the settlement of the western United States. After the Mormon pioneers entered the Salt Lake Valley, they immediately began turning the desert into fertile farms and thriving cities. Their motto became “Industry,” and their symbol, the beehive. During the first decade there, the Mormons colonized approximately ninety-six communities, and before the end of the century at least 500 more (see COLONIZATION). Opinion surveys indicate that Latter-day Saints continue to accept the moral importance of work and take pride in craftsmanship.

[See also Occupational Status.]

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DAVID J. CHERRINGTON

WORKS

[*God has made provision through the atonement of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the human family. Those things that God does for mankind are called “grace.” Those things that people have to do for themselves are called “works.” Both are necessary.*

The Lord requires all persons to do all that they can do for themselves to obtain salvation. For instance, James said, “Faith without works is dead” (James 2:26), and John wrote that the dead are judged “according to their works” (Rev. 20:12). Paul emphasized grace, but did not exclude works: “By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:8–10). Also, “as ye have always obeyed, . . . work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Philip. 2:12). Likewise, Nephi₁ wrote, “We know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do” (2 Ne. 25:23).

Latter-day Saint doctrine teaches that works alone can never bring salvation, but good works accompany both faith and grace. Articles pertaining to this topic are Atonement; Commandments; Enduring to the End; Faith; Grace; Judgment Day; Justification; Obedience; Righteousness; Salvation; Second Estate.]

WORLDLY, WORLDLINESS

Latter-day Saints use the term “world” to refer to the planet Earth as well as to the social conditions created by those who live carnal, sensuous, and lustful lives (MD, p. 847). Worldly refers to people whose thoughts and interests are engrossed in fleeting, temporal pursuits of mortality such as power, success, gain, or pleasure.

Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36), and “I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). In endeavoring to follow his example, Latter-day Saints seek to overcome the world as he did by valuing spiritual wealth and eternal treasures above earthly goods and attainments.

The apostle PAUL defined worldly pursuits as “adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: . . . they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal. 5:19–21). In contrast, the things of God or the fruits of the spirit are “love,