

3. “We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.”

Atonement means “a reconciliation or reparation”. This means to repair something that is broken or not fixed, and restore what is broken. When Adam and Eve partook of the fruit in the Garden of Eden, they were not able to live in God’s presence anymore because they broke a commandment. BUT, there was a way for them to obtain forgiveness. They learned that Jesus Christ would be their Savior, and they could repent and be able to go back to Heavenly Father to live with him again (See Moses 5:14-15).

Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane for all the sins of the world, all those people who lived in the past, all the people who lived in his day, and all of us who have lived since he was on the earth. He pleaded and prayed for us. He knew it was a hard mission. He offered up his own life so that we could be able to repent and live in Heaven with Heavenly Father again. After he suffered greatly in the Garden of Eden, he was crucified and resurrected, making the Atonement complete. He had to die so that it sealed the promise that he made with God in the Garden.

What are the laws? The laws – or commandments – of the Gospel are in the scriptures. Moses received the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai (see Exodus 20). Jesus also gave instructions as he taught while on the earth. (see *Jesus Christ – teachings* in the topical guide) Later, Joseph Smith received a revelation to compile a *Book of Commandments* (See D&C 42). We know this as the *Doctrine and Covenants*.

We are only able to be saved, or in other words, to return to Heavenly Father, through obeying the commandments or laws of the Lord that are given to us by the scriptures and the prophets, as well as having all the Gospel ordinances done. Ordinances are sacred active participations that are done according to Heavenly Father’s direction. These ordinances are:

1. Baptism by immersion
2. Receiving the Gift of the Holy Ghost
3. Receiving the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthood if a male
4. Receiving our own endowment (other sacred promises) in the temple
5. Being sealed to our sweethearts for time and all eternity.

We know that there are many who have died before they could receive these ordinances. That’s why we have temples. Worthy members who have temple recommends can go to the temples and do the work for those that have already died. That’s why genealogy is so important as well. We have to know who has lived before us, who needs to have their temple work done, and do it for them.

“The Atonement”

We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel (A of F 1:3).

[“The Atonement,” Friend, Mar. 1995, 48](#)

“Jesus Christ was in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, a Jewish celebration to remember when the angel of death passed over the children of Israel just before pharaoh let Moses lead them out of Egypt.

Jesus’ disciples arranged for an upper room for the celebration feast, and Jesus and his Apostles gathered there for what would be his last supper with all of them. He taught them the ordinance of the sacrament. They sang together, and then the Savior offered a prayer, asking Heavenly Father to protect and strengthen his followers, since he knew that soon he would no longer be with them.

After the prayer, Jesus and his disciples left the upper room and walked across the Kidron Valley to the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. Jesus asked his disciples to “Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder” (Matt. 26:36).

Jesus knew that he was about to face great suffering. The time of the Atonement had come. He went a short distance from his disciples and began to pray. As he made payment for all our sins, his pain was so great that he pleaded, “Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done” (Luke 22:42).

More than one hundred years before Christ’s birth, King Benjamin prophesied that during the Atonement Jesus would “suffer temptations, and pain of body, hunger, thirst, and fatigue, even more than man can suffer, except it be unto death; for behold, blood cometh from every pore, so great shall be his anguish for the wickedness and abominations of his people” (Mosiah 3:7).

Following the Atonement, Jesus was arrested, tried, and crucified. After hanging on the cross for six hours, he said, “It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost [died]” (John 19:30).

Jesus was buried in a tomb. On the third day, he rose from the dead, a resurrected being. He had broken the bands of death.

The Book of Mormon prophet Jacob, who lived before Jesus was born, prophesied of his Atonement, saying, “He cometh into the world that he may save all men if they will hearken unto his voice; for behold, he suffereth the pains of all men, yea, the pains of every living creature, both men, women, and children, who belong to the family of Adam.

“And he suffereth this that the resurrection might pass upon all men, that all might stand before him at the great judgment day.” (2 Ne. 9:21-22.)

The Atonement accomplished two things. First, *all* mankind will be resurrected. Second, those who repent of their sins can be forgiven. Christ revealed to Joseph Smith that “I, God, have suffered these things for all, that they might not suffer if they would repent” (D&C 19:16).”

“What Laws Mean”

“What Laws Mean,” *Friend*, May 1976, 5

Complete the following twelve statements by deciding on the correct answers from the lettered possibilities below.

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| 1. A commandment and law for good health is the ____. | a. “law” of gravity |
| 2. Cain disobeyed the law that reads ____. | b. no other gods |
| 3. If you walk against a red light you have broken a ____. | c. Word of Wisdom |
| 4. To not steal means to keep one of the ____. | d. laws of the land |
| 5. A ball thrown into the air falls to the ground because of the ____. | e. gift of repentance |
| 6. Paying taxes is an act of obedience to a ____. | f. Ten Commandments |
| 7. “Thou shalt have ____ before me.” | g. “Thou shalt not kill” |
| 8. The fact that a feather weighs less than steel is a ____. | h. ninth commandment |
| 9. Latter-day Saints are commanded to obey the ____ in which they live. | i. traffic law |
| 10. People who continually break the laws and refuse to change their behavior are called habitual criminals or ____. | j. incorrigibles |
| 11. A privilege and blessing for anyone who disobeys our Heavenly Father’s laws is the ____. | k. natural law |
| 12. The ____ warns us to not tell falsehoods. | l. man-made law |

The Law of the Church

Adapted from Doctrine and Covenants Stories (PBIC037A)

(See D&C 42.)

"The Law of the Church," *Friend*, June 1985, 18



1 In Kirtland, Ohio, the Lord gave a very important revelation to Joseph Smith called “the law of the Church.” The Lord said that the Saints should teach the gospel to all people and that men who go on missions should be ordained to the priesthood by leaders of the Church.



2 The Lord also said that two missionaries should work together, teaching from the Bible and the Book of Mormon. They should pray for the Holy Ghost to be with them to inspire them. And they should baptize the people who believe in the gospel.



3 The Lord said that members of the Church should obey the Ten Commandments.



4 The Saints should take care of sick members, and worthy Melchizedek Priesthood bearers should bless them. Sick members who have faith will not die if it is not their time to die. However, righteous Saints should not be afraid to die, for death will be wonderful for them.



5 The Saints should share what they have with other people, just as Jesus shared. Members should be clean, work hard, and do their best in all things.



6 Jesus will give many revelations to righteous members and teach them many things. If the Saints obey the law of the Church, they will be happy.