

JUST AS A ROPE OBTAINS ITS STRENGTH FROM MANY INTERTWINED INDIVIDUAL STRANDS, SO THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST PROVIDES THE GREATEST PERSPECTIVE OF TRUTH AND OFFERS THE RICHEST BLESSINGS AS WE HEED THE ADMONITION OF PAUL TO "GATHER TOGETHER IN ONE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST."

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GATHER TOGETHER IN ONE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

Just as a rope obtains its strength from many intertwined individual strands, so the gospel of Jesus Christ provides the greatest perspective of truth and offers the richest blessings as we heed the admonition of Paul to “gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him” [Ephesians 1:10]. Importantly, this vital gathering of truth is centered in and focused upon the Lord Jesus Christ because He is “the way, the truth, and the life” [John 14:6]. . . .

Sometimes as members of the Church we segment, separate, and apply the gospel in our lives by creating lengthy checklists of individual topics to study and tasks to accomplish. But such an approach potentially can constrain our understanding and vision. We must be careful because pharisaical focus upon checklists can divert us from drawing closer to the Lord.

The purpose and purification, the happiness and joy, and the continuing conversion and protection that come

from “yielding [our] hearts unto God” [Helaman 3:35] and “[receiving] his image in [our] countenances” [Alma 5:14] cannot be obtained merely by performing and checking off all the spiritual things we are supposed to do. Rather, the power of the Savior’s gospel to transform and bless us flows from discerning and applying the interrelatedness of its doctrine, principles, and practices. Only as we *gather together in one all things in Christ*, with firm focus upon Him, can gospel truths synergistically enable us to become what God desires us to become and endure valiantly to the end.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is a magnificent tapestry of truth “fitly framed” [Ephesians 2:21] and woven together. As we learn and link together revealed gospel truths, we are blessed to receive precious perspective and increased spiritual capacity through eyes that can see the Lord’s influence in our lives and ears that can hear His voice.

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