

Follow Him

Episode 110: Dr. Jordan Watkins

Doctrine and Covenants 20-22

“The Rise of the Church of Christ”

Show Notes

Podcast General Description:

Follow Him: A *Come, Follow Me* Podcast with Hank Smith & John Bytheway

Podcast Episode 8 Description:

Part 1:

How do we define church? Is it an organized group? Is it people with a common idea? Listen to John, Hank, and Dr. Jordan Watkins as we learn how the Church was organized, how to define church, and are reminded to not argue with members of other religions. Learn how Joseph and Oliver develop the first “handbook,” why we shouldn’t conflate men with the priesthood, and we are reminded about this being a continual restoration.

Part 2:

Joseph and his friends officially organized the Church on April 6, 1830, in the Whitmer home. Hank, John, and Dr. Watkins return to discuss the importance of record-keeping in the early Church, the reality of the Lord bringing the Saints along gradually, and how the Prophet grows in understanding for what the Lord has in mind for His people. We, along with Joseph, learn to put aside our prejudices and preconceived notions to help the Lord establish His baptism, his covenants, and His Church.

Timecode:

Part 1

- *00:00* Welcome
- *02:19* We Introduce Dr. Jordan Watkins
- *06:22* Instructed to Be Builders as a Church
- *09:16* Content Against No Church
- *20:25* Abner Cole Starts Publishing Negative Responses to the Upcoming Book of Mormon
- *11:57* Abner Cole Wants to Fight Joseph Smith
- *15:15* John Gilbert Adds Punctuation to the Book of Mormon
- *21:59* Joseph Realizes He is to Organize a Church
- *26:21* Revelation Is Not a Passive Exercise
- *29:59* Much of the Doctrine and Covenants Revelations are in Response to the Book of Mormon Translation
- *38:38* Transcendentalism and How it Affects Joseph and Oliver
- *47:00* Restorationists near Palmyra in 1820-30s
- *49:25* Not Unusual to Have a Church with Very Few Members Hold Office in 1830

Part 2

- *00:00* Part II Begins
- *00:20* Offices in the Church in 1830
- *03:38* Moroni and His Influence on Early Church Structure
- *05:31* Benefit of Wrestling with a Project
- *09:03* Joseph Officially Organizes the Church
- *11:42* Members Given the Gift of the Holy Ghost
- *15:32* Wilford Woodruff Keeps Records
- *19:04* Abundance of Records in Nauvoo but Not as Many Previously
- *22:01* The Lord is Going to Ask His People to Do Hard Things
- *28:02* Zion is Now a Place and not a Cause
- *30:44* Joseph is an Emotional 24-year-old Man
- *34:14* Revelation upon Many and Joseph Smith Senior and Lucy Mack Smith Baptized
- *37:43* April 6 is Often an Important Day in Our History
- *42:04* Baptism is Viewed Differently in Different Denominations
- *47:17* Section 20 Reminds Us to Set Aside Preconceived Ideas
- *51:46* The Sacrament is a Tool to Access the Savior

- 53:16 Elder Packer Story with Young Man Having Trouble with the Sacrament Prayer
- 55:48 Dr. Watkin's Testimony

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BIO:

Jordan Watkins is from Alpine, Utah. He received a PhD in American history from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He also has a BA in history from BYU and an MA in history from Claremont Graduate University. His book manuscript, *Slavery and Sacred Texts: The Bible, the Constitution, and Historical Consciousness in Antebellum America*, examines the ways in which antebellum biblical and constitutional debates over slavery brought awareness to the historical distance separating Americans from their hallowed biblical and Revolutionary past. His interest in American history stems from a lifelong fascination with Latter-day Saint history, and his work in that field has appeared in the *Journal of Mormon History*, *Mormon Historical Studies*, and a number of edited volumes. He has presented at conferences of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, the Society for U.S. Intellectual History, the African American Intellectual History Society, and the Western History Association. He was a volume editor of the Documents series of *The Joseph Smith Papers* before joining the faculty in Religious Education.



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