

EPISODE 27

Dr. Bradley R. Wilcox



D&C 71-75

“No Weapon That is Formed Against You Shall Prosper”

Show Notes

Podcast General Description:

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

Do you ever feel that preparing for your weekly *Come, Follow Me* lesson falls short? Join hosts Hank Smith and John Bytheway as they interview experts to make your study for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints’ *Come, Follow Me* course not only enjoyable but original and educational. If you are looking for resources to make your study fresh, faithful, and fun--no matter your age--then join us every Sunday.

Podcast Episode 27 Description:

Part 1:

What is grace, and what role does it play in our lives? This week’s guest, Dr. Brad Wilcox, answers these and other questions as he likens grace to a scholarship--it is a gift that keeps on giving if we use and accept it. Hank, John, and Brad discuss how to address the Ezra Booths of our day, making it ‘us against the adversary,’ rather than ‘us against them.’ Finally, they touch on how both Edward Partridge and Newel K. Whitney felt less than qualified for their callings as bishops. What can we do as members to help lighten the bishop’s load?

Part 2:

Some people feel like if they didn’t, or couldn’t, serve as a young missionary they are less, and that they lost their opportunity to serve. In this episode, Dr. Wilcox returns and expounds on missionary work. He points out that the Lord has been modifying mission calls for a long time, and we don’t need to stigmatize those who come home early. Youth missions aren’t the only way to serve the Lord. He teaches us to not lose hope for those who have wandered away from the church and to never give up on them. He emphasizes Doctrine and Covenants 75:24: “...it is the duty of the church to assist in supporting the families of those...who are called and must needs be sent unto the world to proclaim the gospel unto the world.” Everyone has something they can offer to the work of the Lord.

Timecode:

Part 1

00:00 Welcome to followHIM

01:13 Introduction of Dr. Brad Wilcox

04:56 Working together on the Lord's team (still intro)

12:18 Introduction to D&C 71-75

13:49 Story of Ezra Booth joining and leaving the church

18:02 Missionary work comes in many shapes and sizes

20:50 Discussion on grace--comparing it to a scholarship

23:06 Applying grace to the parable of the talents

27:44 "No weapon formed against you shall prosper"-- anti-church material can convert people to the church

32:17 Don't target individual enemies of the church; it is everyone against the adversary

34:12 John shares his insight on the word "receive" from D&C 71:6

35:29 Best way to teach the gospel is to live it, not target individual "enemies" of the church

40:07 Introduction to Section 72; Newel K. Whitney is called as bishop

44:02 Discussion on the bishop's responsibility and involvement with youth

52:40 We need a culture shift away from bishops as counselors

55:20 Ward members' talents are included in the Lord's storehouse

59:12 Bishop's role is to manage the storehouse; he should use the youth as his tools in doing the work of salvation

1:02:25 Newel K. Whitney is 'the man' :)

Part 2

00:00 Part II begins

01:12 Transition between mission life and regular life, changing your perception of God's work

03:39 The Lord teaches us to do what is "practical"

06:38 Background of Section 74, love those that are inactive

09:10 Children are sanctified by the Lord

12:30 Have clean hands and a pure heart--don't only clean the leaves, but strengthen the tree

15:44 Parents will have the chance to raise their children who have died

16:49 The importance of the revelation about children being sanctified to Joseph Smith

18:33 Introduction to Section 75

20:09 John's modified mission experience

21:22 Discussion on modified missions

25:00 Story of Alma going back to Ammonihah

27:22 The Lord changes our missions throughout our lives

31:31 People might struggle after missions, but they're still better off for it

33:28 Story about Luke Johnson as a humorous missionary

35:00 Examples of early saints who had their own struggles with the church
38:38 Orson's Pratt's experience
39:59 Don't give up on those who are off the path
42:32 Hank's insight on the raising of Lazarus from the dead
43:29 Christ is a successful and loving parent, trust him to help those who are wandering
46:06 Brad's experiences in his calling as mission president
50:45 Brad's story about a pilot bringing supplies for the mission
52:21 Examples of those who support the missionaries
55:38 Brad's testimony

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Biographical Information:



Bradley R. (Brad) Wilcox received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Brigham Young University (BYU) and his doctorate from the University of Wyoming. He is currently a professor in BYU's Department of Ancient Scripture. He is the author of the book *Atonement* and the BYU devotional address "His Grace Is Sufficient."

Dr. Wilcox has served in several Church callings, including full-time missionary in the Chile Vina del Mar Mission, bishop in the Chile Santiago East Mission, counselor in a YSA stake presidency, and member of the Sunday School general board. Most recently, he served as stake counselor and stake Young Men president.

Dr. Wilcox was sustained as the second counselor in the Young Men general presidency on April 4, 2020.

Dr. Wilcox was born in Provo, Utah, on December 25, 1959. He and his wife, Deborah Gunnell, have four children and eight grandchildren.

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