



“Great Shall Be Their Reward and Eternal Shall Be Their Glory”

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 Description:

Part 1:

Steve Harper shares why the Saints referred to this section as “The Vision.” Before the First Vision was shared widely, “The Vision” of the Three Degrees of Glory changed the soteriology of salvation. Dr. Harper explains how this series of visions and commentary was not only controversial but how God has provided a way for most of His children to return. This expansive revelation changes the Saints' view of grace and salvation forever.

Part 2:

Dr. Harper returns with Hank and John to discuss how Section 76 elaborates when Paul says that we can be “joint-heirs with Christ.” We hear Dr. Harper share why he reveres Joseph Smith and what Dr. Harper feels are Joseph's greatest gifts. Join us with one of the Church's foremost historians to discuss one of the most profound revelations of this dispensation.

Timecode:

Part 1

- 00:00 Welcome to Part I, Episode 28: Dr. Steven Harper
- 02:14 Dr. Steven C. Harper Bio
- 04:32 Introduction to Section 76: Protestantism in America
- 07:49 Soteriology of Heaven and Hell in 1830s America, the Book of Mormon and Section 76
- 12:04 Section 76 was referred to as The Vision: Brigham Young struggled with the revelation
- 15:16 Universalism in the 1800s
- 20:34 Eternal life or damnation vs. multiple glories
- 22:45 Additional background to Section 76 and Sidney and Phebe Rigdon
- 28:33 John shares story of the John Johnson home
- 29:50 The Vision occurs then tar and feathering of Joseph and Sidney
- 31:59 Prophets are called by God but are fallible: Story of Ezra Booth and Symonds Ryder
- 34:19 Bad assumptions lead to poor faith and require more study. CFM requires you to lead your own study
- 38:49 First ten verses of Section 76 are introduction by the Lord
- 42:46 Verse 11 is the voice of the visionaries and then answers to Joseph and Sidney's specific question about the Resurrection of the Just and Unjust
- 47:13 Notice the sensory descriptions and witness by the Visionaries in Section 76
- 48:27 The scriptures testify of many seeing God
- 50:49 Discussion about Lucifer and Perdition
- 54:18 We choose glory or perdition
- 55:23 End of Part I

Part 2

- 00:00 Welcome to Part II
- 00:08 Who will be resurrected?
- 01:54 Calvary and Gethsemane are part of the Atonement

- 04:11 Everyone will be saved unless they don't choose it
- 13:13 Not every Saint loved the Vision and how it sounded like Universalism
- 15:44 God commands us to not speculate on perdition
- 16:46 We should record the hand of God in our lives
- 21:01 The Resurrection of the Just and Unjust
- 22:47 The most important thing we can do is make covenants
- 27:47 The Lord teaches about the temple in D&C 76
- 29:01 The Celestial Kingdom depends upon agency not perfection
- 32:19 Repent relentlessly and the new Young Women Theme
- 37:08 Those who die without the Gospel will have their chance
- 42:17 What is hell?
- 46:22 God asks, "What do we love?"
- 49:40 Who inherits the Celestial Kingdom
- 54:15 We can do nothing without Jesus Christ
- 58:12 What happens to people of other denominations?
- 1:03:22 Jesus Christ is the protagonist of Section 76
- 1:10:48 Dr. Harper's thoughts about the Restoration and the Prophet Joseph Smith

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Biographical Information:



Steven C. Harper is a professor of Church history and doctrine at Brigham Young University. In 2012 Steve was appointed as the managing historian and a general editor of *Saints: The Story of the Church of Jesus Christ in the Latter Days*. He was named editor in chief of *BYU Studies Quarterly* in September 2018. He served in the Canada Winnipeg Mission (1990-1991) and married Jennifer Sebring (1992). They graduated from BYU (1994). He earned an MA in American history from Utah State University, where his thesis analyzed determinants of conversion to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the 1830s. Chapters were published in the *Journal of Mormon History and Religion and American Culture* and awarded by the Mormon History Association with the T. Edgar Lyon Award for best article of the year and the Juanita Brooks Award for the best graduate student paper. Steve earned a PhD in early American history from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He began teaching courses in religion and history at BYU Hawaii in 2000 and joined the Religious Education faculty at BYU in 2002. That year he also became a volume editor of The Joseph Smith Papers and the document editor for *BYU Studies*. He taught at the BYU Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies in 2011–2012. His first book was *Promised Land* (Lehigh University Press, 2006), a study of Lenape or Delaware Indians' responses to a fraudulent 1737 land deal in colonial Pennsylvania. He also authored *Making Sense of the Doctrine and Covenants* (Deseret Book, 2008), *Joseph Smith's First Vision* (Deseret Book, 2012), and *First Vision: Memory and Mormon Origins* (Oxford University Press, 2019), along with dozens of articles.

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