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GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

Jesus Christ, Our Chosen Leader and Savior



THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Jesus Christ, Our Chosen Leader and Savior

Jesus Christ Was Chosen as Our Savior

During our premortal life, Jesus Christ was chosen by our Father in Heaven to be our Savior. When Jesus lived on earth, He taught: "I am come that [all people] might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10, pages 1344-45).

When you're in prison, you are limited in where you can go and what you can do. But you can decide now to give your heart and mind to God. Jesus Christ wants you to have a full, abundant life. If you choose to repent and follow the teachings of Jesus, you can begin to receive many blessings, even during your incarceration.

The War in Heaven

Because our Heavenly Father chose Jesus Christ to be our Savior, Satan (the devil) became angry and rebelled. There was a war in heaven. Satan and his followers fought against Jesus Christ and His followers. The Savior's followers "overcame [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony" (Revelation 12:11, page 1577).

In this great rebellion, Satan and all the spirits who followed him were cast down from heaven. They could never receive physical bodies.

Because we are here on earth and have physical bodies, we know that we chose to follow Jesus Christ and Heavenly Father. Satan and his followers are also on the earth, but as spirits. They have not forgotten who we are, and they sometimes tempt us to do bad things. In our premortal life, we chose to follow Jesus Christ and accept God's plan. We must continue to follow Jesus Christ here on earth. Only by following Him can we return to our heavenly home.





We Have the Savior's Teachings to Follow

From the beginning, Jesus Christ has revealed the gospel, which tells us what we must do to return to our Heavenly Father. At the appointed time, the Savior came to earth Himself. He taught the plan of salvation and exaltation by His word and by the way He lived. He established His Church and His priesthood on the earth. He took our sins upon Himself when He suffered in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the cross at Calvary.

By following His teachings, we can inherit a place in the celestial kingdom, or heaven. He did His part to help us return to our heavenly home. It is now up to each of us to do our part and become worthy of eternal life.



Additional Scriptures

- **Revelation 12:7–9, 11, page 1577; D&C 76:25–29, pages 138–39** (the War in Heaven)
- **2 Nephi 9:39, page 76** (being spiritually minded leads to eternal life)
- **D&C 14:7, page 25** (eternal life is the greatest of God's gifts to us)
- **Moses 4:1–4, page 9; Abraham 3:22–28, pages 35, 38** (the Savior was chosen in the premortal life)



LOOK
THEM
UP

“Behold, I am he who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem my people. Behold, I am Jesus Christ. I am the Father and the Son. In me shall all mankind have life, and that eternally, even they who shall believe on my name.”

Ether 3:14, page 493

Personal Experience

When I was sentenced to prison, I felt empty, alone, and hopeless. But then I saw a few inmates return back to living units smiling and glowing and talking about the freedom they felt. They led me to institute classes in the prison chapel, and finally I came to understand the freedoms through Christ that my fellow prisoners were feeling.

I never realized how important having the Lord in my life was. I never imagined the beauty and love that comes with knowing Jesus Christ.

We humans suffer so much pain and affliction from the choices we make. We are tempted by Satan every day. I am an addict in recovery, and my recovery would be nothing without Jesus Christ. I tried over and over again to fight my addictions by myself. Deep in my addictive behavior, I was mad at God because I couldn't understand how a God who was supposed to love me could let me hurt so much.

But then one day we read the words of our Savior in one of our classes:

"Peace be unto thy soul; thine adversity and thine afflictions shall be but a small moment; and then, if thou endure it well, God shall exalt thee on high; thou shalt triumph over all thy foes" (D&C 121:7-8, page 240).

This scripture calmed me and helped me learn that I should strive to be acceptable to God and not worry as much about being acceptable to others. The Lord Jesus Christ has greatly blessed me to conquer my addictions and has become my true friend.

"I am an addict in recovery, and my recovery would be nothing without Jesus Christ."



How did the Savior's followers overcome Satan in the premortal life? What does this example teach you about overcoming Satan's influence in this life?

What goals will help you to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ in your life now?

Is there anything else that you have learned from this lesson that you would like to share?

Name _____ **Offender #** _____