

January 13, 2019

Why Preparedness from the Church?

Provident living: living in a manner that looks to the future. Why does The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints care about something like preparedness or provident living?

While there are a few “Dooms-day Preppers” out there, currently most people are not concerned about preparing for the future. In fact, once thriving food storage companies are going out of business. Perhaps that is because Satan’s old anti-Christ philosophies are alive and well, and to some extent even Church members are affected by these. All of Satan’s ideas focus on the present, pleasures, and personal priorities rather than inspiring us to follow the Savior. Here is a list of anti-Christ teachings from the Book of Mormon and their modern updates:

- God created all people and will save all people. - Updates: As long as you live the way you believe is good, it will all turn out in the end; or Christ loves all of us so much that He died for us so that we can be forgiven (no matter what we do or whether we repent).
- You should enjoy yourself and not be burdened by the traditions of parents. - Updates: It’s best not to be too serious, too good, or too religious; or The prophet and apostles are old guys from another generation with old-school ideas that are too strict for our time.
- B of M anti-Christ’s downplayed or denied the coming of Christ saying that no one could know of these things. Our update: Nobody really knows when the Second Coming is, so I’m not going to worry about it.

Do these sound familiar? In contrast to the above Satan-inspired philosophies; the Church has always taught us to prepare ourselves both spiritually and physically for the future.

We are asked to prepare for baptism, then be ready to partake of the sacrament on Sunday, and have the Spirit with us always. We are to build testimonies that are deep for times of trial. We are to prepare for missions and the temple. We are to prepare for the Second Coming of Christ and watch for the signs. We are to prepare ourselves to meet God and become like Him in eternity.

We are to pay attention to taking care of our bodies and minds so that we may care for ourselves and others. We are to gain skills, knowledge, and understanding of all good things so that we are better able to live and serve. We are counseled to prepare for emergencies or other events in which our current ability to be self-reliant may be compromised. We are counseled to look ahead and evaluate what the result of our daily actions may be and bridle our passions so that we don’t face negative consequences down the road.

For members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, preparedness and provident living, both temporal and spiritual, should be a way of life.

The Importance of Self-Reliance

In the war in heaven, all of us fought for the Father’s and Christ’s plan that focused on agency so that we would have the ability to become like our Father. Agency is vital to our progression. Our Heavenly Father and Christ have great respect for our agency.

When we are not self-reliant, we usually give up our responsibility, our decisions, and our choices by letting circumstances or others dictate our actions and outcomes. We often become dependent on others. While that might make some things easier, it is not the Lord’s way. He wants us to progress and grow as much as possible by choosing and acting of our own free will. Self-reliance fosters that growth. *If you are not

prepared, you often lose the ability to be self-reliant and your agency is diminished.

Who Says?

History and the scriptures are full of messages to prepare both temporally and spiritually. We have been given such counsel in our day. Lately we have mostly heard talks about spiritual preparation in general conference. That doesn't mean that temporal preparation is unimportant. It means that the temporal needs and circumstances for different areas, and the ability to meet those needs are vastly different world wide. Therefore, these needs can no longer be addressed generally in conference.

You may find admonitions to prepare in the church magazines specific to a language, or more recently our Area Seventy presidency has taken this responsibility to counsel the saints in our area. If you think their counsel isn't as important as the prophet's think again. They are under the direction of the First Presidency, which is under the direction of the Lord. They have the stewardship to specifically counsel the members of the Church in our area. They have given us counsel and directions for temporal as well as spiritual preparedness within the last year. Personally, I am grateful to have them direct us in ways specific to where we live.

We all have access to conference talks, the new home curriculum, and other general sources to spiritually prepare. However, we don't all have the specific direction from the Seventy for temporal preparedness in the same way. I am your representative entrusted through the stake to share the direction from the Area Seventy as it relates to temporal preparedness. This is your publication to reference for the most recent direction in temporal preparedness. Therefore, I will do my best to pray for direction and share what I know regarding ways to follow the direction of our Area Seventy and to prepare for the future, especially temporally. You have your agency whether or not you are going to act on that council.

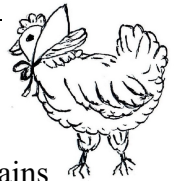
These are the seven things we have been counseled to prepare now by the Presidency of the Seventy over our Area.

1. Water
2. A three-month supply of food you eat on a regular basis
3. A year's supply of basic foods with a long shelf life that could help sustain life
4. Financial reserves
5. Important papers
6. Medications and first aid supplies
7. Warm clothing and bedding (enough for a year or more)

I will cover these things in the issues of Provident Papers throughout the coming year. If you keep your papers they can be compiled into a book with an index so you have a good reference should questions arise as you seek to follow the council that has been given.

Notes from Red Hen

The Little Red Hen Story



Here is the folk tale of the Little Red Hen in a nutshell: One day the Little Red Hen found some grains of wheat, and looking ahead, she decided to plant the wheat. She asked, "Who will help me plant the wheat?" The pig, dog, cat, and other animals all said, "Not I!" So the hen did it herself. As she tended, reaped and milled the wheat, and made bread, each step of the way she asked who would help and the answers were all the same. Finally when her wheat was baked into bread, all of the animals willingly volunteered to help her eat it. She said, "You did not help me plant, tend, reap, mill, or bake. Now I will eat it myself."

While my son was helping me put a few jars of peaches on my meager storage shelves he asked, "So in an emergency are you going to be like the Little Red Hen?" His question has given me a lot to think about over the last four years, and it has inspired the lighter part of Provident Papers about the Red Hen.