



**Gospel Doctrine: Sermons and Writings of
President Joseph F. Smith (Classics in Mormon
Literature)**

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President Joseph F. Smith was so long in the public service of the Church that his published sermons and writings would fill many volumes. The difficult problem of the compilers of this volume has been to make a collection of extracts that would do full justice to the man and that, at the same time, could be contained in a volume of moderate size. Every reader who knows Church literature will note the shortcomings of the work; and none more than the compilers. However, incomplete as it may be, this collection is well worth while, for it contains a wealth of gospel wisdom, to instruct, comfort, and inspire the Saints.

The literature of the Church has been carefully and systematically searched to discover all of President Smith's public writings and sermons. Those of a historical nature have not been used in this collection, as they may well be made into another volume.

Gospel Doctrine: Sermons and Writings of President Joseph F. Smith (Classics in Mormon Literature) Details

Date : Published January 1st 1986 by Deseret Book (first published 1919)

ISBN : 9780875790633

Author : Joseph F. Smith

Format : Hardcover 553 pages

Genre : Religion, Christianity, Lds, Church

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Heather says

Very informative, I learned things I didn't know!

Dave says

Audio Download from LDSaudio.com, length of recording was 16 hrs 18 min.

Read this book around 11/8/07

John says

That's right. I read Chapter 1, then I gave it 5 stars. Reason? An abundance of truth. Almost every sentence can be engraved on any plaque. Now, that's legit.

Ramona McConkie says

My love for this prophet has grown many-fold. What a strong, valiant, unyielding man of faith. His own words speak "volumes" about his character.

Heather says

Great book! President Joseph F. Smith teaches some of the plain, simple, and important truths of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. I am grateful for his faith and testimony in words and action. I love the topics he covers, especially revelation, free agency, obedience, marriage--the home and the family, love your enemies, education, and eternal life. The gospel is true!

Some of my favorite quotes:

"After we have done all we could do for the cause of truth, and withstood the evil that men have brought upon us, and we have been overwhelmed by their wrongs, it is still our duty to stand. We cannot give up; we must not lie down. Great causes are not won in a single generation. To stand firm in the face of overwhelming opposition, when you have done all you can, is the courage of faith. The courage of faith is the courage of progress. Men who possess that divine quality go on; they are not permitted to stand still if they would. They are not simply the creatures of their own power and wisdom; they are instrumentalities of a

higher law and a divine purpose (p. 119)."

"Is it any wonder that the Lord can hear you when you whisper, even in your secret closet? Is there any doubt in your minds about it? If man can communicate across the continent by means of a telephone without wires--by means of human intervention, by reason of the wisdom of man, is there any one who doubts the ability of God to hear the earnest, honest supplication of the soul?...Do not for a moment doubt that the Lord has means of hearing and understanding your innermost, exact thoughts (p. 216)."

"There is just one power, and one only, that can prevent war among the nations of the earth, and this is true religion and undefiled before God, the Father. Nothing else can accomplish it....there is but one remedy that can prevent men from going to war, when they feel disposed to do it, and that is the Spirit of God, which inspires to love, and not to hatred, which leads unto all truth, and not unto error, which inclines the children of God to pay deference to him and to his laws and to esteem them as above all other things in the world (p. 418)."

Johann says

I started reading this book in the hopes of finding a source to back up the claim that obedience to the law of tithing does not necessarily lead to financial or economic gain/benefit. However, in that I was sorely disappointed. Yet, both President Hinckley and Sister Sheri Dew gave high praise to this book, claiming it to be doctrinally sound and considering Joseph F. Smith to be well educated in spiritual matters. On their recommendation alone (both of whom I admire), I've wanted to read the book through and, therefore, continued reading. What I gained was helpful insight in other areas, such as the human nature of prophets, how to pray, and how to preside, amongst many other sound and uplifting teachings.

Some of the teachings in the book that I found to be outdated or inaccurate included the idea that men should seek jobs in fields of manual labor instead of professional fields, that women should cease to study frivolous things like art and music and should instead focus their learning on housekeeping, that those who leave the church will be "damned," and that some people are just "born liars" (which may be true, but does not fit the current teaching against predestination). Other things were just humorous, such as the idea that women at the turn of the century were "scandalous" in their attire and that we should avoid studying the writings of philosophers and reading novels.

Overall, I found the book uplifting--particularly the sections detailing the life of President Smith. Yet, I would not consider this book to contain the ultimate "Gospel Doctrine"--that title was given not by Joseph F. Smith, but by the editors of the book--and hope that readers will read this book for what it is: sermons and writings of Joseph F. Smith, informal and all.

Rex says

A good resource for his extensive teachings. Some of the writings are dated and a little conservative.

Shad says

This is one of the best books I have ever read. President Smith was an amazing man and orator. His wisdom, revelation and simple explanations of doctrine are invaluable.

Russ says

Of course it was awesome

Dr. says

Beef! It's what's for dinner. This book is loaded to the hilt with the absolute sound scholarly teaching that dispels darkness.
