

# Legacy

## A Personal Testimony of The Plan of Salvation

By James F. Goodrich

*Preface: I have gone to great lengths to confirm the correctness of my statements in the following message. It contains my personal observations regarding matters of a spiritual nature. It is mainly for the benefit of my posterity, extended family members, and loving friends, including a few individuals that have presented me with questions about my religious beliefs over the years.*

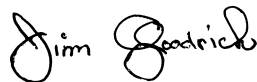
*I am aware of my limitations and imperfections; therefore, if any of my words do not accurately convey the messages given to us through the scriptures and by our church leaders, then I take full responsibility.*

*I am not as adept in the scriptures as I would like to be, and I fall short in many areas; but I have a testimony of our Savior and His atoning grace.*

*The following pages were written with love and affection, and with a desire to share the blessings within the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others. I am writing this as legacy of truth to my posterity, and I am including it within my personal history.*

*I believe if parents and grandparents were here today, and given the opportunity to speak, their thoughts would be in harmony with the following brief religious summary.*

*It is my prayer that this writing will be accepted by the few that read it, and in the same spirit as it was written.*



*Jim Goodrich*

One might ask why members of THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS believe that mortal beings have the potential within them to become gods. It is because we have apostles and prophets on the earth today that have been given priesthood authority, and they receive revelation from God in behalf of all mankind. They have reaffirmed the words of ancient prophets by telling us that we are the literal offspring of deity.

That proclamation should not feed our pride and vanity, but rather should humble us when we consider the inherited potential that is within each of us. The scriptures do tell us that we are created in the image and likeness of God. ([Genesis 1:26-28](#)) We too, are commanded to pray to our Father in Heaven. ([Matthew 6:9-13](#)) We are told that: “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:” ([Romans 8:16](#)) This particular scripture reference tells us how it is; the potential to become a god is in the genetic makeup within each of us. However, the following verse expounds on that point: “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with [him], that we may be also glorified together. ([Romans 8:17](#))

I am at a loss as to why it is so difficult for many in the modern-day Christian world to accept these simple truths. Because of our unbelief or unwillingness to keep all of God’s commandments,

perhaps most of us will never obtain our godly potential. I am reminded of what Paul said in his letter to Timothy in speaking of the people in our day: “...having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” ([2 Timothy 3: 1-5](#))

I would like to testify that we did live in the spirit world prior to our mortal life here on earth. ([Jeremiah 1:4-5](#)) We knew one another in that sphere, and we were all enveloped in the protective love of our Eternal Father in Heaven. ([Job 38:4-7](#))

Jesus Christ and Lucifer were both spirits, as we were. ([Isaiah 14:12-14](#)) That is why Christ has on occasion, been referred to as our elder brother. ([Teachings of Lorenzo Snow, p.48 & 119](#))

At a stage in our pre-mortal development in order to further our eternal progression we needed to gain a physical body. ([Harold B. Lee, Stand Ye In Holy Places, p. 9, 10, 13.](#)) A grand council had been organized and the “Plan of Salvation” was presented to us in detail. ([Joseph Fielding Smith Jr., Answers to Gospel Questions, Vol.1, p.181](#))

Agency and liberty are as fundamental to heavenly and earthly laws as the law of gravity is to mortals in this sphere. In the spirit world, we were all given the opportunity to “choose for ourselves.”

Lucifer, having obtained great priesthood power and authority had become corrupted by his own pride and vanity. In paraphrasing, he said: “Let me take these spirits to the earth; I will force them to obey, not one soul will be lost, and the glory will be mine.” Christ said: “Let me take these spirits to the earth; I will teach them proper principles, allow them to govern themselves, and the glory will be Thine.” Christ’s plan was accepted, Lucifer rebelled, and there was a war in heaven. Lucifer became Satan, and he drew one third of the hosts of heaven (one third of all our spirits) with him. ([Joseph Fielding Smith Jr.](#))

Prior to our entrance into this mortal world our Father in Heaven judged each of us. He did so in all fairness, taking in to consideration every variable needed to make a proper assessment of our progress up to that point. We came to this earth in one of three general divisions, dependant upon our valiancy and dedication in the pre-existence. ([Genesis 10:1](#)) He knew what we needed and he put us in to the various social and family settings that were best for our particular needs based upon our previous choices and decisions. In that light, you could say that we did choose our own families here on earth.

Because of their position in the pre-mortal life Satan and his followers were never given the opportunity to receive physical bodies; rather, they were cast down to this earth as spirits and are working very hard to gain control over us. Satan and his followers are now, and will continue to be eternally blocked from having a physical body. That is their punishment for having not kept their first estate.

Under the direction of Jesus Christ and Adam (Michael the Archangel), this earth was created. It was created first spiritually and then physically. We were very anxious to come here, and we awaited our arrival with great anticipation.

We knew and loved one another then. On occasion, many of us have felt a special closeness to a particular individual in this life. Perhaps it is because of a previous friendship we had with them in the spirit world. Of course, that particular statement expresses my own thoughts and should be received in that context.

In the pre-mortal world Adam was a valiant warrior in defense of truth and righteousness. Because of their great devotion to God and His plan, Adam and Eve were worthy to become our first earthly parents. When they were placed in the Garden of Eden the first commandment given to them was to multiply and replenish the earth. ([Genesis 1:28](#))

The forbidden fruit was a literal fruit, the fruit of knowledge of good and evil. It was not positioned in some obscure section of the garden; rather it was placed in the midst of the garden where they would see it on a regular basis. God commanded them not to eat of it or they would surely die.

Satan, not knowing the intentions of God, and having gained power over the serpent, used, in part, an eternal truth to convince Eve to partake of the forbidden fruit, thus breaking the commandment and causing death and sin to be introduced into the world. ([Genesis 3:1-6](#))

A physical change took place in Eve's body chemistry at that time. They were then unable to procreate in that condition. Adam, by partaking of the forbidden fruit knowingly transgressed a lower law in order to keep the commandment to multiply and replenish the earth. Had he not, "the plan of salvation" would have been circumvented.

God knew what Eve was going to do, and He knew what Adam's response would be. Blood and sin had to be introduced into the world in order for "the plan of salvation" to go forward. Therefore, it was through the shedding of His own blood that Christ made atonement for Adam's transgression. ([2 Nephi 2:22-30](#)) reading the complete chapter best conveys the overall message

Satan and his angels play a very important role in our eternal progression. Exaltation requires us to have knowledge of both good and evil. There must be opposition in all things, that we might cultivate our willpower and gain appreciation for those things that are upright and beneficial to our receiving eternal life.

Yes, we are the literal offspring of deity. However, the Savior has told us: "Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." ([Matthew 7:13-14](#))

There is a fundamental difference between salvation and exaltation or eternal life. Through Christ's atonement we are all heirs of salvation, but our willingness to keep God's commandments will have much to do with where we are saved.

Families can be together forever, but not without our performing the necessary ordinances here on earth that make it possible. Baptism and sealing ordinances for the living and dead are true principles taught and practiced by the apostles of Christ. ([1 Corinthians 15:29](#) - [Matthew 16:19](#))

After His crucifixion Christ spent time in the spirit world organizing His missionaries and preparing them to teach His gospel among those spirits, many of which were never given the opportunity to hear His teachings or accept the plan of salvation while on the earth in their second estate. ([1 Peter 3:19](#) - [1 Peter 4:6](#))

We are all sinners; and therefore, we each fall short of the glory of God. No unclean thing can abide His presence, and mercy cannot rob justice. Therefore, it was necessary from the beginning to provide for us a Savior to make a remission for our sins, that through repentance and obedience we may return to the presence of our Father in Heaven.

Christ took upon Himself the sins of the world. He did for us that which we cannot do for ourselves. Therefore, He is the only way by which we can receive salvation and eternal life.

Because of the atonement of Jesus Christ, salvation in the resurrection comes to all mankind as a free gift. ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)) However, our works will play a big part in determining where we are saved. ([Revelation 20:12](#)) Our sins of omission can also be very detrimental to us, as God will not reward us for things we have not done. ([James 4:17](#))

Our Father in Heaven is a God of order, not confusion. [\(D&C 132:8\)](#) There is only one gospel doctrine from God given to all mankind. However, our free agency allows us to exercise our own interpretation of that doctrine. That does not necessarily mean that our interpretation is correct, as the ability to distort the truth is common to the nature of man.

There are thousands of Christian professing religions in the world today. There are even more non-Christian religions. There is a reason for there being Lutherans, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Seventh-Day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, and a host of other Christian professing religions, all teaching conflicting doctrine. Many of them began in protest to the Catholic Church, and then to each other. That is why they are referred to as Protestants. And few of them understand the necessity of having priesthood authority in the administration of church ordinances.

Is baptism by immersion really important? The Baptists seem to think so, as well as THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS.

Should Sabbath day worship be from sundown Friday through Sundown Saturday? The Seventh-Day Adventists and some others are very adamant regarding their position on that subject.

Is it important for us to have a true understanding of the Godhead? Or is the perception that He is large enough to encompass the universe, yet small enough to dwell in ones heart explanation enough? That deduction certainly satisfies most of the modern-day Christian world.

Does a university theological degree qualify a person for ministering in the priesthood and performing its ordinances? Many churches base their core beliefs on that premise. These questions may seem trivial to some. However, we all need to understand their significance. There are correct answers to each of them if we will but search and pray.

As I mentioned before, Satan and his followers are eternally damned (blocked) from obtaining physical bodies.

Those of us that kept our first estate in the pre-mortal life are promised a physical resurrection and a place in one of three degrees of glory. [\(2 Corinthians 12:2\)](#) (One exception will be the sons of perdition, which I believe will be very few in number.) These glories are all wonderful places to be when compared to this mortal world. We will be able to progress within them forever; however, there are some very substantive distinctions between and within these various kingdoms. The Savior said: "In my Father's house are many mansions..." [\(John 14:2\)](#) We are all on different levels of eternal progression. Our station in the eternal worlds will very much depend upon our faithfulness and our willingness to keep all of God's commandments, here and now.

Procreation and eternal life are inseparably connected to the highest degree of glory (celestial kingdom). Families can and will be together forever; but those blessings will only be given to those individuals willing to live the celestial laws that govern that particular kingdom.

The celestial kingdom requires of us earthly covenants and ordinances that can only be performed here and in this estate. If we are unwilling to live the law, or have chosen to reject its truths, then a law that we can abide will be given to us in one of the lower kingdoms (telestial or terrestrial). Again, "Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

We can be comforted in knowing that our judgment will be measured with divine fairness. We can ask for no more. In the final analysis it matters not what mortal man philosophizes religion to be, as we will be obliged to accept things as they really are and as they really will be.

The Bible has been translated many times over. There is no doubt in my mind that many important and precious messages of admonishment and direction have been lost through the centuries. That is why it is so very important for us to have apostles and prophets on the earth today, to guide us by divine inspiration and according to the will of God.

We live in “the dispensation of the fullness of times.” The priesthood is upon the earth, and through the priesthood man has been given the authority to act in the name of Christ. The ancient prophets have foretold our day, and their words do not always portray the best of times. For a second time now, I mention Paul’s letter to Timothy wherein he refers to the conditions of the people in our day: ([2 Timothy 3:1-5](#))

This physical earth was created for those of us that kept our first estate. When it becomes celestialized and receives its paradisiacal glory it will be an eternal home for every individual that has repented of his or her sins, accepted our Savior’s teachings, is baptized, and is willing to continue living His celestial laws.

As to the spirit world, it too exists on this earth in a different sphere. Given the proper circumstance and setting the veil can become very thin. I am familiar with too many instances of near death experiences to ignore the reality of spirit world contact or heavenly visitations. Biblical historical records support that premise.

We live in a period in the mortal existence of man that has been prophesied of since the beginning. We are preparing for the great millennial reign of our Savior Jesus Christ. It is not only unreasonable to consider, it is contrary to His teachings in thinking that the Lord would leave us without divine revelation at such a critical time in our eternal progression.

Many Christian professing churches are teaching their members that there is no need for further revelation from God, as they consider the teachings from the bible all that is needed. That sounds much like the mentality of the people in reference to the Old Testament when our Savior walked upon the earth in the meridian of time. In reference to these people we ask the Lord to forgive them, as they appear oblivious to the error of their ways.

I appreciate any opportunity to discuss the scriptures with my children, and non-members; however, our perceptions of the meaning being conveyed in many of the biblical passages are not always the same. I believe all of the words given to us by the ancient prophets. The course of study in our gospel doctrine class rotates its teachings every year beginning with the Old Testament, and then the New Testament, Book of Mormon, and Doctrine and Covenants. Every fourth year our church members extensively study each book.

Latter-Day Saints believe the bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly. We also recognize that other sacred writings do exist that can be helpful to increasing our spiritual knowledge. If we were to include recent discoveries (1947) from the “Dead Sea Scrolls,” I have been told that it may be possible to add to the bible another fifty-four books, or more, not including the Ebla discoveries in Syria, and many others.

The passages referred to in Revelations [22:18-19](#) refers to that particular book, not all-biblical history. However, many so-called religious scholars have a tendency to teach their own doctrine on that subject.

And what about the people that translated the Old and New Testaments, particularly during the “Dark Ages?” Were they doing so through divine inspiration? Perhaps we will one day have an

opportunity to ask King James' translators that question. I think Martin Luther would be happy in having the freedom to articulate his thoughts on the subject.

There are words with meanings in Hebrew that have no exact counter-part in Greek. Without divine inspiration, translators can only guess at what words come closest to the true meaning. I will make reference to only one such instance - Exodus 32:9-14 We may recall, this was a time when Moses was up on the mountain receiving higher laws from God. Moses had been gone for longer than they felt he should have been, and the people were becoming concerned that he may not be coming back. They convinced Aaron to build a golden calf, that they might worship it. The children of Israel were degenerating quite rapidly in a very short period of time:

9 And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it [is] a stiffnecked people:

10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.

11 And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?

12 Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.

13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit [it] for ever.

14 And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

Now, is the Lord omnipotent in need of repentance? Is He capable of breaking a promise to His people? Perhaps we may need some time to contemplate those questions. I do suggest that a prophetic translation would shed further light on the subject. I refer you to the Joseph Smith translation.

Families are a very integral part of the overall plan of salvation. If some individuals feel no natural affection toward extended family members, then I encourage them to do what is necessary to develop or strengthen positive feelings in that particular area of their lives. Others can sense ones true feelings and it is only natural for them to respond accordingly. If our thoughts and actions are contrary to the strengthening of family relationships, then our quest for happiness will become filled with unnecessary obstacles.

I too, would admonish each family member to encourage and become an active part of family reunions. Gain an interest in your grandparents and great-grandparents, and seek to learn more about them. Pray for your ancestors and you will gain closeness to them. Don't think of them as being deceased, but rather, consider them as temporarily separated from you and look forward to a reunion with them sometime in the future. I promise that we will one day have the opportunity to meet many of our ancestors, and it would be nice if we were to know who they are and whence they came.

As members of the human family our love and affection for others should extend well beyond our biological families. My wife and I have a close association with ward and stake family members. Their friendship and company is very rewarding to us, and we feel greatly blessed because of it. We appreciate joining others in experiencing the spiritually uplifting thoughts and feelings that emanate from congregational worship of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Book of Mormon is a religious history of a people that inhabited this American continent in ancient days. It is another witness of our Savior Jesus Christ, and it testifies of His divinity. It was brought forth in these latter days by an angel of God. ([Book of Mormon](#))

Joseph Smith said: “I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.” ([November 28, 1841 - DHC 4:461](#)) I testify to my family and friends, and especially to my posterity; I know that a prophet of God made that statement. And I know because the Spirit has told me so, and I cannot deny it. If you will read the Book of Mormon with an earnest desire to know the truth, and you petition the Lord as to its truthfulness, He will also make it known unto you through that very same spirit. However, as I mentioned before, His “Plan of Happiness” is based on the freedom to choose for oneself, and not by force, as force and deceptive persuasion is the foundation upon which Satan’s plan is built.

There has been much written about the Prophet Joseph Smith. Many untruths have been passed on through the generations and added upon over the years. I testify that he was a true prophet of God. He did restore the gospel of Jesus Christ in its fullness. And no other person that has lived upon the earth has done more to benefit mankind, with the exception of Jesus Christ. We should not allow lies about Joseph Smith or other church leaders to keep us from the truth, as Satan desires our soul and will use all the tools at his disposal to accomplish his goal. ([Excerpts from Joseph Smith’s History](#))

I will take a moment to focus on the Prophet Joseph Smith and the restoration of Christ’s church. If an individual can come to an understanding of the basics, everything else seems to fall into place. However, if he or she is unwilling to seek further light and knowledge with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, then all of the truth in the heavens, or on the earth, will be unacceptable to them. I came to a realization many years ago, and I paraphrase the following adage; “If we attempt to change ones mind against their will, they will remain of the same opinion still.”

Briefly, I would like to touch on a few important aspects to the subject of Joseph Smith being a prophet of God:

(1) An angel of the Lord did prophecy to Joseph Smith in 1823 that his name would be known for good or evil all over the world. The fulfillment of that prophecy cannot be denied, as his name is known for good or evil among millions in all of the civilized nations of the earth today. What was the probability of that happening without that prognostication being a true revelation from God?

(2) Twenty-eight years prior, Joseph Smith prophesied the coming of the Civil War, and even told the city where it would begin. ([D&C 87:1](#)) That war is documented history.

(3) If we read the Book of Mormon, and we do so honorably and with a real intent to learn the will of God, the truthfulness of its words will be revealed unto us through the power of the Holy Ghost. We will then undeniably know that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God.

(4) Joseph Smith prophesied the coming of the saints to the Rocky Mountains, and told of the cities that the saints would build, as well as the hardships they would endure for their religious beliefs.

Many more subsequent modern-day prophets have also passed on to us very substantive revelations from God. Many of them have come to pass. Others will soon come to pass. Most of the modern-day world is oblivious to them, as they are too busy telling the people that God has ceased to communicate with mankind through His servants the prophets, a direct contradiction to gospel doctrine. ([Amos 3:7](#))

Our ancestors were persecuted, murdered, and driven from Missouri, and then from Illinois in a country that should have protected them under a constitution that I believe was inspired of God.

After the saint's departure, a fire that was caused by an arsonist and a subsequent tornado destroyed the original Nauvoo temple. One hundred and fifty-eight years later it has been rebuilt and now stands as a tribute to the Prophet Joseph Smith and as a testament to the truthfulness of modern-day revelation.

In reference to the stone cut out of the mountain without hands, as recorded in the book of Daniel, and in fulfillment of that prophecy, the gospel of Jesus Christ is continuing to roll forth and the truthfulness of His gospel is being manifested unto ever nation, kindred, tongue and people.

Christ's church is a missionary church. Our member's children grow up looking forward to going on a two year mission and bringing the saving ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ into the lives of others. Bringing people unto Christ is a very rewarding experience. It teaches the young missionaries an understanding of the law of sacrifice at an early age, and it prepares them to be good citizens in a world deceived by a false sense of values.

These young missionaries are encouraged to earn at least half of their own expenses prior to being called. In many (if not most) instances other family members pay the balance. As one can see, there is a very deep feeling of commitment among most of our active members.

These young men and women are called and set apart to present the first principles and ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who are seeking truth and have been prepared by the Lord and touched by His spirit in regards to receptiveness. It is not an easy job. They are expected to work very hard and adhere to strict moral standards. Yet, they are more than willing to give generously of their time, talents, and substance in behalf of others. ([Matthew 19:21](#))

Our prophet and all of our church leaders consider every member a missionary. We do have thousands of older members, mostly couples, called on church missions all over the world. Many of these callings are to church service missions. They too, are willing to devote selfless service and accept the financial burden, as it is a labor of love.

My wife and I are presently not available to serve a mission, as I am currently serving in a stake calling. I have the opportunity to see the miracles of our Lord working in the lives of our members on a daily basis. I am doing my best to become a better person and be prepared for whatever is in store for us. I do look forward to the time we will be able to fill a full-time mission, if it is the Lord's will.

Within the confines of this writing I have only touched on a few important points of doctrine. The Lord has given us what we need for our salvation, milk before meat. We adults have a tendency to complicate gospel teachings and take issue with the simplest of doctrine. Our pride and vanity often interferes with our common sense. The precepts within the gospel of Jesus Christ are clear-cut and can be understood by the most simple among us. We should first prepare ourselves to receive God's spirit, and then be receptive to the promptings of that spirit. Perhaps we need to humble ourselves and become as little children ([Matthew 18:1-5](#))

I know beyond any shadow of a doubt whatsoever, that Jesus is the Christ; He is the light of the world and is our way back to the Father. He is our Savior and is the only way by which we can receive salvation and eternal life.

Jesus is the only begotten Son of God. He came into the world under the most humble of circumstances, withstood temptation beyond our comprehension, and lived a sinless life. He suffered in the garden of Gethsemane for our sins. He was then unjustly accused, condemned to death, and crucified on the cross. After three days He was resurrected, established His church, and gave His apostles authority to carry on His work.

Priesthood authority was taken from the earth as a result of the apostasy that took place after the death of the ancient apostles.

In this dispensation, God the Father and His son Jesus Christ appeared to Joseph Smith in the sacred grove. Subsequently, the Angel Moroni appeared to Joseph and brought forth the Book of Mormon.

John the Baptist appeared to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdrey and restored the Aaronic Priesthood and authority to administer its ordinances.

Peter, James and John appeared to them and restored certain keys belonging to the Melchizedek Priesthood.

Later, the Lord Jehovah appeared to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdrey in the Kirtland Temple and accepted the Kirtland temple as His house.

Moses then appeared in vision and committed the keys of the gathering of Israel.

Elias appeared, and committed the dispensation of the gospel of Abraham.

Afterwards, Elijah the prophet then appeared in another great and glorious vision and returned the keys to the sealing of the children to their fathers. ([Malachi 4:5-6](#) & [D&C 110: 1-16](#)) The temple endowment and marriage covenant are all part of the restoration of Christ's Church in these latter-days. I testify to you as to the truthfulness of the restoration.

I have made some reference to the Book of Mormon and our Doctrine and Covenants, as well as the Documentary History of the Church. I too, have referred to a few of our modern day prophets. But most of my references have been made to the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

In closing, as a legacy to my posterity I would like to commit this writing to them, and bear my personal testimony as to the truthfulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I know beyond any shadow of a doubt that Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God. I too, testify to you that I know that Gordon B. Hinckley is a true and living prophet of God; and as Peter in ancient days, he stands today as president of Christ's Church here upon the earth, and as a conduit in bringing the words and will of God unto each that will have ears to hear God's messages to us.

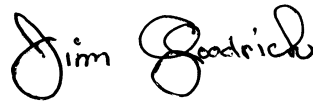
We desire the gospel blessings for everyone, and especially for our immediate family and their posterity. How truly grateful I am for our ancestors that sacrificed greatly for the establishment of God's kingdom here upon the earth.

I am grateful for my dear wife Virginia, and the support she has been to me over the years. I love her dearly, and I look forward to her being by my side throughout eternity.

Virginia and I are very much aware that our eternal blessings are all predicated upon our willingness to keep those very sacred covenants we made at the holy alter in the temple of our god. It is my constant prayer that we will be given the strength to endure in righteousness until our sojourn here upon the earth in this mortal existence comes to an end.

It is also my prayer that all of our children will one day be accepting of the saving ordinances of the gospel.

Above all, I am grateful for my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for the sacrifice He made for me and in behalf of all mankind. I am grateful for His doctrine of repentance that makes it possible for me and each of us to be forgiven of our sins and return to His fold. May the blessings of Israel be upon each of us as we seek to be of service to our fellow man and extend our love, one to another. This is my testimony and prayer in His beloved name, Jesus Christ, Amen.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Goodrich". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

James F. Goodrich  
2004