

"Living Hope: The Road Less Traveled - Part 1"

with Elder Zach Wilson

Adult Study Class Study Notes

September 28th, 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/live/dDcFHQtzStc>

<https://www.livinghopebranch.org/living-hope-the-road-less-traveled-part-1/>

Summary

The class titled “**Living Hope, Choosing the Road Less Traveled**” explores the Christian concept of life as a probationary state—a temporary period meant for spiritual preparation and choosing to serve God. Rooted in teachings from the Book of Mormon, particularly the book of Alma, the message emphasizes that life is a deliberate journey requiring daily decisions to follow Christ’s example, even when that path is less popular or more challenging.

Elder Zach Wilson reflects on personal experiences, including the recent passing of his father, whose love for scripture and teachings about life after death deeply influenced his understanding of faith and repentance. Key scriptures highlight that life is a test where individuals must choose between good and evil, with repentance being both essential and possible during this mortal probation. Supporting these ideas are quotes from Charlie Kirk that frame Jesus Christ as the perfect example of how to live and the gift of eternal life through accepting Him. The lesson further contemplates the universal human condition—everyone sins and falls short, deserving spiritual consequences, but salvation is a free gift of grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

The teaching culminates in an interactive reflection on the equation “Jesus plus nothing equals everything,” illustrating how faith in Christ alone fulfills all spiritual needs. The personal nature of Jesus’ role in believers’ lives is underscored, inviting participants to consider their own relationship with Him as central to their faith journey.

Highlights

1. **Life is a probationary state**, a period for spiritual preparation and choosing to serve God.
2. **Choosing the road less traveled signifies** making intentional, daily choices to follow Christ, even when difficult.
3. **The Book of Mormon teaches** that men must choose between good and evil, with repentance being vital and time-limited.
4. **Jesus Christ is both the perfect** example of how to live and the gift offering eternal life.
5. **All humans are sinners** and deserve spiritual consequences, but salvation is freely given through faith in Christ.

6. **The phrase “Jesus plus nothing equals everything”** encapsulates the sufficiency of Jesus alone for salvation and spiritual fulfillment.
7. **Personal experiences and testimonies** highlight the profound and intimate nature of a believer’s relationship with Jesus.

Key Insights

1. **Life as a Probationary State: Spiritual Preparation and Accountability**
Life is not random or meaningless; it is a designated time to prepare for eternity. This probationary concept, deeply rooted in scripture, implies accountability and conscious decision-making. It challenges believers to recognize that their daily choices have eternal significance, making faith an active, ongoing commitment rather than passive belief.
2. **Choosing the Road Less Traveled: Embracing Difficult but Righteous Paths**
The metaphor of the “road less traveled” symbolizes the deliberate choice to follow Christ’s teachings, which often run counter to societal norms or personal convenience. This highlights the Christian call to courage and perseverance, encouraging believers to prioritize spiritual integrity over popularity or ease.
3. **The Role of Repentance: A Limited Opportunity in Mortal Life**
Repentance is presented not just as a theological concept but as an urgent, time-sensitive opportunity. The scriptures cited reinforce that mortal life offers a unique window to repent and align with God’s will, underscoring the importance of not delaying spiritual decisions.
4. **Jesus Christ: The Perfect Model and Gift of Salvation**
Jesus Christ’s dual role as both example and Savior is central. His life demonstrates how believers should live, and His sacrifice enables eternal life for those who accept Him. This duality enriches Christian discipleship by combining ethical living with grace-based salvation.
5. **Universal Human Need: Recognizing Sin and the Gift of Grace**
The lesson levels the playing field by emphasizing that all humans fall short and deserve spiritual consequences. This universality dismantles barriers of social, economic, or denominational differences and focuses attention on the necessity of grace, making faith accessible to all.
6. **Faith Illustrated: "Jesus plus Nothing Equals Everything"**
This succinct equation conveys a profound theological truth: salvation and spiritual fulfillment come entirely through Jesus, without the need for additional works or merits. It challenges believers to put complete trust in Christ and rely wholly on His grace rather than human effort.

7. **Personal Relationship with Jesus: The Heart of Christian Experience**

The testimony portion of the lesson stresses the deeply personal nature of faith. Encountering Jesus is not merely doctrinal but based on study and observation, transforming lives through intimate knowledge and connection with Him. This personal dimension is essential for sustaining faith and commitment in the face of challenges.

Conclusion

This teaching calls Christians to intentionally act in their spiritual walk, encourages reliance on Christ, and invites reflection on the eternal implications of mortal choices. It blends scriptural doctrine with contemporary testimony, reinforcing hope and commitment on the Christian journey.