

Where should I go to learn the really “deep” doctrine of the Church?

When you hear the word *deep* in connection with gospel doctrine, it’s sometimes meant to suggest something mysterious, obscure, or difficult to understand. But perhaps a better way of thinking about it is to consider which teachings *affect us most deeply*. Our relationship with Heavenly Father, His plan, Jesus Christ’s Resurrection and Atonement, His teachings—these and many others are the “deep” doctrine. God has revealed them to prophets. They’re easy to find. They’re in the scriptures. They’re taught by modern prophets and apostles. The Holy Ghost carries them unto our hearts (see 2 Nephi 33:1). They enlarge our souls, enlighten our understandings, and are delicious to us (see Alma 32:28). They help us build “faith unto repentance” (see Alma 34:15–17). They cause a deep change in us. That’s why they’re deep, not because they’re “out there” or hidden.

This doesn’t mean our study should be superficial. There’s plenty to learn through more study. But as Nephi said, “My soul delighteth in plainness; for after this manner doth the Lord God work among the children of men. For the Lord God giveth light unto the understanding” (2 Nephi 31:3). **NE**

What is the test of this life for people who never hear the gospel—which is the vast majority?

Most people who have lived haven’t had the opportunity to accept the gospel of Jesus Christ in this life.

We believe they will have the opportunity to accept it in the spirit world and receive salvation because of Jesus Christ’s Atonement (see D&C 137:7–9; 2 Nephi 9:25–26). But what does this life mean for them, then?

Joseph Smith explained, “God judges men according to the use they make of the light which He gives them” (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* [2007], 405). This light includes the Light (or Spirit) of Christ, which “is given to every man, that he may know good from evil” (Moroni 7:16). All of us come into this world with some ability to know right from wrong, and we all will be judged by how well we use that knowledge to choose right, including eventually accepting the gospel, whether here or in the spirit world. The way we treat others, the way we respond to whatever truth we encounter—these are important for all of us in Heavenly Father’s plan, even those of us who never learn about the gospel. **NE**

