## UPDATE: 4-29-2017

## GUIDELINES FOR ADDING TO THE SCRIPTURES

1 Nephi 13 describes "other books" that would come forth after the Book of Mormon. These books:

- Prepare the way to the fulfilling of the Lord's covenants which he hath made unto his people who are the house of Israel (1 Ne 14:17)
- Convince gentile, remnant, and Jew that the records of the prophets and the 12 apostles of the Lamb are true. (1 Ne 13:39)
- Establish the truth of the record of the 12 apostles of the Lamb (1 Ne 13:40)
- Join with the Book of Mormon to make known plain and precious truths. The "other books" restore truths that have been taken away from the record of the 12 apostles of the Lamb (1 Ne 13:35, 40-41)
- Make known to all people that they must come unto the Lamb of God or they cannot be saved (1 Ne 13:40)

We have a unique opportunity to present scriptures to the Lord to first define our faith. Next, He will measure what we present by His standard, especially by the prophecy of Nephi, before offering a covenant. Hence the need to include only things that He has revealed that are relevant and necessary. Even inspiring, beautiful and insightful teachings may fall short of His standard.

All relevant revelations from Joseph's dispensation are to be included in the material presented to the Lord before the offer of a covenant. The term "relevant" means that it directly applies to us as a guide, precept, teaching or commandment for we who are not in an institutional, corporate church, but equal followers of Christ seeking to become unified in faith and practice. Based on Nephi's prophecy, we propose the following criterion for new submissions to the scriptures.

- 1-The new submission prepares people to fulfill covenants with the Lord.
- 2-It restores truths taken away that are needful going forward.
- 3-It teaches men must come to Christ to be saved.
- 4-It establishes the truth of earlier testimonies.
- 5-The new submission is not an unnecessary duplication of existing scripture, but a unique contribution, relevant and necessary.

At least three sets of submission criterion have been proposed by other groups. We recommend all of us familiarize ourselves with their criterion <a href="here">here</a> and <a href="here">here</a> and <a href="here">here</a> before recommending a submission. If, after prayer and study, you believe you have something that should be added to the scriptures after measuring against the standards you choose to apply, then lastly, use Nephi's standard shown above to confirm it meets prophecy in scripture.

#### GUIDELINES FOR RECOMMENDING MODIFICATION OR REMOVAL OF MATERIAL

- Cite the specific material to be modified or removed.
- Please justify why that material is to be modified or removed using the above criteria.
- If you think it may not be obvious how your submission is necessary and meets Nephi's criterion, you should explain your position in more detail.

#### SUBMISSION PROCESS

- 1. Questions get submitted to <u>restorationscriptures2017@gmail.com</u>. From this point forward, a new SUBMISSIONS list will be maintained on <u>www.scriptures.info</u> and updated weekly.
  - a. The SUBMISSIONS list is composed of **content** items that have been submitted to be removed, modified or added to the RE. The justification for the addition or deletion will also be given. Your submission will not be edited as long as the submission is appropriate and brief.
  - b. As this first round is a vetting period, please email us only if you have strong feelings for or against any of the items on the list. If you're fine with what has been proposed or if you don't care one way or the other about the items on the list, don't email us.
- 2. On the 4th of July, a final SUBMISSIONS list will be posted, including the total votes for/against an item. We will then wipe the slate clean of the votes, remove those submissions that are clearly one-sided, and pare down the reasoning to make voting easier.
  - a. From then on, no new items will be added to the SUBMISSIONS list.
  - b. A FORMATTING list will be provided along with proposed samples for a round of vetting similar to the submission process.
- 3. The voting period runs from the 4th of July through Friday, July 28th.
  - **a**. SUBMISSIONS: A final tally will then be taken and the committee will use the votes to add, drop, or modify items.
  - b. FORMATTING: At the beginning of August, a final list will be posted. The body will be given 2 weeks to vote for these items.
- 4. After the body has voted on the content, the Lord will be approached for an answer to whether He approves the scriptures and any necessary changes He requires.
- 5. September 3rd, a <u>live</u> broadcast will be held for each individual to vote to accept these writings as our body of scriptures, our teachings and commandments, and as a sign of accepting God's covenant to make us His people. This final vote is individual in that it applies to the voter, not to the publication of the scriptures that have been accepted by the Lord. This vote cannot take place without His approval first.

# Benefits of this process are:

- 1. We are using simple, easy to reach technology that **anyone**, from anywhere, can use.
- 2. Doing 2 rounds of voting, with reasons given for why an item is listed, gives everyone the chance to be persuaded over time and therefore find confidence in their final decision.
- 3. EVERYONE'S voice gets a chance to be heard.