

Albert H. Davis

EIGHTY-SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Of the Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter-day Saints



Held in the Tabernacle and As-
sembly Hall, Salt Lake City, Utah,
April 6, 7 and 9, 1916
with a full report of
the discourses

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last warning" to men, and your sons and your daughters are boldly, bravely and grandly proclaiming the mission to bring to pass the purposes of God.

Recently a minister said, "The description of the Millennium plainly indicates a revival of the pure faith and practice of primitive Christianity." "It is to be remembered," says this minister, "that the protestant reformation did not effect this. During the millennium period these will be brought back to their best estate, and become dominant, and this state of things will continue during the thousand years." It is our testimony, which we are bearing to the nations of the earth, that this primitive gospel hath been restored to the earth, and with it has been restored the holy priesthood, which is the power and authority to minister in the things pertaining to the Almighty. Jesus said: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world as a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come." Among many nations are heard the voices of your noble sons and daughters, approved of God, choice young men and young women, crying "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

May God grant that the nations of the earth may not be compelled much longer to learn righteousness, to learn repentance, but may they turn to their God with repentant hearts and renewed spirits, and accept the everlasting gospel, be baptized without stubbornness of heart, and with you and me rejoice in the blessings of the everlasting gospel, is my prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

ELDER GEORGE F. RICHARDS.

Convincing character of testimony borne by the Saints—Man should follow Nature's example of obedience to law.

My dear brethren and sisters, if President Joseph F. Smith were in attendance at this concluding meeting of the conference, we might reasonably expect that he would leave his benediction with us, as that is his custom, and I know that many of the Saints look forward with keen anticipation of the privilege of attending the last session of the conference, in the tabernacle, that they may hear his words and receive his blessing. Some of you, no doubt, feel very much disappointed at not having this privilege today. Therefore, as a representative of President Joseph F. Smith and of the Lord, and by the authority of the Holy Priesthood, I bless you, my brethren and sisters. May God's choicest blessings attend you in the future as in the past, and even more abundantly, thus rewarding you for all your faithfulness and integrity in serving Him.

The testimonies to which you have listened this afternoon have been inspired by the Spirit of the Lord, those who have spoken have done so as the oracles of God. Their testimonies and instructions will be published to the world, and shall stand as a witness against those who, hearing or reading these testimonies, shall reject them. To see both the Tabernacle and Assembly Hall filled to overflowing, and at the same time great throngs of people out on the Temple grounds must impress the thoughtful of those who are not of us, with the devotion of the Latter-day Saints to their re-

ligion. I thank the Lord that I am identified with this great work, and have fellowship with you, members of His Church. The Latter-day Saints are, perhaps, more than any other religionists, convinced and sure of the correctness of their religious attitude before the world; this is evident in the strength of their testimonies. Can anyone who has heard these elders speak this afternoon doubt their sincerity or the assurance they have of the truth of their own statements?

The Latter-day Saints have unstinted faith in God; they do not undertake, in any degree, to abridge His knowledge, His power, or His authority. While we regard Him as a man perfected, we accept literally the scriptural declaration, "The Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is." All His creations are governed by laws of His own making, and, excepting man, all His creations are obedient to His laws; hence the order everywhere throughout the universe. If these inanimate creations were as disobedient to laws made for their government as is man to laws made for his government, there would be universal confusion and chaos. On the other hand, if man were as obedient in his sphere as the heavenly bodies are in theirs, there would be like harmony and order, with peace on earth and good will towards men everywhere. If man's disobedience then is apparent, as also its baneful effects, what is the lesson we should learn by it? As for the Latter-day Saints, we *know* better than we *do*, and have need of being impressed with the necessity for doing as well as we know. The poet, Waldo Emerson, felt this same weakness and expressed it in terms as follows: "What I most need is somebody to

make me do as well as I can." The Apostle James declared unto the people of his time: "Wherefore, lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls, but be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." When the Savior was concluding His sermon upon the Mount He seemed to have in mind man's failing and took occasion to leave this admonition as the climax of His sermon:

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man which built his house upon a rock; and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and the rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

It is one thing to give intellectual assent unto the commandments of the Lord, and another to obey the same. It is the obedience that counts for righteousness and for salvation. Obedience is the lesson we need to learn. This lesson learned, as the Lord would have the Latter-day Saints to learn the lesson of obedience, and the first suggestion from the presiding authorities of the Church that we do not indulge in card playing, immodest dancing, immodest dressing, etc., would be sufficient. We sing, "We thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet to guide us in these latter days," and then in many instances refuse to be so guided. This is displeasing to the Lord, as well as being hurtful to the individual.

Prejudice in the minds of people who have been misinformed in relation to the Latter-day Saints and their religion, is a great barrier in the way of such people receiving the message of the Gospel which we have for the world. If our lives were consistent with our profession of faith, it would go a long way toward removing this prejudice and preparing the way for effective sowing of the seeds of truth, to the honor and glory of the Lord and the salvation of His children.

May the Lord bless you, my brethren and sisters, and may His peace be upon Zion and her people, and upon all the earth, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The anthem, "Praise ye the Father," was sung by the combined choirs.

The closing prayer was by Elder William C. Parkinson.

OUTDOOR MEETING.

A meeting was held in front of the Bureau of Information, at 2 p. m.; Elder George Albert Smith presided, and the male choir of the Salt Lake L. D. S. U. furnished choral selections, under the leadership of B. Cecil Gates.

The choir and congregation sang the hymn, "How firm a foundation."

Prayer was offered by Bishop Moses H. Pond.

The male choir sang the anthem, "O Death, where is thy sting?"

ELDER JOHN R. YOUNG.

(Of San Juan Stake.)

My brethren and sisters, and friends who may be present here today, I feel very weak and humble

in standing before you, and I do not know whether I will be able to control my feelings so as to speak to you or not; but there is a prayer in my heart, that God will bless me, and strengthen me, that I may be able, for the few minutes that I shall stand before you, to say some things that shall be comforting, and I trust, interesting to us as Latter-day Saints.

I feel very grateful in my heart that I was born of parents who had received a testimony of the divine mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith; and I feel very thankful to my parents for the examples that they always placed before me. My father was a man who believed in prayer. My mother was a Christian woman, she always called her children about her and had them kneel in her presence, and thank God for His mercies to them, every day before they lay down to sleep. I thank my mother for these lessons.

I have had the privilege of going out into the world, away from our people. I was called when I was a boy of sixteen, to go into the mission field to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the children of men. I can recall how feeble and weak I was, and I thank the Christian world for the charity that they had toward me when I was but a child, trying to labor among them. I had them often ask me why I was a Latter-day Saint. I suppose that my replies to that seemed simple and childish to them, but my statements were honest and truthful.

In the early years of my life I remember meeting the Prophet Joseph Smith. I was a sickly child; had suffered for two weeks, perhaps, with the chills and fever. I was a little skeleton, and peevish,