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OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS



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*With a Full Report of All
the Discourses*



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labor, shorten the work of the laborer, goes on producing and producing just as it has in the past two or three years, we will be flooded again and will be in the same old condition. I do not see any other outcome, even if times change so that we can go on a little way with the hire and salary method, and begging for a job to work. In the phraseology of the streets, we are right up against it. We really don't know what to do.

THE WAY OF THE LORD

I have only time to quote from another revelation that the Lord has given on this same subject. (Section eighty-two of the Doctrine and Covenants) This was given in April, 1832—one hundred years ago next April:

"For Zion must increase in beauty, and in holiness; her borders must be enlarged; her stakes must be strengthened; yea, verily I say unto you, Zion must arise and put on her beautiful garments.

"Therefore I give unto you this commandment, that ye bind yourselves by this covenant, and it shall be done according to the laws of the Lord.

"Behold, here is wisdom also in me for your good.

"And you are to be equal, or in other words, you are to have equal claims on the properties, for the benefit of managing the concerns of your stewardships, every man according to his wants and his needs, inasmuch as his wants are just—

"And all this for the benefit of the church of the living God, that every man may improve upon his talent, that every man may gain other talents, yea, even an hundred fold, to be cast into the Lord's storehouse, to become the common property of the whole church—

"Every man seeking the interest of his neighbor, and doing all things with an eye single to the glory of God.

"This order I have appointed to be an everlasting order unto you, and unto your successors, inasmuch as you sin not."

The Lord has provided a way out. People all over the world are groping for a way out. I do not know anything that quite equals this that was given a hundred years ago for the benefit of this Church and the revelations tell us that the center stake of Zion cannot be built up on any other principle.

I see that my time has expired. The Lord bless you, my brethren and sisters, you faithful workers in the cause of Christ. O, how my heart and soul go out to you! You are the salt of the earth. The Church depends on you. God bless you. Amen.

The Choir and congregation arose and sang the hymn, "God moves in a mysterious way."

ELDER GEORGE F. RICHARDS

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

I appreciate very much the honor and privilege of expressing my feelings on this auspicious occasion when many thousands of people are assembled and many thousands of others no doubt are listening in on the radio to the proceedings of this conference. While I appreciate this opportunity I want to say that

there is no other labor I have to perform in connection with my ministry that gives me so much anxiety and concern as that of anticipating a call to speak in the General Conferences of the Church. Notwithstanding the anxiety I have had I have enjoyed this conference exceedingly and I feel in my soul that it is one of the best we have ever had.

I think that in considering the character of this vast audience I might conclude that there are present Latter-day Saints of every degree of faith and faithfulness, and others, good men and women, who have not identified themselves with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I desire with all my heart to be able to say something that will be of interest and profit to my listeners, and to this end I trust that the Lord will help me to bring forth some of the reflections which I have had while sitting here upon the stand.

"We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God."

This, without any qualification or apology.

MORONI'S EXHORTATION

I want to read to you a few verses from the 10th chapter of the Book of Moroni in the Book of Mormon. It was Moroni who had the responsibility of hiding up in the Hill Cumorah, many centuries ago, the plates from which the Book of Mormon was translated; and he had the responsibility of delivering those plates to Joseph Smith, and after they had been translated by the gift and power of God, received them back at the hands of the Prophet Joseph.

Speaking of the time when this work should come forth he said:

"Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things, if it be wisdom in God that ye should read them, that ye would remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men, from the creation of Adam even down until the time that ye shall receive these things, and ponder it in your heart.

"And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.

"And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things."

THE REVEALED WORD OF GOD

We read in the scriptures of the New Testament that "no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of men: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

The things contained in the Book of Mormon are the things of God given to the children of men by the inspiration and power of the Holy Ghost, and so are the things contained in the Doctrine and Covenants, in the Pearl of Great Price, and in the Holy Bible, which books constitute the standard works of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. If we can enjoy that measure of the Holy Ghost

which was felt by and which actuated those prophets of God who spoke the things contained in these books, and wrote them, we will understand as they understood, and they will not be mysteries unto us. Every Latter-day Saint who is faithful, having accepted the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel, having had the Holy Ghost conferred upon him, if he is true to these things, will know the truth when he reads it or when he hears it spoken.

MEN OF GOD

When President Heber J. Grant stood up before the congregation in the first session of the conference and spoke, every true Latter-day Saint who heard him knew that he was and is the Lord's anointed, his mouthpiece and prophet to this people and to the world, as well as being the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I bear testimony to you that I know that he is God's recognized leader of this people and that he is guided by inspiration from on high—a humble man who seeks to know the will of the Lord in all matters pertaining to his work. I am grateful for the association I have had with President Grant and his counselors and with President Joseph F. Smith and those who were associated with him and are associated now in the leading councils of this Church. I know that they are prophets, seers and revelators in very deed. They are men of God, worthy the confidence and the following of this people, and if the people will follow them they will walk in paths which are straight and narrow and which lead to everlasting life.

THE OFFICE OF THE HOLY GHOST

By the power of the Holy Ghost which we through righteousness have a right to enjoy we know that all of those who have spoken in this conference in our hearing have spoken by the power of the Lord. They have spoken words of truth, and words which will make for salvation if we will receive them in good and honest hearts and live by them. This is the office of the Holy Ghost, who is a personage of spirit, one of the trinity of the Godhead. It is his mission and office to bear witness of the Father and of the Son and of the truth of all things. "No man may know that Jesus is the Lord except by the Holy Ghost."

A MARVELOUS MANIFESTATION

I want to say something about these other personages. I desire to call the attention of my hearers to an event which took place more than a century ago—to be more exact, in the spring of the year 1820—when God the Eternal Father and his Son Jesus Christ, in answer to humble but fervent prayer on the part of the boy, Joseph Smith, whom they had raised up for the ushering in of this Gospel Dispensation of the Fulness of Times, appeared to him in vision. I would call your attention to and have you visualize that wonderful manifestation, the greatest perhaps that ever did transpire. I know of no record or

account of an occasion when both the Father and the Son have appeared to any individual at any previous time. I would call your attention to the importance and necessity of that wonderful revelation. You have but to consider today the lack of knowledge on the part of religionists the world over, pertaining to God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost, to realize how necessary it was.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

In 1820 it was just as necessary that this revelation should be given to the world as at any other time in the world's history, I am sure, and more needed because of the ushering in of the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times. We have had the revelation now for more than a century, and as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which Church has been established by inspiration from the Lord through the instrumentality of the Prophet Joseph Smith and those who have succeeded him, we have accepted the Gospel and with it the responsibility of preaching it in all the world as a witness before the end comes. For a century we have tried to present this message to the world, that God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ have revealed themselves anew to man on the earth, and that the children of men need no longer be in spiritual darkness pertaining to the personality and the attributes of these heavenly beings and the relationship which we sustain to them.

IMMORTAL BEINGS

You know the story of the appearing of the Father and the Son to Joseph Smith. Think of it, as the Father and the Son stood there we see them as men, not as women, nor as angels, nor anything else. They stood in the midst of a light although it was at midday, brighter than the noonday sun, and their countenances shone with a glory that was beyond description, showing that they were something more than are we mortal men. And what are they? They are immortal beings. And what are immortal beings? Immortal beings are those who have passed through the change by which there is a separation of the body and the spirit, and then the resurrection, which is a uniting of the body and the spirit, so that there will be no more any separation. And this inseparable connection of body and spirit is necessary in order that one may obtain eternal life. In these heavenly personages we see two immortal beings, two beings who are glorified and exalted, and one of them is the Father, and the other the Son—there can be no question about that, because the personage speaking said to the boy, "This is my Beloved Son, hear him."

CONTRARY TO SECTARIAN BELIEF

Now we come to the scriptures to find out if that is in keeping with the New Testament, and we find that it is. Yet the whole Christian world believe otherwise and have tried to disprove this for more than a century, but they have signally failed and they forever will

fail, for they cannot prove the truth a lie. The Gospel which we have received, with its principles and ordinances, is just as foreign to the views and ideas of the sectarian world as is the fact of the personality of God the Father, his Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost, and yet it is scriptural and true. The belief that is almost universal is that God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ are not personages having bodies of flesh and bones, but that they are something having no body, no parts, no passions; and that Jesus Christ has done for us all that is necessary to be done except to believe on him. I want to say that that is a grave and serious mistake. There has been a falling away from the true Gospel of the Master. Ordinances have been changed, the laws of the Gospel have been transgressed, the Everlasting Covenant has been broken, as it has been predicted they would be.

GOSPEL TRUTHS REVEALED ANEW

The Lord has revealed anew the Gospel of Jesus Christ in its fulness, and it comprises faith in God the Eternal Father, in his Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost. It includes repentance from sin and baptism by immersion in water by one having authority, for the remission of sins and the fulfilment of the law. It includes the laying on of hands by those in authority for confirmation to membership in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and for the bestowal of the Holy Ghost. It includes other ordinances; and we have the holy priesthood. No man can under present rulings go into the temple to receive the ordinances there administered, above those of baptism and confirmation, without bearing the holy Melchizedek priesthood. And there are ordinances there administered which are absolutely necessary for those who would enter into the celestial kingdom, which makes the holding of and bearing worthily the Melchizedek priesthood, a condition necessary for any man to obtain a fulness of glory in the kingdom of God.

Do the world understand that? They have not the priesthood; they have no power to receive it, only as they come into the fold of Christ and receive it at the hands of those who have authority to confer it. That priesthood is conferred upon those only who are proven to be worthy, if those who have the conferring of it follow instructions given and the established order of the Church of Christ.

MARRIAGE FOR ETERNITY

There are other blessings and ordinances necessary to man's exaltation, that the sectarian world know not of; for instance, the eternity of the marriage covenant. Those who attain to a fulness of glory in the celestial kingdom are to have an eternal increase and a continuation of the seeds forever. It is unthinkable and untrue that that condition could exist without sustaining the marriage relation in the other world. But in order that men and women may live there as man and wife they must enter into most solemn covenants that they will be husband and wife for time and eternity, and there must be a solemn ceremony per-

formed by one having authority, sealing them as husband and wife for time and eternity, and then they must live worthy otherwise to enter into the celestial kingdom.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

There are commandments to be kept, laws to be obeyed, and there is service to be rendered. We have to engage in this work of preaching the Gospel abroad. We have to engage in the work of redeeming the dead. This is a service of the very highest type, like unto that which God our Father and his Son Jesus Christ rendered when the Father gave the Son, and the Son gave himself, to be the Redeemer and Savior of this world. Yes, and there are sins to be avoided. We are to learn to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind and strength, and our neighbor as ourself, and manifest it in our life.

Should we not be thankful, Latter-day Saints, for the light of the everlasting Gospel, and although it entails sacrifice, service, self denial, etc., we know that in the end our reward will be ample, even that of eternal life.

I am grateful above all that I can express, for the understanding I have of the Gospel, and of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and the testimony I have of the truth. I praise God for these things. May he add his blessings, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

ELDER SYLVESTER Q. CANNON

Presiding Bishop of the Church

I am happy, my brethren and sisters and friends, to associate with you at this time in this splendid conference and to partake of the spirit of this gathering. But I tremble in the occupancy of this position.

We have met together in this conference to consider matters pertaining to the welfare and progress not only of the Latter-day Saints, but of all mankind. The principles of this Gospel which we accept, and the practices which we endeavor to carry forward are, we consider, not only beneficial to us but to all the people of the earth. We realize that this Gospel has come to us as a free gift. That is, we have not organized it, but the Lord has established it, and we have been offered the opportunity to accept it and enjoy the benefits which come from obedience to it. I am sure that all that has been said in this conference is profitable to all men everywhere.

LEADERSHIP OF MOSES

I am reminded of the time when Moses had endeavored to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt into the promised land. After they had rejected his counsels and instruction, and the Lord had declared that they, as a people, should not enter into the promised land, they were kept in the wilderness until that generation had passed away, with one or two exceptions, and a new generation had grown up.