

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, September 28, 1890, commencing at 2 p. m., President Joseph E. Taylor presiding.

The choir and congregation sang:

The Spirit of God like a fire is burning,
The latter-day glory begins to come forth.

Prayer was offered by Elder David H. Cannon.

The choir sang:

Though deepening trials throng your way,
Press on, press on, ye Saints of God.

The Priesthood of the Nineteenth Ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

ELDER JOHN D. T. MCALLISTER addressed the congregation. He said in substance: I meet my brethren with great pleasure this afternoon in this place, where we have experienced so many blessings. I feel to press on and enjoy with you the sweetness of doing what is right and overcome all those things which are obnoxious to the mind and will of the Lord.

We have come together to be taught, and if I can say anything for instruction and edification, I shall be glad.

I have been laboring for some time in the interest of Temple ordinance work, and in doing so it has struck me that we should be willing to lay aside all unnecessary things and work for ourselves and for the dead. Those who have died without having heard the Gospel should have the benefit of the holy ordinances through our hands. In the word of God we read: "If the dead rise not at all, why then are we baptized for the dead?" Further, we read that the books were opened and the dead judged according as it was written. We have built Temples that we might enter therein and prepare ourselves for this life and that of the future. I have found quite a number of people who enter into matrimony only till death comes, while through faithfulness and obedience they could have gone into the House of God and been united for eternity. It is clear that, according to the revelations of Christ all contracts not made by the word of God are not in force when men are dead. The speaker quoted from the Doctrine and Covenants, Sec. 132, 8th verse, which speaks of the necessity of marriage being performed according to the law of God for eternity as well as time. I exhort our young people to listen to these words and consider that there is nothing lost by going before the Lord and praying him to direct them in accordance with His will. Prayer is always a great blessing, for the Spirit of the Lord follows it, and the Spirit is the Holy Ghost, who leads into all truth, and when we give heed to the whisperings of the Spirit, we never go astray; we will certainly seek for partners in life with whom we can associate through all eternity, if we follow the counsel of that Spirit. We

know that death is only a progressive forwards to eternal glory. We may mourn when our dear ones are laid away in the tomb, but we know that we shall live again and enjoy the blessings of eternity with those who are near and dear to us. Those of our people who are rearing families outside of the ways of the Lord are heart broken when they lay their dear ones away, but that sorrow is only a foretaste of what will be when they are separated forever. They have chosen to have it so, and they will have what they have chosen. We wish them to take another course, to return and bring with them all those who wish to keep the word of God.

To the dead we cannot speak, but we can speak to the living in their behalf. We have temples into which thousands have entered and received great blessings, and thousands are still called upon to come and perform work for the dead. Some members of your families may have gone before and done a great work, while others have put it off. It is our duty to liberate those from the prison houses and unlock the doors and say to our kindred, Come forth and enjoy the blessings of the Gospel. How nice it would be if all the members of a family could go together and perform the grand work for their dead friends.

We have found in many instances that work for the dead has been done, and when we have a record thereof it is not necessary to do it over again. If we only have the names we can perform the work, and complete the record of dates, etc., when we can, and as this is a great work laid upon our shoulders, we should certainly lay everything aside and do what we can. I have spoken of taking our children with us, for they have responsibilities as well as their parents. All can take part and become indeed "saviors upon Mount Zion." Just think of the number necessary to perform the work of God in the Temples, and the dead having to wait for their redemption. What a joy in the spirit world when those redeemed shall meet their redeemers, but on the other hand what must our feelings be, if we meet those to whom we could have brought salvation and we have not done it. If you had relatives imprisoned on the earth, how would you not hasten to release them if you could. Now, here are the keys in your hands to the spiritual prison. Says the Lord: "If you do what I say, I am bound, but if you do not what I say, you have no promise."

I presume I am speaking to a congregation of the Priesthood, principally. You were called to take the Priesthood upon you, and you have, in doing so, stated that you would do the very best you could. It is my business and yours to bear off this great work as well as to be happy in the Kingdom. This life should be used up in the salvation of mankind, for where we meet a human being, we meet a brother and a friend. This is the Gospel, and this is the meaning of the doctrine of being "saviors" of men.

We should be very careful to have

what we do recorded, for at the time of judgment, the dead will be judged according to what is written. Think of this, and that we all will be judged according to those books. Should this not prompt us to be careful in all our preparations of the records, so that no mistakes are being made, by which the records will be void?

A great deal of work is presumably done over and over again, because we, without knowing it, run into one another's families. Well, this cannot always be helped, and it is good that the work is being done. Many also do not know where their relatives left off in their work, because people have not kept a full record. And some have kept records, but they have lost them. Now when people have been working and lost their records, they sometimes write to the temples to get the record without delay, and this cannot always be attended to at once, it would therefore be better for everyone to have the records and everything prepared before they come to the temples.

Let us go forward in the good work and may the Lord bless you all.

APOSTLE ABRAHAM CANNON

was the next speaker. He said substantially: I have listened with great interest to the remarks of Elder McAllister and I have no doubt that we all feel impressed with the importance of this work of which he has spoken. Those who have died without hearing the Gospel can, through the mercy and justice of our heavenly Father, receive a salvation similar to that of those who live and have heard the word of God. All will have a chance, in this life or the next, to obey the truth. We must confess that the ways of God are not like those of man, for who would have thought of such a glorious plan as this? It would not have entered the human heart that there was a vicarious work to be done for the dead, and yet this lesson, that God's thoughts are not as man's, has continually been impressed upon the hearts of the people. The Almighty, in selecting a Prophet for this dispensation illustrated this lesson vividly, as he passed by the learned and the noble in the world and chose an instrument from among the humble—one who was only a young inquirer after truth, but willing to give all the glory to God. Although he was incapable, to all human appearance, of fulfilling his great mission, God strengthened him to do it, so that notwithstanding all difficulties, the work has progressed, till many from among all nations today inhabit these valleys.

The Savior, when He came to the earth, was not according to human expectations. His humility in outward appearance made the people reject Him, although He was the Christ. God has always operated thus and will continue to do so, for His work no more depends upon the wisdom of men now than it did formerly. He directs His work Himself,