

# RELIGIOUS.

## Sunday Services.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, September 27, 1891, commencing at 2 p. m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding.

The choir sang:

Hark, listen to the trumpeters,  
They sound for volunteers.

Prayer was offered by Patriarch A. H. Raleigh.

The choir sang:

He died, the Great Redeemer died,  
And Israel's daughters wept aloud.

The Priesthood of the Twenty-second ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

## PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH

Addressed the assemblage: Speaking in the outset with deep emotion, he said he felt exceedingly humble just at that moment in standing up before such a vast congregation to express himself as the Lord might give him utterance. He certainly felt the necessity of the assistance and prayers of the Saints on that occasion while he briefly addressed them.

It had been something over seven years since he last had the privilege of standing before a congregation of the people in that Tabernacle, and he need scarcely say that he felt somewhat like a young beginner in attempting to address them that afternoon. He was, however, deeply thankful to his Heavenly Father and to his friends for the opportunity he now enjoyed of being present and taking part in the services of that day. He knew not what he should say, and was entirely dependent upon the Lord for utterance. He felt like a child in the presence of these who were experienced and better versed than himself in the circumstances of the times, in the matters which at present surrounded them. He was a stranger. There were perhaps thousands of faces there which he had never seen before, thousands of persons who had never seen him until this time. He found that seven years made a great difference in the appearance of things, and passing around during the last few days he had observed a great many new faces. A large number of the children had grown up to almost manhood and womanhood. Those who were middle-aged, or a little beyond, had become gray, like himself, and aged to some extent. The city had grown, things had changed, and a different appearance greeted him on every hand. Nevertheless, it was a great pleasure to him to be permitted once more to meet and mingle with the Saints. For his heart was always with them; his desires had been for their good; his labors—so far as he had been permitted to labor—had been in the interest of the Kingdom of God. He had sought all his life, so far as it laid in his power, to establish correct views and principles in himself, and so far as practicable to extend his influence to others. He had been laboring all the time in the cause of Zion. He did not believe that he had flagged or faltered. He had sought to establish himself in the truth, to learn the truth, to grow in the knowledge

thereof, in faith, in hope, and in charity, and he felt that the Lord had blessed him largely in expanding his mind, in enlarging his thoughts, and increasing his charity for the children of men. He was very grateful for this. One could not pass through an experience such as that of the Latter-day Saints during the last few years without gaining some knowledge, without progressing somewhat, unless he suffered himself to take a retrograde step. The work in which they were engaged was onward and upward, and was destined to continue to grow, because it was not the work of man. If, then, they desired to keep pace with God's work they would have to grow and advance, to go onward and upward with it; for it was not standing still, neither was it going backward.

This was his testimony in relation to the Gospel which they had received. He rejoiced in the Gospel today as fervently and as thoroughly as he ever did in the course of his life. He felt as sensibly and as keenly in his spirit that the Gospel was true today as he ever did; he felt as much in earnest, as much determined as ever to continue faithful in that Gospel which they had received. God helping him he intended to continue in this work and endeavor to the best of his ability to advance with it while he remained in the flesh. Ever since he began to understand the principles of this work, and his mind began to develop therein, he had known that Joseph Smith was an inspired man, that he was and is a prophet of the living God. The work which he was the instrument in the hands of God of establishing in the earth was not of him nor of any other man, but of God, and it would continue to be of Him until it consummated the purpose which He had in view. He was just as confident of this today as at any former period of his life. He thanked God for it. His hope and salvation were founded on that knowledge. The assurance he had in his soul that he would gain eternal life in the world to come was based upon the knowledge which he had received that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God and that the Gospel which he restored to the earth was of God.

Man might err and do many things which were not altogether pleasing in the sight of the Lord. Even men who were endowed with the Priesthood, with authority, with holy callings from God our Heavenly Father, those who had faith, who had at heart the interest and welfare of the children of men were only human when left to themselves, and might make mistakes; but God erred not, neither would His purposes or His work fail in accomplishing that which He had designed. Let him who had not the faith that he had in relation to this matter place himself for a moment in his position, and see if he could take any other view than he himself did. Believing, as he did, that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, that he was inspired of the Almighty, that he revealed the Gospel of the Son of God to the children of men, that this was God's work and not man's, it must of necessity accomplish the end that He had in view. He thanked God the

Eternal Father that he had had this testimony put into his heart and soul, for it gave him light, hope, joy and consolation that no man could give or take away. That was the Gospel. It was peace on earth and goodwill to men. It was righteousness, truth, purity, holiness, uprightness of life and godliness in man.

The Gospel which the Latter-day Saints had received was revealed in order that men might become like their file Leader, the Son of God himself. It was revealed anciently for that purpose. It was again revealed in the age in which we lived that men might become like God, like angels, like the mother of Jesus, pure and undefiled; that women might become mothers in Israel and daughters of God; that men might become the sons and heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ, brothers to each other, brothers to all mankind, seeking to strengthen others in that which was righteous and acceptable to God, not seeking to tear down, destroy, injure, despoil, rob, plunder, contaminate, degrade, dishonor, debauch, defile, but to establish righteousness, peace, love, good will and good works. This was the Gospel that Joseph Smith revealed in this dispensation; it was the same that was revealed by our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. "If any man smite thee on one cheek, turn to him the other also;" "He that would do evil unto you, do good unto him;" "From him that would borrow turn not thou away;" "Be merciful, be charitable, be forgiving, be kind to the children of men." This was the Gospel taught by our Savior and which he (the speaker) had received; this was the spirit that dwelt in the heart of every Latter-day Saint who had received the testimony of Jesus Christ and the spirit of His work. Show him a Latter-day Saint and he would show them an honest man, a virtuous man, a man of integrity, a man who would do right to his neighbor, to his friends, and to the world, and who would not shrink from sacrificing himself for his neighbors' good.

He hoped his brethren and sisters would excuse him if he exhibited some weakness in his feelings on that occasion. He felt something like a child who had been away from home a long while and just returned. His heart was full. He was thankful to our Heavenly Father for His gospel, for His preserving care over him and his and the people of God hitherto grateful for every expression of His mercy, for every kindness that He had shown to them as a people. He thanked Him with all his heart, and felt to give Him all praise, honor, and glory. He was thankful that the Saints had honored their calling as well as they had.

God help us, said the speaker in conclusion, to be faithful in the discharge of all our duties, help us to live our religion, help us to keep His commandments, help us to do that which is right and righteous, and honorable before the Lord, before mankind, and before the law. We have to live in the midst of the world as we are; we have to take things as we find them; we have to make the best of the circumstances in which we are placed. That is what the Lord requires at the hands of the Latter-day Saints.