

after the gathering of the wheat, behold and lo! the tares are bound in bundles, and the field remaineth to be burned.

Do the Latter-day Saints comprehend this? Think of the great changes that are taking place in the world; of this dreadful loss of life, and also of virtue; of the terrible cyclones, laying waste whole cities; fires devastating towns and villages; earthquakes, storms and judgments of every kind. What is the meaning of all this? Why, these messengers that have been waiting in heaven for a long time, holding in their hands the sharp sickles, have gone forth in the earth and made a beginning, and they never will cease until this scene is wound up. If you want to know what is coming to pass in the earth, read the revelations of St. John as well as those in the Book of Mormon and Book of Doctrine and Covenants. Satan is busy. He knows that his power will be curtailed unless he can stop the progress of the work of God, and he is laboring all the time to try and draw away the sons and daughters of Zion from the path of rectitude and duty. Whenever half a dozen Elders gather together to preach the gospel, there you will find the enemy working hard against them.

Brother Cannon also spoke about the First Presidency of the Church. Now, the world is terribly afraid that the Presidency of this Church shall say something to somebody about politics; and even some of the Elders of Israel appear very much afraid that they will get some counsel on these things. What are they thinking about? Politics should never turn the heart of any man bearing the Holy Priesthood from his brethren or from the cause of God. Let him enjoy his politics, and vote for whom he chooses; but let all men stop throwing this filth and slime and pursuing a course wherein God himself and the angels are ashamed of them. It makes no difference to me what a man's politics is; he has a right to enjoy his own political ideas; but let this people realize that they are Latter-day Saints and are held responsible before God for the course they pursue.

We should look at these things as they are. We hold in our hands the keys of the kingdom, and God will hold us responsible for the use we make of this power which He has entrusted to us. If we do our duty, we shall prevail. We have revelation with us. True, the leaders of this Church since the death of the Prophet Joseph Smith have not written many revelations. Joseph Smith brought forth the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and it is a grand volume of revelation—one of the most glorious records ever given of God to man on the earth. But I want to say that Brother Brigham Young did not live without revelation. He always had revelation with him. He could not labor without it; he could not preach or do the will of God without it. Nor can any man that occupies that position. The Lord would permit no man to stand at the head of this Church unless he was governed and controlled by revelation. We are feeble instruments—weak worms of the dust; but God has chosen the weak things of the earth to confound the wise, and to build up His Zion, and He gives us revelation and makes known unto us His mind and will. We have a great labor upon us at the present time in carrying out the purposes of the Lord with regard to His work among the sons

and daughters of Adam. I rejoice that I have lived to see what I have. I rejoice that I came to these valleys with President Young. We found a barren desert. What did the Spirit of God say to him? He was urged to not stop here, but go on to California. "No," said Brother Young, "I am going to stay right here. I am going to build a city here; I am going to build a temple here; I am going to build a country here." What did he say that by? By the power of revelation; and he fulfilled it all. He performed a great work. He laid the foundations of this great and glorious temple here, and we have lived to dedicate it unto God. We have power today to go into four temples and attend to the ordinances of the house of God for the living and for the dead. Yes, we are opening the prison doors in the spirit world to thousands and thousands of our fathers' households. Thus we are saviors upon Mount Zion, whom the Lord has raised up in these last days to redeem the dead and give them a place and a standing in their fathers' house. Those who were drowned in the days of Noah were shut up in prison for a long time, and Christ, while His body lay in the tomb, went and preached to these spirits in prison, that they might live according to God in the spirit and be judged according to men in the flesh. So Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith, David Patten and others, who have laid down their lives for the Gospel's sake, have gone to the spirits in prison and labored there; and you and I are called upon to attend to the duty of the redemption of our dead while we dwell here in the flesh. This is our work.

I feel thankful for the blessings we as a people enjoy. It requires that we shall be humble. We want to remember our prayers. There should be a great deal of praying in Israel; not public prayers alone, but every man should go into his closet and there call upon God and ask Him to sustain Zion, sustain the Presidency of the Church, and the Twelve Apostles, with all men who bear the Holy Priesthood in the earth. Upon the shoulders of these men devolves the duty to go forth and warn this generation of the judgments which are to come. Yet our numbers are few, compared with the fourteen hundred millions of people that dwell in the flesh. Therefore, do not be afraid of getting counsel from the presiding authorities in the Church. They will not counsel you wrong. They know better than to do that. They are anxious for this people to be united. We have received the ordinances of the house of God and have entered into covenant to build up Zion, and that is what we should live for. For I tell you, the God of heaven requires this at our hands. The devil has no power to overthrow the purposes of God. The Lord is above him, and he cannot go beyond what the Lord permits.

Brethren and sisters, this is the way I feel today. Eighteen hundred years have passed away from the time the Apostles of Christ were put to death and the Priesthood was taken home to God, and remained there until He gave it to Joseph Smith, who was raised up to stand at the head of this dispensation. Jesus said to Joseph Smith and those first Elders:

For thou art called to prune my vineyard with a mighty pruning, yea, even for the last time.

They were commanded to go out and warn the world and to preach the Gospel, so that their garments might be clean of the blood of all men. This is our calling. I wish we were better than we are, and that we had more of a disposition to do what the Lord requires of us. But we are poor, weak men. Yet there are those among us that would go to death rather than break these commandments of God which Brother Cannon referred to. And well they might. It pays no man to sin. There is no salvation or glory in it; but there is sorrow in it. If you occupied the position that I do, you would be where some of this sorrow is manifest. We hear occasionally of men going astray and witness the sorrow that comes upon them when their eyes are opened to understand their condition. They would give everything they possess on earth if it had not happened; but the day is past and they have to suffer for it. I am anxious myself that all the Latter-day Saints will try to keep the faith while they live upon the earth. Our lives are short here, even if we live to be one hundred years old, compared with the great eternity before us. The dead are there whom we have redeemed, and we certainly do not want to pursue a course whereby we will forfeit the honor belonging to us connected with their salvation. It does not pay for any man to lose his faith in God, or to dishonor the Priesthood which he holds; but we should pursue such a course that when we get through we will be satisfied with our lives. We are in the midst of a world of sin and temptation. It is a constant warfare with us. It was with the Savior. He was tempted all through his life, and He is an example for us. Certainly we have never passed through more than the Savior did, nor as much. But He through all His life remained true and faithful to His Father and to His calling as the Savior of the world. He prayed a great deal, and He mourned before the Lord over the sins of the world. Today He is in our midst. He is our advocate with the Father. He is watching over us, and He will do all that He can for our salvation.

We have everything to encourage us. When you think of eternal life; when you think of the heavenly hosts; when you think of those that have gone before us, awaiting the final resurrection of the dead and the coming of the Son of Man to wind up the scene and enter into His glory, what is there that can tempt any man to depart from the Gospel of Christ? There is nothing worse than for a man to yield to sin after he has embraced the Gospel. We should labor against sin and temptation.

I believe this is all I want to say to you. I am glad to meet with you. Do not attend meetings a great deal. But I am at my desk every day in the week about 9 o'clock except Saturday, and when the end of the week comes I am weary in body, and need rest. I always enjoy myself however, among the Latter-day Saints in their conferences when I do attend. I have traveled many years in this Church. Many of our fathers, brothers and sisters have passed off. We are left; but shall soon follow them. I pray God He will give us power as His servants and Saints to magnify our calling and walk uprightly before Him, that we may be saved in the kingdom of God for Jesus' sake. Amen.