

pared to receive the truth, and many thousands have embraced it. No man is indispensable. God can raise up whom He will. Those whom He selects are required to be honest, pure and valiant for the truth. So with all the members. They should be willing to endure, to perform missions or do whatever is required. There should be in the hearts of the Saints a supreme love for the truth, and a love for mankind, no matter as to their condition. They should be filled with charity and render assistance by word and deed to the afflicted, that mankind may become one. There are here a host of men bearing the Priesthood, representing God on the earth. The Lord expects all such to do their duty. No man can be excused for sins either of omission or commission.

We are expected to attend the meetings of the Saints, especially those at which the sacrament is administered. We are to partake of it till Christ shall come. This ordinance tends to strengthen the Saints. Those who are neglectful regarding it will lose faith, and among such the sick will not be so readily healed. People who live near to the House of God and do not attend on such occasions are not living in the light and spirit of the Gospel. The necessity of attending to sacrament meetings should be taught by parents to their children. It is a question as to our salvation until we have completed the race. We have run well for a season, but the question of our continuing to the end is one of great importance. We should be a devout and prayerful people. Those who neglect the things of which I have been speaking are unworthy of the blessings of the Lord. We have been preserved and increased and the work is not diminishing. The faith of the Gospel is increasing in the hearts of the people. When the time of trial comes we will learn that the Saints are better than they appear to be. They know that God lives, and the Church and kingdom of our Father cannot be broken. The Lord has made this fact known to Israel.

It is important for us, as the servants of the Lord, to be devoted, to be faithful, to be humble, to be contrite, charitable, kind and loving, and try to win the erring and lead them in the paths which lead to eternal life. We should cultivate the Spirit of the Lord and its enlightening influence, that we may know on all occasions that what is presented by His Servants comes from God Himself.

When the President of the Church is presented to the people, his Counselors, the Apostles, all or anyone of them, there should really be in the heart of every Latter-day Saint a testimony that he is the man to be the President—as we can testify to-day in regard to Brother Woodruff, Brother Cannon, Brother Smith, and the Apostles who stand here and hold their positions today in the midst of Israel. It is necessary the people should know they are men of God, not only through their personal acquaintance and knowledge of them and their close associ-

tion with them in times of trouble, but they should know by the gift and power of God, and then they cannot be wrong. Unless they have this knowledge they are not as thoroughly established in the kingdom as they ought to be. Every man who has not this knowledge is liable to have misgiving and doubts in respect to these chief quorums of the Church. In every measure that is adopted, every mission that is established, and everything that is laid before the people and required of them, there should be a testimony abiding in the hearts of the Saints that they all come from God.

Now, do the Latter-day Saints know this? I say they do; and no Apostle can stand up here and teach the Latter-day Saints an error without the people detecting it. If an Apostle goes astray, if he sins against God and against his fellow-men, if he is not upright, devout and true to the cause which God has entrusted to his care, the Latter-day Saints will detect it. All men, women, and children who have reached the years of understanding and have received the Holy Ghost are entitled to know men—to know their Bishops, their Presidents of Stakes, and the members of their High Councils; to know the High Priests and Seventies. They have the testimony in their hearts that these are men of God; they can reckon them up quite correctly, tell exactly where they stand, their degree of faith, and judge them by their work—not by their faith and testimony alone, but by the things which they perform.

Now, you High Priests and Seventies, if you are not honest men, if you do not keep the commandments of God, if you drink with the drunkard and swear with the profane, and if you are corrupt, we will find you out; God will find you out; for you cannot deceive in the Kingdom of God. You cannot obtain by deception any of the rights, blessings, and privileges of the Lord or His Kingdom. If, again, there are those who do not honor the Priesthood, if we do not exercise ourselves in righteousness, in purity, in justice, in holiness—I would not give a fig for the authority or power of such men.

Why is it that the Latter-day Saints are not broken to pieces and discouraged? We were not discouraged in the very beginning when there were but few of us. When the Prophet stood almost alone, hounded from place to place, persecuted and prosecuted, why was he not discouraged? Because he could not be. We cannot be discouraged, for God is at the helm, and has established us individually as well as collectively. In Wards and in Stakes, and in branches of the whole Church, God hath planted this work upon the earth, and it will remain.

Are we to blame for it? No. Did I originate any of it? No, not a sentiment, not one thought or particle of it. Was it originated by the Prophet Joseph? No, nor any other man. It is the work of God

and will endure, and the choice spirits which He has gathered from among the nations of the earth, those whom He is sending from above, are those who were faithful before they came here, who will be faithful here, and will endure hereafter. That is the class of people and of spirits who are come to the earth, whom God has gathered and is sending to us.

Persecution never destroys the Church and Kingdom of God. It only makes men more faithful, more devoted; it only increases their strength; for have we not the surest of all promises, that if we keep the commandments of God we shall receive persecution? And when the Church has been withdrawn from the earth, when prophets have been killed, when the Savior Himself was killed, and His servants before him—it has all happened in accordance with the mind and will of God. Would the Savior's life have been taken had it not been necessary? No. It was necessary that He should die and that His blood should be spilt in order that we might obtain a remission of sins and be made free; that He should be resurrected as all other men will be. Was it necessary that the Prophet Joseph should be tried as he was, and proven as he was proven? Yes, not only to prove him, but to prove to the world to whom he was sent; and it is necessary that the servants of God today should endure and travel throughout the world, preaching the Gospel and laboring for the people—guarding, preserving and teaching them, in order that they might be saved, and that the world may be proved and judged; for light has come into the world, and those who reject it will be damned.

I pray that the blessing of God may be upon all Israel. But I find I am talking too loud. My lungs are not very strong—they have not been working lately in this way. Therefore I shall have to close. I pray, however, that God's blessing may be upon you all. I thank God and testify to you that this Church is properly organized. It came a little sooner than it did after the death of the Prophet Joseph—than it did after the death of President Young; but it came just when the Lord decided, and He will always show us not only in regard to the keeping of the Quorum of the First Presidency filled, but in the filling of the Quorum of the Twelve, and every other vacancy that may occur in the various departments of the Church, that the kingdom may be fully manned, that no one person will have to do the labor of two or three; but that every man shall bear his equal proportion of the responsibilities pertaining to the Kingdom of God, which is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

#### PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON

presented figures from the statistical report of the Church. A communication from the General Superintendent of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association was read, showing the movement