

of men will be saved; but there will be a difference in the character of the salvation. Men will receive glory, and honor, and reward according to that which they do. The same with punishment; men will be punished for wickedness, and it will be severe for those who sin against light and knowledge.

I expect that if we are faithful to the end when we go from here we shall go into society of those whom we are like. Therefore, I anticipate to be where Jesus is, and where the prophets and apostles and saints of old are, because we have done just as they did in keeping the commandments of God. We will have a society that will be exactly alike. There will be a blending of the different dispensations and generations; that is, of the Saints who have lived in these different dispensations. But others will have a heaven also, and it will be far beyond their anticipations. Denominations that do not believe in the Holy Ghost, or in prophets and apostles, will have a heaven suited to them. Yet it will be so far beyond their conception that they will be delighted with it. But it will not be the glory of the Son of God, where Jesus and the Father are. They would be out of place there. There would be nothing congenial to them there. Therefore, the Lord will provide for them according to their condition and their works. He will reward all men according to their works.

We are looking for this heaven that I speak of, where the Savior is, and no doubt we will get it. When we get there we shall receive the blessings the Lord has promised. The Latter-day Saints have been peculiar in these things. They have been contending for the faith that was once delivered to the saints, and they still contend for it, and they are willing to endure all things, even death itself, for the sake of these blessings that God has promised. They have been stripped of their homes; they have been robbed and driven; their lives have frequently been in danger, and in many instances lost, through exposure and suffering. Such may not be called martyrs, because their blood has not been shed; yet it has been in the spirit of heroism that inspires the martyr that thousands of the Latter-day Saints have died, as doubtless many in ancient days did.

Now, this society in heaven of which I speak will be as I have feebly described it. I would ask how it could be otherwise? Let us reason upon these things and look at them in their true light. Imagine a modern congregation with the minister transported as a body into the society of the Savior and the saints of old. Can you think of anything in common between them? I cannot, only that they believe in the Savior and pray to the Father in His name. That they are sincere and good people, according to the light they have, no one perhaps will question; but they have not kept the sayings of the Son of God. When these obscure and despised Elders have gone and told them the truth they would not receive it; and therefore, however sincere they may have been, they have not kept the commandments of God—they have not built upon the rock, but upon the sand. Suppose they could be lifted, bodily into the presence of the Son of God, with His wonderful experience of man's inhumanity and cruelty to man, and in-

to the presence of His Apostles, all of whom, excepting one, were also slain, what would there be alike between them upon which they could converse together? There would be scarcely anything. Their earthly experience would be entirely dissimilar. The minister, if he were asked, would say that he never considered it necessary to have the Holy Ghost to preach the Gospel; that he was selected by his parents, or selected himself, to be a preacher of the Gospel, and studied the scriptures and obtained all the knowledge he could looking to that end. Imagine such a minister and his congregation in the society of people who when they were on the earth enjoyed the Holy Ghost, revelation, visions, the gifts and graces of the Gospel, and the power of God! What must be their feelings? How the present religious world ever expect to dwell in heaven with Jesus and the holy ones I cannot understand. I can understand how we could go there.

If there are any strangers present, such a remark may sound self-righteous and egotistical; but it is not in that spirit that I speak on this occasion. I have drawn one illustration; let me draw another. Suppose a congregation of Latter-day Saints were taken into the presence of the Savior and the prophets and apostles. Could they ask that congregation any question that they could not answer in the same spirit in which they themselves would answer it? Why, the Savior, if He were to condescend to ask, would find the humblest member of that congregation able to relate experience that would be similar in almost every respect to the experience of the Son of God himself while in the flesh—that is, so far as the treatment from the world is concerned. If He asked concerning doctrine, the response would be such as to meet the requirements which He made of mankind when He was on the earth. "Did you believe in me?"

"Yes, I believed in you, that you are the Son of God."

"Were you baptized?"

"Yes, I was baptized as you were, immersed in the water, and by one to whom you had given the authority to baptize."

"Did you receive the Holy Ghost?"

"Yes, I received it through the laying on of hands, as you commanded your apostles to administer it."

"What then?"

"I received also the gifts that you promised. I have been healed through the laying on of the hands of the Elders whom you chose; and my children have been healed. I have had dreams, visions, the gift of tongues, or the gift of the interpretation of tongues. The gifts that you promised to your Church, my dear Lord, I have experienced in the flesh."

Can anyone wonder that the Latter-day Saints believe as they do, that they are steadfast as they are, and have endured that which they have, in many instances laying down their lives for the truth, traveling without purse and scrip to preach the gospel, and trusting to the charity of a cold and unfeeling world? There is no room for wonder in such a case. The Lord has blessed this people with this faith. It is the old faith restored. The old blessings have come too. We witness the fruits. We see the union, unexampled in the world; the

love, that cannot be found elsewhere. Yet, Latter-day Saints, we are full of imperfections. The Gospel is perfect. But oh! how imperfect we are. How much we come short! Yet there is a salt among this people that has not lost its savor. But there are many who do not keep the commandments of God. There are many that will say, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?" But the Lord will profess that He never knew them. No doubt there are among us members of that character, who wear the garb of righteousness, but who are hypocrites. God will feel after them and cleanse them out from the midst of His people. They cannot wear the cloak of hypocrisy and expect to escape the scrutinizing and penetrating eye of the Almighty. He knows us all. We may perhaps impose upon our fellow men; but we cannot impose upon the Lord. We cannot "steal the livery of heaven to serve the devil in" without His knowing it. He will penetrate through our disguises, and he will expose us. He will withdraw His blessings and His power from us, and instead of being on the right hand with the sheep we shall find ourselves on the left hand with the goats. But notwithstanding these elements of fallen nature that we have in our midst, and that we are all more or less subject to in consequence of the fall, (for we are all weak and full of imperfection) the Lord has chosen this people and He will bring them off triumphant. He has restored His Gospel, with the authority to administer its ordinances; He has given the gifts of the gospel to the people, and He will continue to do it. But hypocrites and wrongdoers will be purged out. That cleansing process is going on constantly. Men cannot stand for any length of time who will do wrong. The Spirit of the Lord will be withdrawn from them, and they will be left to themselves. But the righteous will grow stronger and stronger, and have more faith; and their children will grow up in righteousness and in truth, with greater faith than their parents have had. Thus faith will go on increasing, and the power of God will be more and more manifested among men as the time approaches for the coming of the Lord. It has grown already. We have seen it growing among ourselves. The traditions that we have inherited are fading away, and the truth is having its full and potent effect upon us. A large element of this people are progressing continually and seeking to approach to that perfection which the Lord desires us to attain.

I pray God to bless you all; to fill us with His Holy Spirit, to enlighten our minds, to show unto us the great advantage of keeping His commandments. Read these sayings of the Lord in the sermon on the mount, and let us seek with all our might mind and strength to put them in practice, that our houses may be built on the rock, that when tempests come and the elements are let loose our houses will withstand all these attacks. I could not help but think the other night, when we had such a violent wind, how good a thing it is to have a house built upon a sure foundation. So it is in the things of God; it is good to have a solid foundation, to be built upon the rock, the rock of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then we can dwell