

answer for his own deeds; if he has wrought evil he will be judged accordingly. God is just, and will render to every man that which he is entitled to. Through the fall of our first parents, death came into the world—the wages of sin. The seeds of death were sown in Adam's children, and he not only died spiritually but also naturally. He partook of the forbidden fruit, and had to suffer the consequences, just as we have to in regard to our acts, and, as in physical things, we have to bear the effects of the sins of our forefathers. We of this generation, have to struggle against the tendencies to evil in our nature inherited from a long line of ancestors who had departed from God. But "As in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive." As we had nothing to do with Adam's sin, we have nothing to do with the atonement for that sin. The atonement is as broad as the fall, and all who are subject to death through Adam's sin, will be raised from the dead in the resurrection, brought about through the atonement of Christ. Thus all will be redeemed by Christ from the effects of Adam's fall. But they will be called to judgment for their own actions. Through the atonement, we, having transgressed the laws of God, may be saved from our sins, by accepting the conditions of salvation. There are no conditions imposed on us for redemption from the original sin; but for redemption from our own actions there are conditions attached.

I know that we have temptations, that there are circumstances in which we are placed, but in every soul is planted the light of truth, the gift of free agency. There is power in the creature to do good or evil, according to individual volition; and if people do wrong they are liable to the penalty. There is a reward and also a penalty attached to every divine commandment. This is according to the eternal principle of justice, which is certain to prevail sooner or later. Because we have this power to do good or evil, we will be judged according to our actions. We can train ourselves to do good, or we can drift on the tide of evil. Faith alone will not avail; we must do right and refrain from wrong. A man may believe a thing is wrong and yet do it; he may believe a thing is right and yet neglect it, and if he does he must meet the penalty. By repentance from sin and obedience to the conditions, we may through the atonement escape the consequences of past transgressions. For this the Gospel was revealed, that men and women might be cleansed from sin and be made fit for the society of God and holy beings. We can obtain remission of sins by truly believing in Jesus Christ. But if a man does this he will do as Jesus says. If he believes Christ died for him he will love Him, and Jesus says, "If ye love me ye will keep my commandments." He said also, "In vain ye say, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say," Jesus likens

the man who hears His sayings and does them not to one who built his house upon the sands; but the man who does His will and keeps His sayings He likens to a man who built his house on a rock.

He sent his Apostles to teach practical righteousness, not merely faith in Him. He said to them "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Jesus taught righteousness and set the example. He said "Repentance and remission of sins shall be preached in all the world beginning at Jerusalem," and He commanded the Apostles to "tarry in the city of Jerusalem until they were endowed with power from on high" to qualify them for this task. (Luke xxiv, 47-49.) In the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles we can read the account of the outpouring of this power from on high and of the first sermon preached under its influence. And we are there told that when the multitude who heard believed, being pricked in their hearts, "they cried out, men and brethren, what shall we do?" Peter did not tell them they could do nothing, that Christ had none all for them, but he answered, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." And he added, "for the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are afar off, even to as many as the Lord our God shall call;" (verses 38, 39.) Here is the universal promise. This is the everlasting Gospel, the glad tidings of Jesus Christ which are over and above and before the deeds of the law of Moses by which no flesh can be justified. The Holy Ghost was promised to every soul who repented and was baptized. We find in the history of the Acts of the Apostles that they were continually preaching this Gospel of repentance and baptism. It was not a mere profession they required nor that mock piety of feeling which is only cant and hypocrisy, but works of righteousness were urged as essential. They required a turning away from sin, and baptism by one having authority to act in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. The acts of those not having this authority are void. Ordinances administered by those who profess to be servants of God, and yet have no authority from Him, are all utterly vain. As this class claim themselves, the world has been without revelation from heaven for ages, therefore they have no authority from heaven. Christ was appointed and sent of God, and He chose the Apostles, saying, "As my Father sent Me, so send I you." This authority has not been upon the earth for centuries, but has been restored in this age, and the voice of God to all nations is today as on the day of Pentecost: "Repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and you shall re-

ceive the gift of the Holy Ghost." All who obey this command, of every race and class and tongue, will receive this Spirit, and God will be near to them, and His power will rest upon them. I know that the light of the Spirit is a reality; I know that God is the same now as anciently; that the Gospel is the same as it was formerly. This Gospel has been restored in its fulness, its laws are unchanged, its blessings and gifts are unchanged and so is its testimony. The servants of God chosen by Him are authorized to baptize those who believe and repent, and they can then go on to perfection. They are cleansed from sin through the blood of Christ and obedience to the conditions and are made pure before their Father in heaven. What a blessed privilege is this! When the sincere, repentant believer emerges from the baptismal stream he has his robes made white in the blood of the Lamb, through obedience to the commands of God. And this is essential, for Jesus said "Except a man be born of the water and of the Spirit he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God." He did not say belief alone is sufficient.

This idea of salvation through belief alone is a vagary of men. There is no personal salvation except by personal righteousness. We will all be judged for our deeds. Those who obey the celestial law will enter the celestial Kingdom and gain celestial glory. They may not now be perfect, because of human weakness, but if they continue to struggle against evil, eventually they will overcome all things and inherit all things, and sit down on Christ's throne, as He has overcome and sat down on the Father's throne. This is the warfare of this earthly life—to bring ourselves into subjection, that we may have communion with God, to struggle against transgression, the spirit warring with and conquering the flesh. It is our work also as a Church to become one in all things. We are required to love God with all our souls, and love our neighbors as ourselves.

Having become members of the Church of Christ, let us continue our work of progression in righteousness. If we draw near to God He will draw near to us and help us to the victory. Let us not be cast down, or become angry, because we are misrepresented or persecuted. Let us rather rejoice as Christ has exhorted us, and be exceedingly glad when we are persecuted for righteousness' sake. God has sent upon us the Holy Ghost from on high, and our warfare is not with flesh and blood but with the powers of evil who stir up mankind against us. Men often seek to harm us, thinking they are doing God service but being deceived by Satan. God knows our motives and our acts. We left our homes in other lands to come here to serve God, not to do evil, but to do good and abide in the liberty of the Gospel, and we expect to maintain the truth and serve the Lord.

We have the right to do this under the Constitution of this land of free-