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## CHARITY FOR ALL.

*Discourse Delivered in the Tabernacle,  
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[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

While I occupy this position I desire that the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon me, that I may be made the instrument, if it so pleases God, of saying something in His praise, and that will move myself, as well as some of those who are present, to do better than in the past. This should be the object of our meeting together, and time is wasted if we are not filled with that food which will strengthen our spirits and will help us to approach nearer unto God.

It seems to me that if a time has ever existed in the history of the world when the Gospel was needed among the children of men and when its spirit should fill every heart, that time is the present. Of course, the saving principles of everlasting truth have always been requisite to the human family who would be saved and glorified in the presence of God; but living as we do in the last days, in the time when we expect the early advent of the Savior, and considering the wonderful events which are to precede His coming, it looks as though we needed more of the Spirit of the Gospel than has ever been the case. We need that love, that charity, that forbearance and that long-suffering which are so great and essential principles of the truth. We need them, not alone among ourselves, where they should in greatest measure prevail, but they are needed by us in all our associations with the world at large. Look at the terrible condition of things that prevails in the earth. See the strife, the quarrelling and the contention which everywhere are manifest among the human family. Look at the spirit which is even creeping in among the Saints and causing, to some extent at least, a feeling of division, of unrest and of dissatisfaction. Then, after considering these things, ask yourselves the question, Does it not seem necessary that God should more abundantly pour out upon us in these days the spirit of the Gospel, which unites, builds up and strengthens all who are partakers of it? The more I mingle among my fellows, the more I read of the events occurring in the world, the more do I feel the necessity of exercising towards my fellow men the spirit of charity and love, and of seeking to show by my actions, more distinctly than by my words, that I am indeed seeking to bless and benefit, not

alone myself, but all with whom I mingle. Indeed, there are none of us but that should be filled with the spirit of love—love for the whole human family; for we are all necessary to the making up of a complete world such as that in which we live; and however exalted the stations of some may be, however free some may be, or however low or in bondage others may be, one class cannot say to another that it has no need of it. The likeness which the Apostle Paul gave in speaking of the body as compared with the Church of Christ can likewise be applied to the world at large. The very members of the social fabric, which are sometimes considered the most degraded and of least use, are those sometimes from whom the greatest amount of good proceeds. Those parts upon which we bestow the least favor are sometimes the parts which are most needed for the benefit and blessing of the body whose habitation is the earth. We may think, perhaps, with our exalted ideas of the civilized races, that we have no need of the African Hottentot, of the South American Indian, of the degraded inhabitants of the Pacific Islands, of the Esquimaux of the North, or of those creatures to whom we now and again send missionaries to teach them the ways of temporal as well as of spiritual life; but these classes, degraded as many of them are, are needful to the world in which we live; and many of those very beings whom we look upon as degraded and low are living nearer to the law of God as written in their souls than are the so-called Christian nations of the earth, who boast of their enlightenment, their wisdom, and their inspiration. I do not believe that there is a thing created in this world, or in the universal system, that was not made by the Great Creator with some wise purpose in view. In other words, I do not believe there is any waste in nature, or anything that is useless. We may think there is; we may not be able to comprehend the uses for which God has made this or that thing; but the further science progresses, the greater knowledge and light we receive, the more abundant does the testimony become unto us that God has not made anything to be useless upon this earth, or upon any other earth. And it becomes us to accept the conditions which surround us and to endeavor by the light of the Spirit of God to improve, not only ourselves, but everything else connected with the earth, upon which we not only live now, but which, we are told, shall be our eternal home. It should be our effort to make improvements wherever we go and leave our mark upon the world, that it shall be better for our having existed in it; and not allow the

talents that God has given us, feeble though they are, to be wasted in idleness, in folly, and in sin, which degrades us here, and which will bring to us in eternity the condemnation which every unrighteous man will merit. There was a time when it was the feeling among the human family that a man owed some duty to his own house, or to his own race. The Roman sought to favor the Roman; the aristocrat bestowed blessings upon his fellow aristocrat; the plebians had their ideas of the duty they owed to those of their class; and thus mankind became broken up to a certain extent into families, and clans, and various organizations, each member of which felt that he owed a duty alone to those of his own society. But when the Gospel was introduced by Jesus and was proclaimed in its purity; when the law which required an eye for an eye, or a tooth for a tooth, was done away, it was then that the spirit of international love, if we may call it such, was introduced among the human family, and men began, just in proportion to the amount of the spirit of the Gospel which they possessed, to enlarge their souls and to embrace within the limit of their good deeds the people of all races and countries. Just so the spirit of the Gospel has come upon the people who have received the teachings of this latter-day work. They have not felt that their love or labors were to be restricted to a certain country, but that the whole world was their field; that all mankind were their brethren; that the creature of the dark skin and of the white skin, the bondman and the free man, the high and low, the rich and poor were alike the subjects of their care and of their instruction, so far as God had given them instruction to impart to the human family. But I think we are still prone to some extent to worship the distant and the past instead of seeking to benefit the present. How is it with us? Look into your own hearts, brethren and sisters. Do your souls not go out in sympathy for the poor Welsh miners who a few days ago lost their lives in the bowels of the earth? When you hear of these earthquakes in China, or when you hear of the tidal waves which sweep the country and hurl without a moment's warning into the presence of their Maker thousands of souls, does your sympathy not go out to these poor creatures who thus suffer the judgments of an offended God? Think of the past. Do you not look with great admiration upon the life and the death of the Savior? The whole Christian world worship Him. He is the Being to whose honor they erect their churches, and according to whose teachings, as they understand them, they give almost daily worship. But