

return to the presence of the Father. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord imputeth no sin.

I have had forty years' experience in this latter-day work that unbelievers are pleased to call Mormonism. I do not know that it matters what they call it. It is true that we believe in the Book of Mormon. I wish all did. I wish all would take that book, humble yourselves before the Lord, and ask Him whether it is a divine revelation; for the Prophet of God hath said that whosoever would do that should obtain the evidence that it was so.

I can bear testimony that in my long experience I have realized that the work we are engaged in is the work of the Father; it is the Gospel of the kingdom that is being preached in all the world for a witness, preparatory to the second advent of the Lord Jesus Christ. And I can promise that whosoever will accept of these eternal conditions in the honesty of their hearts with a desire to serve Him, they shall receive a testimony that will be satisfactory to them. I will say to the Latter-day Saints, if you do not live the principles of the doctrine of Christ, if you do not love God and keep His commandments, woe unto you! for ye are the salt of the earth; "but if the salt hath lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing but to be cast out and to be trodden under foot of men." Be not deceived. God is not to be mocked. "Whosoever ye sow, that shall ye also reap." That God may help us to sow the seeds of righteousness, that we may reap the fruits of righteousness, is my earnest prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER BRIGHAM YOUNG.

I have listened to the words of Brother George Feasdale, who has spoken this afternoon, with pleasure. I am thankful to hear so strong a testimony to the truth, and I have felt in my heart, as probably you have, that the Lord had been good to him, that he enjoyed the spirit of his mission and the Priesthood that he holds, and that he had sought the Lord in all the mission to which he had been called and ordained during the last six or seven years.

We have not had the privilege of meeting with the Latter-day Saints in this building, nor in this city, as often as we would like; but, thank God, though absent, we have retained the testimony of His Holy Spirit. I find that my brethren who have remained home are also filled with the power and Spirit of God. If we have been abroad in the earth, preaching the first principles of the Gospel, we are here today to speak to the people who have received these blessings, and to beseech them to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the truth. Many of us have passed through the ordeal, and we have obeyed these principles. But I confess that in the midst of the people, since my return, I have heard things that

were new and strange to me. I know that we are here for the purpose of preparing our minds to receive the constant outpouring of the Spirit of God. I know that all men and women that have received these principles are here for the express purpose of keeping their minds pure and unspotted, that God may write upon those minds the dictates of His Holy Spirit. But if we are not in a position to receive that outpouring, where can we go in the broad earth to receive it. I know of no other people who are led by the spirit of inspiration from God. I have met no other people who profess to have received by revelation and to live the Gospel of the Son of God. From their own mouths shall they be judged; for if men profess it, they do not do it. Like the Jews in the days of the Savior they reject the counsel of God against themselves. They do not believe in the revelation that should come to every man to make him that perfect being which he must be to be caught up to meet Christ when He shall appear unto His own. Strange that the things of this world should have such hold upon us who dwell in these mountains, where we have gathered expressly to serve our God! There is not one moment to be lost by the Latter-day Saints. The saving influences of the Spirit of God must be in the creature, or he will not be prepared for His providences which will come upon the earth. If I am living my religion according to the dictates of the Spirit of God, and my mind is open to receive of that inspiration that comes from Him, I will never be taken unaware; I will never be permitted to step my foot upon ground that is unsafe, or to stand upon a platform that is not approved of my Father. But the moment that I give way to the things that men seek for their own aggrandizement—for their wealth, for their honors, for their own individual comforts—I then am trespassing upon the ground which God has warned me to refrain from. The Latter-day Saints are here for the express purpose of growing in grace and in the knowledge of the truth; and I have yet to learn that there is any other road to the favor of Almighty God than by serving Him as individuals, as families, as communities, as a people. We know how to serve Him; but if a man indulges himself in the things that the world loves his knowledge is in vain. Can I take these things into my family and say that God will justify me? I cannot. If I sit down to a table with my family and indulge in what I have heard denominated as a game of progressive euchre, or high five, or something of that kind; if I am seeking after the things that are so fashionable in the world; if I allow myself to have my mind directed to the adorning of my person beyond that of my brethren and sisters; if I am beautifying my houses and my farms with the idea of excelling my brethren—if I do all these things, am I encouraging the Spirit of God within me? I think not. The mind of every Latter-day Saint is like a book without a letter printed or stamped upon its pages. It may have a frontispiece, but it has to be stamped upon day after day, day after day, with the knowledge, power and

wisdom of God. If that book be filled with the record of righteous acts God will justify this people in the end, and no power on earth nor beneath the earth will extinguish them or prevent them from progressing in the knowledge of God unto eternal life in His kingdom. But if that book be filled with the frivolities of the world, as true as God lives this people will go under like the world, when they are destroyed! There is no help for them. I know these things as I know that I stand before this congregation; I know them as I know that God lives—by the revelations of Jesus Christ. I know, too, that the power and unity of the Holy Priesthood which God has given us will bear us off conquerors under all circumstances, in the world and out of the world; and outside of that there is no salvation for man, woman or child. I have learned this by the spirit of revelation which God has given me when I sought Him earnestly, early and late, to know His mind and will concerning myself and family and my brethren. I desire that my book shall be filled with a writing that will make me approved of God. I would eliminate from my heart and from my body, from my mind and from my spirit, all that is impure and unholy in the sight of God. I would be a unit with these men and women who are living according to the light that God has given them. In this union there is safety. In this holy communion which we have received, in the power that we get from partaking of this Sacrament in remembrance of His body and blood, there is strength to me that no power that is abroad in the earth can take from me. But I must do it worthily.

I know and testify before you today that the whole world is arrayed against us. The powers of darkness are arrayed against us, and their power is increasing in the land; and if it be possible, I tell you that the very elect will be deceived. They will appear before you and cast their rods upon the ground and they will become serpents also. But as true as God lives, the men and women that acknowledge Jesus Christ and Him crucified, and live according to the principles of the everlasting Gospel, will be safe when all around them is destruction, turmoil, war, confusion, and a breaking down of all the systems, plans and schemes of the world of mankind. The Church of Christ is established; we have got the kingdom of God to establish, and we will establish it, for Christ will come and reign. I desire my brethren and sisters to live in accordance with the principles which have been spoken of here this afternoon, and to make God their friend; for He is the only one that can preserve us during the troubles that are approaching and nigh unto our doors. That our Father and God, through the grace of Jesus Christ, and the mercy and grace that He lives us, may save us from this untoward generation, and fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit, and be with our families, and bring us to a unity that we cannot be separated by the powers of darkness which are seeking our destruction, is my prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.