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REMARKS

Made at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City,
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[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

I am very much delighted in the testimonies that have been borne today, and I have reflected on the power of God that is made manifest in teaching those who are willing to be taught by Him. Young men are taken from their various avocations, and without being educated to teach these particular doctrines, are sent into the world, many of them regretting exceedingly that they have wasted so much the days of their probation in the opportunities they have had of being associated with Sunday schools, Mutual Improvement associations, and quorums. When they are called, in the providences of the Almighty, to go and declare the truths of the everlasting Gospel, they regret that they are so unprepared; but they go, and they are taught of God, by the power of His Spirit. God is doing his own work. Why is it that the world cannot understand the simple testimony that is borne to them by the Latter-day Saints? They tell them in all simplicity that God has spoken from the heavens, that He has restored to the earth His Gospel and the Holy Priesthood, and that men have the authority to call the inhabitants of the earth to repentance, to warn them of judgments to come, and to entreat them to turn from the error of their ways, from their man-made systems, and embrace the fulness of the everlasting Gospel. Many young men have been called to preach the Gospel, and they have gone forth relying upon the testimony of their parents and friends that they would know that this was the work of God. They have sought unto the Lord fervently and in all humility for this knowledge, because they desired to be able to preach the Gospel and fulfill the mission to which they were appointed; and going forth in this spirit, God has revealed to them these precious truths, and they have become valiant for the testimony of Jesus. Where did they obtain their education from? From God, by His Spirit. He gave them eyes to see, ears to hear, and understanding hearts, and they have rejoiced in His salvation. They have been powerful in their testimonies, and have been enabled to give an answer for the hope within them, and have never been confounded. This is the common testimony of all who have accepted this Gospel. The revelations that the Lord has given today agree with the revelations in the Bible and in the Book of Mormon. The same principles of redemption that were

taught by the Apostles in the days of Christ are taught today. The same signs follow the believer, according to the faith of the people. But it seems so difficult for the people to have faith in God. If they had faith in God, and they believed he was a rewarder of those who diligently sought Him, when they heard such testimonies given they would naturally seek to Him and ask Him in the name of Jesus Christ if these things were true. There never has been but one way to be saved, and that way was taught by Christ. And He promised that in the last days the Gospel of the kingdom would be preached in all the world for a witness before the end should come. The commission that the early Apostles received was:

Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

The inhabitants of the earth have the Bible and profess to believe in it. If it were not for false teachers, maybe they would believe in it; but they are beguiled by the false doctrines of men. The consequence is, the Bible is distorted, and they do not understand it in its simplicity. But if they had any regard for themselves, they would naturally want to be placed in possession of the knowledge that was promised by the Lord Jesus Christ when He said,

My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent me. If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine.

The Apostle James said,

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

If mankind have faith in the Bible, why not appeal to God? It would soon put an end to all false doctrine, because God would reveal unto them, through their faith, the principles that lead to everlasting life. But in consequence of the doctrines that are taught in the world, the people believe they are justified and sanctified through mere belief. Hence they wonder why it is that the Latter-day Saints should send Elders to them who already have the Gospel. Well, if they had the Gospel, there would be no necessity to send Elders to them. If they had the Gospel of the Son of God, they would be teaching the same principles, believing as we believe, and practicing the same precepts. We have come out of these varied religious

systems, because the Lord revealed to us that they were not true. And all mankind can know upon the same principle, the principle of revelation. Light has come into the world, and men are under condemnation because they will not accept the light. There is no need for anyone to be in ignorance who desires to know the way that leads to life everlasting. When the Lord revealed himself to the Prophet Joseph, there were very few people in the world that knew that God lived or that understood the principles of the Gospel as taught by the Lord Jesus Christ and His disciples. And it took time to perfect the organization of the Church, which had to be done by the instructions of Jesus Christ, and it was sometime before the glad message of salvation could be placed before the inhabitants of the earth. It was a small beginning; but now it is within the reach of all who desire to know these principles which have been testified of here today. There was a time when these young men who have spoken were as ignorant of the principles of the Gospel as the people of the world are. When they went on their missions they were made to understand that this was not the work of man, but of God.

Now, I ask you, my friends, is it wrong to believe in the living and true God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the seas and the fountains of water? Do you not believe in Him? Do you not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ? Do you not believe that He is the Savior of the world? Do you not believe in His doctrine—that it is necessary we should repent, and cease to do evil and learn to do well? Can you not believe that it is necessary for us to be baptized by immersion for the remission of sins, in order that we may fulfill all righteousness? The Lord Jesus Christ said that unless a man was born of the water and of the spirit He could not enter the kingdom of heaven. He himself set the example. He went to John and was baptized of him, "to fulfill all righteousness." They went down into the water, and they came up out of the water. There was no sprinkling or pouring a little water; He was buried in the water. That was the mode of baptism in that day. We are told that they baptized at certain places because there was much water there. We must accept of this baptism by immersion for the remission of sins. It is also necessary that the person who officiates in this ordinance should have the authority to do so, else it would be void. It is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus Christ, and it has to be done by someone having His authority. We read in the Bible that when Philip went down to Samaria and preached the Gospel, when they believed they were baptized, both