

Taylor, or of Wilford Woodruff, or of any man; it is the Church of Jesus Christ.

When the Father and the Son appeared to Joseph, the Son told Joseph that he was not to go after any of the churches in the world. Why? Because they were not accepted of God. He said they had all gone out of the way; they had departed from the true order of God that was established in olden times. Therefore, when this Church was established on the earth it was organized as the only Church of Christ on earth. Now we recognize the fact that there are many good people in all the different religious denominations, and just as good people in heathendom—among those who do not believe in Jesus Christ and do not know of Him at all. We recognize the good that exists everywhere. We recognize the truth that exists everywhere. That which is true is part of our religion; for it embraces all truth. Our Church is truth's magnet; truth from anywhere and everywhere is attracted by it, comes to it, assimilates with it, has an affinity with it. Truth from every source is recognized by our Church. Another thing: We are willing to let eminent persons of other denominations, if they are respectable, appear in our public congregations and talk to us. Why? Because we think that we may be turned, possibly, from our way and adopt some other way? Not at all; but to show that we do not fear comparison with other denominations; we do not fear the truth, no matter where it may come from. If Catholicism has any truth that we have not, we will be glad to have it. If Protestantism has any truth that we have not, we welcome it. If Mohammedanism has any truth that we have not yet learned, we will be pleased to get it. If truth should come from any part of the world that we have not yet obtained, we will receive it and rejoice in it. We are not afraid to compare our Church with any other church. We are not afraid for our people to hear ministers of other denominations; and if they can convey to us anything that is of profit, we are glad to have it. We welcome the good that comes from every source; and we believe that all good and all truth come down from the "Father of light." But with Him "there is no variableness, nor even a shadow of turning." He is the same always. He always was a God of revelation, and He always will be a God of revelation. And when people seek to Him, they can find Him; when they ask, they can receive; when they knock, the door can be opened unto them, and it is opened to every one who asks in the proper way.

When the Lord revealed the Gospel to His servant, Joseph Smith, and gave him power, by the gift of God, to translate the Book of Mormon from the hieroglyphics upon the plates which he obtained from the hands of the angel, the Lord inspired him for this work for the last days and for the last time; and the promise was given that the truth now revealed should never be taken away again. The promise was given that the authority of the Priesthood restored to earth should never be taken away again, but it should remain here, because this is "the dispensation of the fullness of times, in the which," Paul said, "God would gather in one all things that are in Him, both in the heavens and on the earth." The dispensation of the fullness of times! That was a mystery that Paul said God had made known to him, that in the dispensation of the fullness of times all should be gathered in one. Now, our testimony is, that this is that dispensation; that it has been commenced on the earth; that it will stay here; that it will accomplish the work that God has set it to do; that no power beneath the eternal

heavens can move it out of its path. Individuals may fall; men may "apostatize," to repeat the phrase used by our friend this afternoon; men may turn away from the truth; but the Church will abide, the truth will remain, and the Gospel will be preached to every nation, and kindred, and tongue and people. The honest in heart everywhere will be attracted towards this Gospel. Those who have stamina enough to come out from the world, in spite of all obstacles, in spite of all they may have to sacrifice in accepting the truth, will receive a testimony from God to their own souls that they have received the truth; and they will gather with the people of God, and help to build up Zion, and to establish Christ's kingdom on the earth. The elect will be gathered from the four winds, the kingdom of our God will be established, and the kingdom of our God will prevail and spread over the face of all the earth, and all the words of the Prophets concerning it will be fulfilled.

When the Apostleship was restored, and the principles of the Gospel as taught by the ancient Apostles were made known in the Church, and the Church was organized after the primitive pattern, the promise was given by the Lord in this way: "Go ye out and preach the Gospel to every creature. And let my servants who go forth from this hour take neither purse nor scrip; but let them go forth depending upon me, and I will open up the way before them; and a hair of their heads shall not fall to the ground unnoticed. Whosoever shall feed them, and clothe them, and give them money, the same is my disciple. And upon whomsoever they pronounce a blessing, they shall be blessed. Go ye forth, baptizing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; and lay your hands upon the persons who are thus baptized, and they shall receive the Holy Ghost. And signs shall follow them that believe. In my name, they shall speak with new tongues, they shall cast out devils, they shall heal the sick; and all the gifts pertaining to the Holy Ghost shall be given to them, as a witness and a testimony that they have received the truth." Now, men might go out and profess to have this authority; but they could not confer the Holy Ghost. They might baptize; they might lay hands upon people; but it is God who gives the Holy Ghost. Man cannot bestow it, except as he is commanded of God and is used as His instrument. Now, here are people in these mountain valleys, dwelling throughout the length and breadth of Utah, the vast majority of whom have come from the various countries of the world where this Gospel has been preached. Our simple Elders, going forth in faith, and clothed with this authority, have said to the people: "If you will believe in the Lord Jesus Christ; if you will repent of your sins (by real repentance with a determination to forsake sin and turn from wickedness and to serve God), and if you will be baptized for the remission of sins, we will promise you that you shall receive the Holy Ghost—the same Holy Ghost that the ancient Prophets had, the same Holy Ghost that ministered on the day of Pentecost, the same Holy Ghost that was in the primitive Christian Church and was manifested in the various gifts and blessings spoken of in the New Testament; you shall have that spirit, and you shall know for yourselves, by the witness thereof, that you are accepted of God and that you have received the truth." The Elders have gone to various nations in this way, and have made this promise, and nearly all the people who dwell in these mountain valleys are living witnesses of the truth of their mission.

This is what we rest on. Argument is almost superseded by it. We have no need to prove that all these different churches in modern Christendom have gone out of the way. God Almighty has said they have all gone out of the way, and that they are not accepted of him. "They draw near to me with their mouths; they honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me; and their fear toward me is taught by the precepts of men, not by the power and demonstration of the Holy Ghost. Therefore, they are not my Church." The Lord thus establishes His Church on the earth in the last days and for the last time, and sends out His servants in all the world to bear this witness.

This is my testimony: I know that this Church is true. I know it by the witness of the Holy Ghost. When I was a boy I heard the Gospel preached, and I believed the testimony, because I had been trained to believe in the New Testament and the Old Testament. But I went to God and asked Him to guide me; not to suffer me to be led astray. I was the only one of the family to which I belonged who accepted the Gospel, and I had to sacrifice my kindred, my surroundings, my prospects in life, so far as temporalities were concerned; but I became convinced in all my soul that this was the truth, and I went and was baptized. Then hands were laid upon me, and the Holy Ghost entered my soul; not by any physical convulsion of my body, but the light of God shone into my soul as clearly to my spirit as the sun gives me light in my eyes. And I know that that Spirit has been with me from that time, through all my experience now for about forty-eight years in the Church. Wherever I have been, in any part of the world, that Spirit has been with me to prompt me. That Spirit has revealed to me the things of God. That Spirit has shown me that which I should do, and that which I should not do. And whenever I have hearkened to that "still small voice" I have been right; whenever I have not, I have been wrong. I know by that Spirit that this is the Church of Christ. I know it will endure forever. I know that every curse heaped upon it will turn to its blessing. I know that every weapon that is formed against it will turn upon the framer. I know this work will prevail and it will spread over all the earth; for God is in it and with it. It is the Church of God; it is the Church of Christ; it is the Church of the Holy Ghost. The power and the Apostleship and ministry of Christ Jesus are in the Church, and will never be taken away again.

In bearing this testimony we do not say anything against the good that can be done by anybody in any church; but we say that their organizations are vain, as far as God is concerned; that their administrations are void, and without authority. We say that if a man administers in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, he does wrong unless he has been appointed by the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, to use their names. If he has not been, then he uses these sacred names in vain, and God will not hold him guiltless. We say that God has given this authority to this Church, and it is here, and will stay here. They may kill our Prophets and Apostles, as they slew Joseph Smith, the Prophet, and his brother Hyrum, the Patriarch; but that will make no difference to the Church. The Church is so organized that all the powers, gifts, spirit and influences that rested upon the leaders of the Church in the beginning have been conferred upon others. Twelve Apostles were chosen, and they were ordained to the Apostleship. The spirit of the Apostleship has been with them, and is with those who hold it today.