

## Mormonism Will

### Bear Investigation.

An Address Delivered in the Salt Lake Tabernacle, Sunday, October, 13, 1907, by

ELDER ANTHONY W. IVINS.

(Reported by F. W. Otterstrom.)

"Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, who ever art that judgest another, that condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. . . . And thinkest thou, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that then shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart hast thou raised up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; who will render to every man according to his deeds; to them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath. . . . For there is no respect of persons with God."

My brethren and sisters, I never felt my own unworthiness, my absolute dependence upon the Lord and upon the love and favor and support of my brethren and sisters in Christ. When I do this afternoon, I feel the responsibility of standing before this congregation of people as a servant of the Lord, one who has become identified with His work in this dispensation, one who has taken upon him His name, and entered into covenant with God and Entered Ethelred to the Lord and kept His commandments. I therefore understand myself perhaps better than anyone else understands me. I know my weaknesses, at least in a degree; I know my dependence upon the Lord, and I acknowledge Him before you this afternoon. I acknowledge His goodness. His mercy unto me, and the general blessing that He has given and given to Him because of the blessings that have come to me in my life.

#### BECOMES A BIBLE STUDENT.

In my youth I became familiar with the gospel of Christ. I was a student of the Bible. I studied His doctrines. I studied His example. I desired in my heart to have it read to me. I desired the confidence and esteem of my fellow men. And I found in the teachings of the Savior of the world that which seemed to me to absolutely satisfy my mind upon every one of these questions. I have read the writings of other philosophers—I know the truth—but other men, at divers times and in many different places, have given expression to some, at least, of the doctrines taught by the Savior of the world. I know that some of the things which He taught and which, if observed, would make us all better men and women, were uttered before He lived, but I also found, my brethren and sisters, that it was a fact that no one ever mentioned nor ever lived before or since Christ, had so completely satisfied the human mind; no man had ever given us such a perfect plan by which the lives of men and women who lived upon this earth may be made better; no other man ever showed us the way by which those lives may be carried into effect and accomplished. So little, in fact, ever pointed out to us in the way of our life, and the path in which we could travel to attain to it—as did the Savior of the world. So, in my boyhood, my conscience became captive to these words. I believed in them, I loved them, and as I read and studied and prayed, the Lord's address came to me that Jesus was indeed the Redeemer of the world, that the plan of redemption which He taught, and for which He gave His life—was true, for it was because of the doctrines He taught, because they came in contact with the religious views of the people who lived at the time of His ministry, that He taught them. I found that the promise which He made to me, He made it to all mankind—that He who should obey the gospel, he who would abide in His word, should know of the doctrine whether He spoke of the Father who sent Him or whether He spoke of Himself. In humility I bear witness to you, my brethren and sisters, and to all the world, that I put that promise to the test, and I am now a witness to you that God fulfilled His promise so far as I was concerned, and I have never doubted. That testimony has brought joy into my heart. I bear witness to you, that it has helped me to overcome the world, it has helped me to be a better man—not so good as I should have been—but I learned that those words that I have read to you were effective, first of all, because upon my own part was necessary that was the first strong impression that came to my mind, with a testimony of the divinity of the mission of the Savior of the world. I realized that I needed to repeat, that I needed to become a better man, and that I should not be a judge of the consciences of my fellow men—that I should not sit in judgment and condemnation upon them; but rather, that as I desired God's mercy should be extended to me, so was it my duty to extend mercy and sympathy and charity to the fellow man. I learned that that which I had done, which was justified of the Lord by His word, brought comfort to me. It brought consolation; it brought satisfaction. I learned that in the performances of duty I became stronger. I learned that as I overcame or sought to overcome, one after the other, the weaknesses of the flesh, that great power over them; and I learned that when I yielded up their demands I lost the power of self-control. Therefore I dared not allow myself to transgress the laws of God for fear I might become entirely unable to cope with the wickedness which I saw around me in the world.

## Remarkable Fat Reducer

A New Remedy Which Quickly Reduces Surplus Flesh, Leaving the Person in Normal Weight and Good Health.



The Above Illustration Shows the Remarkable Effects of This Wonderful Obesity Reducer—What It Has Done for Others It Can Do for You.

#### NO ROYAL ROAD.

I learned, furthermore, from that word of the Lord, that God is no respecter of persons—that there is no royal road by which we might return unto His presence, but that rich and poor, bond and free, all alike, must receive Jesus as the Savior of the world, and yield obedience to the doctrines which He taught, if we wish to be brought back into the presence of God, to have a place where He is and where all who believe in Him and have taken upon them the name of Christ ultimately hope to be.

#### MISSION OF THE PROPHET JOSEPH.

Then, my brethren and sisters, came a time in my life when I thought of the restored gospel, as we teach it and believe in it, in the dispensation in which we live. I thought of and sought to understand the mission of the prophet of the Lord who was raised up before the nation of Israel for the purpose of making clear the plain, more simple, and more effective, the doctrines which He taught the Bayes of the world. I found that the Prophet Joseph Smith came not to destroy the law or the prophets, but to teach a new doctrine, but in simplicity, just as Christ came before him, to the world that these were not his own doctrines, that he was sent not to do his own will, but the was acting in accordance with the commandment received from on high; and he humbly bore witness that the heavens had been opened that the personality of God had been revealed to him, that heavenly messengers had

ministered unto him, and that authority had been given to reorganize and establish the Church of Christ in the dispensation. The following year, I read, and much more. Was this all? I read, I studied, I searched the scriptures, and the answer was always: Yes—the time, the place, the man, the conditions, are all outlined. The Lord had showed it all to His prophets. The world did not understand it because the world does not investigate. A man can't help himself, what the difference is between the doctrine taught by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the doctrines taught by orthodox Christian denominations. Now, there isn't so great a difference. Joseph Smith declared to the world faith in God the Father and in Jesus Christ and in the gift and efficacy and power of the Holy Ghost. All Christians believe that. Then he declared to them that all men might be redeemed through obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel, and that those laws and ordinances were to be observed by His apostles so long as they remained in the ministry; and then the Prophet Joseph declared to them that the Lord had revealed those things, that we believe in these revelations, that we believe all that the Lord has revealed, and that He has now revealed something else. What shall we say in the future? Is this scriptural? Isn't this good doctrine? Certainly the word of the Lord bore him out in all of these declarations. And then he went farther. He said, we believe in sustaining kings, in supporting presidents, in sustaining magistrates, in giving up our property and in honoring our laws. Then he went further and said: We believe in being chaste; we believe in being virtuous; we believe in being upright; we believe in being honest. We believe, like St. Paul, that if there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report, we ought to seek after and attain to those things.

#### NEW WITNESS FOR GOD.

My brethren and sisters, Joseph Smith came as a new witness for God. He translated and gave to the world the Book of Mormon. I studied it—read and reread it. I read it in connection with the Bible. I read it in connection with the history of this continent, with its antiquity, with its wonderful cities and temples, lie to the south of us. Then I read that promise of the Lord, which is recorded in the latter part of the book. In which He says that whatever man or woman shall renounce the things of the world, shall be exalted before the Lord, asking for light. He will testify to them, through the gift of the Holy Ghost, that these things are true and so again, I found light and truth, and I thank the Lord for it. I thank the Lord, my brethren and sisters, that notwithstanding my own infirmities, notwithstanding my own weakness, this testimony has grown stronger and stronger in my heart. Every year that we live, every season that comes and goes gives us some new evidence, some new external proof of the truth of these things.

#### IGNORANCE CAUSE OF UNBELIEF.

The man or woman who doubts the divinity of the mission of Jesus Christ is, without exception, the man or woman who has never investigated the doctrines that He taught. They know little or nothing of His life and ministry. You may read the writings of commentators and unbelievers; it is not difficult for men to ridicule; it is not difficult for men to doubt; it is not difficult for a man to say: I do not believe; it is not difficult for a man to say the thing is not true and then offer no proof in support of his assertion. This almost without exception, is done by unbelievers. I tell you that the lack of faith, the lack of belief in these things to which I have referred, whether it be the ministry of the Savior of the world, whether it be the mission of Joseph Smith, whether it be the Bible (in which many people have faith), or whether it be the Book of Mormon, in which people do not believe, unbelief is largely due to a lack of proper investigation. And my brethren and sisters, this matter is worth investigating. If this gospel has been the greatest power in the world, it has indeed the power to redeem man and woman from their sins; if it is indeed the power to adjust society, and to regulate—make men and women happier, while they are here in this earth; if it not only saves the souls of men and women, but blesses them in this life also; if it has in it the key to seat on earth in the Kingdom of God, then let us not only to redeem those who live, but also those who are dead—it is worth investigation, is it not?

#### WILL BEAR INVESTIGATION.

Our testimony is that Mormonism is, without exception, the man or woman who has never investigated the doctrines that He taught. They know little or nothing of His life and ministry. You may read the writings of commentators and unbelievers; it is not difficult for men to ridicule; it is not difficult for men to doubt; it is not difficult for a man to say: I do not believe; it is not difficult for a man to say the thing is not true and then offer no proof in support of his assertion. This almost without exception, is done by unbelievers. I tell you that the lack of faith, the lack of belief in these things to which I have referred, whether it be the ministry of the Savior of the world, whether it be the mission of Joseph Smith, whether it be the Bible (in which many people have faith), or whether it be the Book of Mormon, in which people do not believe, unbelief is largely due to a lack of proper investigation. And my brethren and sisters, this matter is worth investigating. If this gospel has been the greatest power in the world, it has indeed the power to redeem man and woman from their sins; if it is indeed the power to adjust society, and to regulate—make men and women happier, while they are here in this earth; if it not only saves the souls of men and women, but blesses them in this life also; if it has in it the key to seat on earth in the Kingdom of God, then let us not only to redeem those who live, but also those who are dead—it is worth investigation, is it not?

#### THE DAUGHTERS OF THE PIONEERS.

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there is not a thing in the gospel, that will not bear the closest possible examination and scrutiny, and believing that there is nothing in the lives of the Latter-day Saints that will not bear investigation.

Our people and the gospel truths they teach are susceptible of scrutiny; and every man and woman who has made a fair investigation has gone away satisfied. There is something in it. But the unknown, the uninvestigated, who does not recognize the truth, who has received this testimony, just as you and I have received it—and who afterwards have become contaminated with the sins of the world—they hate men and women who have the truth; they hate men and women who love the truth; and they become calumniators and speak evil of the work of the Lord; but those who have kept their covenants, those who have done the will of the Lord, know, as you are my witness, that it has made them better and better women; that they have humanity in them, that they have the responsibility of life. That is more than ever before that man does not stand alone, but his dependence upon his neighbor—that our lives are intimately associated with ours.

Mr. Robert O. Burke, Elizabethtown, N. Y., writes: "Therefore I started to use Peleg's Kidney Cure, and I am now free from kidney trouble. I have a night cramp, which I planted out with dropsy and my digestion was so impaired I could scarcely eat one of my daily meals across the table. I had to give up tea, coffee, beer, whisky, etc. I recommended Peleg's Kidney Cure. On account of the hard worked summer and before I had taken the third bottle the dropsy had disappeared and all other symptoms of Bright's disease were gone. Price, \$1.50 per bottle. Peleg's Kidney Cure, \$1.50 per bottle. Peleg's Kidney Cure, \$1.50 per bottle."

## GENEALOGY.

The Genealogical Society and Its Work—The Saints Urged to Join—The Interest of the Daughters of the Pioneers in Their Forefathers—St. George Temple Work.

All communications for this department should be addressed to Mrs. Elizabeth Clarendon MacCabe, chairman, general committee of the Daughters of the Pioneers, corner Main and First North streets, Salt Lake City, Utah.

The profound awakening impulse towards the redemption of the dead which has come to the Latter-day Saints during the last few years is taking a permanent and useful form. Reference has been made in this department many times to the Genealogical society which has for its president Anthony H. Lund, with Joseph F. Smith as the secretary. This society has for its objects the nobility and magnificence of every endeavor taken by the children of men. For it is to assist the saints in releasing the helpless dead. And no one should mistake its purpose or its importance. The men who hold positions in this society are not nod for their labors, nor are they stolid to their generous giving of their time and thought to this end. But they are men who are full of determination to carry on this labor of love. In all parts of the civilized world, there are genealogical societies, but they are working as it were in the dark. That is to say, they are spending themselves to secure and publish the cause of genealogical interest, but there the labors and interest end. That there is any cause for this Mormon genealogical labor, men in the world have never guessed. But to the Latter-day Saints, the whole matter becomes a special part of a glorious plan of eternal salvation. And it will impress the minds of the rest of the world. We are not groping in the dark in this matter, but are standing, faces upward, in the full light of God's presence. And upon our efforts He will surely smile. Nor will He forget to reward those in the world who work in this cause, even though they do it without hope or pecuniary reward, yet who have not the light of the gospel.

The readers of this department are urged to join this society, either as yearly members or by the payment of a modest sum, to become life members of the society. The saint who wishes to attend the cause of temple work can find no better place to do so than this society and help along this society through the small sum he will pay, in his endeavors to further prosecute the work. There are about 300 books now in the library, but there are over \$10,000, and then another \$8,000 and then another. And there should be means enough to purchase and accommodate quarters to install an immediate and effective system of card-indexing to all the volumes; there should be enough income to secure expert help and clerk hire for those numerous matters which pertain to the growth of the society. And where can any man better invest his money, whether great or small, than in the redemption of the dead? He may rest assured that himself and his, as well as the cause of the dead, will receive the blessing and approval of God. If this is any cause, who thinks he has not an interest? Who thinks of his own dead to engage his attention, and him to the Lord by giving liberally of his means to this society, and then how long he would have to wait before the way is opened gloriously to him to take up his own temple labor. Try it, and put your faith to a working test.

The Daughters of the Pioneers are certainly interested in perpetuating the memory of their fathers who settled up this region, and those who settling up Nauvoo, and Kirtland, and they are far more deeply interested in carrying forward the work and the cause which their fathers began and died to establish. And the work of genealogies and redeeming the dead is the most important labor which now or at any time rests upon the shoulders of this people. While the men of this church are busily engaged under the direction of Father Adam in building up the citizen and peaceful phases of Zion, let the daughters of Eve engage their whole hearts in the securing of the names of their dead, and then attend to their redemption in the temples.

Readers of this department will find it profitable to read the late pamphlet on "Salvation for the Dead," now on sale at the Deseret News office. These sermons contain the most valuable and interesting matter on this subject prepared in modern times. The Daughters of the Pioneers are certainly interested in perpetuating the memory of their fathers who settled up this region, and those who settling up Nauvoo, and Kirtland, and they are far more deeply interested in carrying forward the work and the cause which their fathers began and died to establish. And the work of genealogies and redeeming the dead is the most important labor which now or at any time rests upon the shoulders of this people. While the men of this church are busily engaged under the direction of Father Adam in building up the citizen and peaceful phases of Zion, let the daughters of Eve engage their whole hearts in the securing of the names of their dead, and then attend to their redemption in the temples.

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