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Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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THE DOCTRINE OF DEITY.

It is very important that mankind should have a correct understanding of the Deity, as far as the Divine can be comprehended by the human. When the youth Joseph Smith received his first vision, he beheld two glorious personages, whose brightness far exceeded that of the noonday sun; but immediately one stepped forward and addressed him by name, saying, "This is my beloved Son; hear Him."

In "Mormon" theology, then, the Father and the Son are two separate entities and each is a person in the form of man, who is made "after their image and their likeness." These Divine Beings with the Holy Ghost form the Godhead. The Spirit is universally present throughout the vast domains of space, and is held by revelation to be:

"The light which is in all things, which giveth life to all things, which is the law by which all things are governed, even the power of God, who sitteth upon his throne, who is in the bosom of eternity, who is in the midst of all things."—Doc. & Cov., sec. 88, 12.

Man can to some extent understand the Father and the Son by studying himself as he possesses a body, which is possess spiritual, mental and physical, when perfected, immortalized and glorified. The promise is that:

"When He (God) shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure."—1 John iii, 1, 2.

That is because "We are the sons of God," Jesus of Nazareth is recognized by all the Christian sects as the Son of God. Most of them say also that He is God. They constitute the doctrine of the Trinity. With but very few exceptions they endorse the description of Deity given by the Episcopalian church, in the first of its Thirty-nine Articles:

"There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body, parts, or passions; of infinite power, wisdom and goodness; the Maker and Preserver of all things both visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there be three persons, of one substance, power and eternity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost."

It is also part of those creeds that

"Christ did truly rise again from death, and took again His body, with flesh, bones and all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature, wherewith He ascended into heaven, and there sitteth, until He return to judge all men at the last day."

They further explain that the three persons of the Trinity are "co-equal and their majesty co-eternal." Also that:

"Such as the Father is, such is the Son and such is the Holy Ghost."

Of course it is difficult, if not impossible, to explain how a Deity composed of three persons, one of whom has a body of flesh and bones can be "without body and without parts," but such is the orthodox idea which they who can may believe. But we desire to draw attention to the declaration that the Father and the Son are declared to be alike "without any difference or inequality;" and that the Son went to heaven with His resurrected body of flesh and bones and sits at "the right hand of the Father." We do this because the doctrine of the Godhead, as held by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is based upon what is called and held to be "pagan" by preachers who credit us for this belief we have briefly set forth.

Now if there is anything concerning Deity made clear in the Scriptures it is that there is a difference between those who worship and those who are worshipped. In Godhead matters it is that Jesus is the Son of God the Father and that He is the "express image of His person." Also that Jesus was "the first-born among many brethren." But He said they "are of one;" that as "the Father hath made perfect" the Son of God and Saviour, He also Himself became perfect, and that Jesus said that as "all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren," and that those who believe in Him were will to be like Him in all things. "(Heb. ii, 17.)

Now if Jesus of Nazareth is the resurrected body of flesh and bones is just like His Eternal Father, why should the doctrine that God the Father is not as Christ the Son is a person "as being of a body and flesh and bones" contrary to Christianity? God is a spirit and it is true that "a spirit hath not flesh and bones." But man is a spirit (Jer. 38, 31) and yet "hath flesh and bones; for a spirit is a body that has flesh and bones as you see I have." Jesus said, "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit." He left the body and returned to it, then with that body ascended into heaven to dwell with the Father.

All the sons of God, if they follow in His footsteps, are to be the same. For though He was the only begotten Son of God in the flesh, He was the "first-born" in the spirit. And His brethren are to share in His glory as "joint heirs" to all things with the Father and their Father, His God and their God.

If Jesus Christ, with a body of flesh and bones glorified and immortal, is really God, is it unreasonable or disscriptural to believe that the Father is also an immortal being with a spiritual, present body? If the spirit of man is the offspring of God, as declared in holy writ, and the resurrected body of man is to be clothed and transformed into the glorious body of the Son of God, who is in "the express image" of the Father, who dare not now and forever in every respect like Christ, and that the Eternal Father is as all?

"Mormon" doctrine, as the Godhead is based on revelation, and not taken from the Bible, but the Father is as much a person in body with as is the Son, and the Holy Spirit, which proceeds from them, is the light and life of all things. He is their agent, present, by the power of God, in every place. He is omnipotent in power, omnipresent in wisdom and omniscient in knowledge. The redeemed and exalted are to "inherit all things" and "reign with God and the Lamb forever."

"Mormon" gives the only rational explanation of the "mystery of godliness" of the Godhead. It reconciles the individuality of each person in the Trinity and yet shows their unity and consummate. It also points out the destiny of the sons of God, who are to be promoted into their Father's palace and kingdom and inherit all things with Him and the Son in their celestial.

If the preachers who cause hostility against the Latter-day Saints because of their doctrine of Deity, really believe that Jesus is that Son who sits on the throne of heaven, and that God the Father is as Christ, why do they not teach their congregations and leave the mysteries and endless speculations behind? Why not teach them that God is a person in form and shape like unto man, and that man is to be like Him? Why not teach them that God is a person, in whom dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead, in bodily form, and that man is to be like Him? Why not teach them that God is a person, who has a right to receive glory and honor and dominion for ever and ever?

That the establishment of the Jews in Palestine and the restoration of that country to its ancient inheritance will aid in the accomplishment of the prophecies of Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah, is quite evident both to the Prophets and to the Jews themselves. The Jews do not now pray there "next year in Jerusalem" (Tyre, p. 3) prominent upon the decrepitude of the scattered people through the recent bigotedness of Russia, the great Jewish Empire, and by gathered in both spiritual Israel, and the city shall be taken, after great suffering, the Lord himself, in the midst of His Saints (Mal. iii 1), will come and deliver the people, after which He will be acknowledged "King over all the earth." "In that day," the Prophet says "there shall be one Lord and His name One."

We are merely living in a time when the "three rare words of prophecy" should be generally realized, for "a church in a dark place until the day dawns"—the happy day of thousand years and righteousness.

NOT DOGMA BUT TESTIMONY.

There is an impending controversy, if not incubated by the Christian attempt to Bishop Potter. "The time has come when the church and the churches must confess frankly to themselves and to the world that we have no Christ."

The New York Sun takes the view that this can only come that in the view of the same Sun, the idea for Christian theology is past, since the Christian have no other vocation to offer to the world.

Quoted for this statement the Sun argues:

"The fact of the resurrection only lives only in the assertion of all Christ's followers, and it is on that fact that Christ was declared and proclaimed Son of God. His resurrection was to the Jew of natural and supernatural, and to the Greek it was supreme evidence. In which is the credibility of the Fact but in the testimony of the Fact but in the testimony of the Apostles, who, of the original witnesses of the resurrection of Christ, were the foundation of the original Christian church. The resurrection of Christ is not a dogma, but a testimony. The Gospels are founded on contemporaneous evidence. It is not a dogma to be swallowed whole or a creed after the Apostles Creed, and the Nicene Creed, or any thing is a dogma only. The whole supernatural basis of Christian theology is assumption, and it is not a dogma but a testimony from those to whom Christ was manifested in person. The Bible itself is which is the testimony of the Fact, and it was fixed by the church, so far as it is fixed. No other evidence is to be discovered. Mr. Stanley Fielding Potter is entitled to saying that the time has come when the church and the churches must confess "frankly to themselves and to the world that we have no Christ." The time has come when the church must abdicate its supernatural authority, for that is merely worldly pseudo.

The fact of the modern religionists realizing that their position is entirely different from that to which the first messengers of Christ were, who could say: "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you." They are no longer witnesses. They merely repeat "dogmas." And in this morning their proof is lost as they have not revelation and the power of God.

When the situation of the churches is fully understood, it becomes clear why in the age, when the Church of Christ was to be founded, this had to be done by an unknown. Joseph the Prophet was an eye-witness to the fact that Jesus lives. So were others. The Gospel is being preached so longer as a dogma, but as a testimony to the truth. This is the great difference between "Mormonism" and the religion of the world.

A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

Among the present visitors to Salt Lake City is one of Denmark's distinguished citizens, Herr Erik Bruun. The gentleman is famous as a traveler and a journalist. Young Denmark knows him as the leading spirit among the students of the University of Copenhagen, whose efforts he has successfully directed for years, looking for free education, free musical and legal advice for the poorer classes, and similar measures.

Mr. Bruun has many friends in this city, as well as elsewhere in the United States. He brings them a greeting from the old country. We hope he will find his visit here both pleasant and profitable. We hope he will carry away only the best impressions. Utah is justly indebted to settlers from the Scandinavian countries for the wonderful transformation of this region from a wilderness to a pleasant garden. Their industry, frugality and refined skill are tribute to a great source of our prosperity. As a rule they are thoroughly American in their views and efforts; still they remember the land of their birth, hoping that some day the principles of American government may extend and only over this country, but throughout the civilized world.

WILL THE CZAR QUIT?

The Paris correspondent of the London Times tends to his paper a story to the effect that the Russian Czar is about to resign the throne. The story substantially has gained currency in Europe, although the general guess will be not to credit it, since further confirmation can be obtained. Russian Czars are not in the habit of abdicating.

Still, Emperor Nicholas is not a common Czar. The proposition to all the world to discuss and his efforts at reform in the Siberian representation system, prove that he has outgrown common ideas, and it is possible that the barons of nobility, in his heart, he knows. It is possible, too, that his mission has been fulfilled in the initiative he has taken in the direction of universal peace. It is conceivable that another Czar is needed to lead the Russian empire onward to world the best that he has to offer in the final issues, and that the abdication of Nicholas is necessary for the "calling short" of the work of the Almighty in the last days. The present Czar cannot very well lead the armies of the Russian empire against Christ, and yet the course to be necessary for the preparation of Europe for the Millennium.

It will certainly be very interesting to see whether this story is founded on fact or not. If Nicholas has decided to abdicate, he will be well provided for, so, no matter what difference is thought to bear upon him. He has certainly shown himself to be the possessor of a will of his own in some matters of great importance.

WORTHY OF THOUGHT.

The following from a South Carolina paper contains some pointed reflections on a matter subject. There are far more cases of lynching in the free states, which are common in places not associated with South Carolina except by report. The "Prophet of the Plain" said: "Thou hast been accused, and the officers charged that not 'judgment.'"

"A prominent correspondent has come out a violent against the Presbyterian church, the Methodist church, the Baptist church, the Mormon Church at Salt Lake City, charging them with purveyors.

"In every State of Old Union except one Mexico over a dispute between owner of the Rio Grande, and in Texas and the other in Mexico. The chief complication will be the catching of the rapists who are disregarding the laws of both countries. International interest in the affair is out of the question.

The Paris Gaulois says that American Admiral Dewey in explain the New York Herald alleged interview is clearly an error. America knows better than to ask an explanation from a high official of a foreign government except through the regular diplomatic channels. A question of that kind would have come through the state department.

In the Alaska boundary dispute, Great Britain claims that Russia misinterpreted the treaty with England, made in 1825. But since Russia, shortly thereafter surveyed the line and marked it where the United States now points it should be, and there was no objection on the part of Great Britain until within a few years past, the Russian survey and the lapse of time go to show that the line drawn where Russia understood it was intended to be, and that the English acquiesced in that understanding for many years after Alaska came into the possession of the United States.

YELLOW FEVER.

New York Sun.

If Dr. Wood could bring the plague almost to a standstill in a tropical city where the heat is almost at its highest, within falls below 80 degrees, and works easily on during the day, the matter looks promising for contending with the Virginia and Maryland health authorities, with all their resources at their command, should yours itself equal to the present emergency in Virginia.

Springfield, Mass. Republican.

The Omey is held at Hampton. The thirty-five million dollars appropriation for national soldiers' homes has been brought to the end of the way this session. It is now said that some of the soldiers have been getting brought the graves of the Rangers from Kearsarge, and reinterred the remains of the United States troops from yellow Jack during and after the bombardment of Cuba, has been remarkable.

Boston Transcript.

The Jewish Hospital Hospital, which is reported to have been opened at the request of the quarantine officials in charge, stands alone in the history of all Jewish Hospitals, somewhat removed from the main thoroughfares of Boston. It was built by the government last year for the care of the sick and wounded soldiers from Cuba, and bears the marks of a hastily constructed building having some of the best modern ideas and convenience for the purpose of a hospital. Either these conditions and with these facilities it seems probable that the disease can be well taken care of and stamped out in that vicinity.

THE CLEVELAND BOYCOTT.

Springfield, Mass. Republican.

A boycott founded upon the broad basis of general public sympathy and support is formidable. It is the modern social body to be effective enough to use its industrial constituents in order to enforce such laws and regulations as the boycott inflicts.

Boston Herald.

The introduction of the boycott has brought into play a dangerous weapon in connection with the Cleveland strike. Its effect has been to permit the strike to take a form of strife not of its normal conditions. A strike that carried the public by direct sympathy would establish a dangerous precedent, and it would seem to be full time that the good sense and the good feeling of the public of the citizens of Cleveland should assert itself against the domination of Hanna that is attempted to be established.

Portsmouth Herald-Union.

In the nature of things it must fall, because, first, it is intensely severe and indiscriminate; second, it is opposed to business enterprise, and, third, there is no sentiment in favor of an organizing character. The boycott, which is a weapon, is not a remedy, which must fall to unite forces and where to where to unite. It is primarily social in the Free Interest.

THE AUTOMOBILE.

Boston Transcript.

Colonel Nelson A. Miles is taking a great interest in the development of the automobile. There is something about an automobile that suggests wars.

Boston Herald.

Full appreciation of the novel victory gained by the automobile over the express train between Paris and Dieppe, Mass. is a little lessened by a protesting consideration whether the automobiles were fast of the express train slow.

Worcester, Mass. Gazette.

The automobile now that America has set with Europe in the matter of speed, is probably ahead of the countries on that continent, although they have somewhat of a start.

Chicago Times-Herald.

The automobile will not only expedite the transfer and collection of mail in the cities but it is highly probable that it will ultimately solve the free rural delivery problem which is now engaging the attention of the department. Its employment for the delivery of mails in the rural districts would not only bring the agricultural communities into close touch with the world it leaves and business activity but would inaugurate a new era of good road building.

New York World.

A railroad train can go faster than thirty miles an hour if put to it, which the automobile cannot do, and it can also carry large quantities of provisions and many tons of freight in safety, which the automobile cannot do. Even if all the highways of the world were as smooth and as well kept as the highways of France it would not be possible for the automobile to overcome the hindrances of grade, rough surface and public traffic in competition with the railroad.

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HAMMOCKS

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