

of error and folly of the ages, and made bare the rocks of truth, on which to found anew the Gospel of the Son of God and the Church of Christ. There is to me something splendid in this; a conception far above the daring of man; a thing which of itself smacks of heaven. Yet this message to mankind comes with no new Gospel. It comes merely proclaiming a restoration of the old faith, and ministering the old ordinances of salvation. It comes with the same Church organization, and with the same means of salvation for the children of men. It commands the worship of no new God; it presents no new Redeemer; for it is written, and truly is it said, that there is no name given among men whereby we may be saved, but the name of Jesus Christ. There is no other Gospel by which men may be saved. Paul said: "Though we or an angel from heaven preach any other Gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

No new Gospel then is to be proclaimed even by an angel from heaven. And if Joseph Smith had come teaching another Gospel, or a new Redeemer, his message would have been vain, for all men would have known it to be untrue. But men departed from the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They strayed from its ordinances, and taught for doctrine the commandments of men; they lost the divine authority which gave them the right and power to speak and act in the name of God, and hence there was a necessity for these things to be restored to the children of men, and this first vision of Joseph Smith's was the commencement of the restoration of the Gospel. That is, it was the first step in that direction; it prepared the way.

This revelation which I have just referred to was followed by a number of others, by which the authority to baptize men for the remission of sins was restored; by which the Holy Apostleship was conferred upon Joseph Smith and others through the personal ministry of Peter, James and John, the three who in the lifetime of the Son of God possessed a peculiar distinction from the rest of the Apostles, being more immediately the companions of the Lord Jesus Christ, and upon whom He conferred the keys of the kingdom, the power to act for Him and to teach His truth—they came, I say, and restored the Holy Apostleship. The restoration of that Apostleship empowered the men receiving it to teach the Gospel and to establish the Church of Christ in all the world. The Church received revelation upon revelation, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little, according as the Saints were strong enough to receive it, and the result is, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints possesses all the ordinances of salvation; all the means of grace which God gives to men; all the means of sanctity; and possesses every mark and characteristic essential to the Church of Christ.

Does the Church of Christ require that it shall have the mark of Oneness? Behold it in this Church. One Church, one head! Though there are churches established in the islands of the sea, in Europe, in the various states of America, in Iceland, anywhere, yet are they not separate and distinct churches, but branches and parts of this one church. Twice each year, in this Tabernacle, the hosts of Israel assemble, and with uplifted hands we witness to each other that we sustain before the heavens and the earth the Prophet, Seer, the Revelator, and President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in all the world. And there is no branch of the Church so remote but what his authority is acknowledged there; and from all parts of the earth the eyes of the Saints are turned here for the word of God, and from time to

time, as the circumstances of the Church have needed it, the word of God hath been given. All Israel accepts that word. When it comes, the end of controversy is reached—all questions are settled. If anywhere the waters have been troubled, at the word of the Lord through the Prophet, behold, the tumult subsides, and peace reigns. One! One in spirit. One in the fact that no part of it considers itself detached from the body of Christ, and no part considers itself beyond the reach of the influence and authority of the great Head of the Church which God hath established. For He has commanded His Church to receive the word of His mouthpiece as His own word, and promises that this shall be the sheet-anchor of the Church's safety, and the means by and through which she shall arise superior to all difficulties and shall be established in the earth. Such is the Oneness of the Church of Christ.

Is Holiness demanded as a mark of the true Church of Christ? If so, find it in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the fact that she teaches a holy doctrine; in the fact that she holds the means by which holiness is imparted, through the ordinances of the Gospel, to the members of the Church. Such is her Holiness.

Is Universality a mark of the true Church of Christ? Yes, so we learn. Then behold it here in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, a universal Church, extending the wide world over, and excluding all others to the claim of being the Church of Christ, everywhere extending, and her authority universal. So that she possesseth this characteristic of the Church of Christ, and in a larger degree than any other church—for this reason: The Gospel she teaches and the authority she claims not only pertains to the generation now living, but to the past and to the future generations of men. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints stands here in the dispensation of the fullness of times, in the which God has decreed that He would gather together all things in one, both in heaven and on earth, even in Him, Christ Jesus. Were there peculiar powers and keys of authority held in the days of the Patriarchs? Yes. The great personages that held those powers came to the Prophet who stands at the head of this dispensation, Joseph Smith, and bestowed those keys of authority and powers upon him. Did Moses possess the keys of the gathering of Israel and the restoration of the tribes of Israel to their lands? Yes; and he came to the Temple of God in Kirtland and yielded up his keys of power and authority, so that the great head of the Church today holds in his hands this power once possessed by that mighty servant of God, and we are working to accomplish the gathering of Israel, the restoration of Israel to the lands promised unto the fathers.

Did the Prophet Elijah hold peculiar keys of power in his day? Yes; keys by which the hearts of the children are turned to the fathers, and the hearts of the fathers turned to the children. And the Lord promised before the great and terrible day of His judgment should come He would send the Prophet Elijah, and the object of his mission should be the turning of the hearts of the fathers to the children and of the children to the fathers, lest the whole earth should be smitten with a curse at the glorious coming of the Lord. Malachi IV: 5-6. And those keys were bestowed upon Joseph Smith, and are now held by the great head of the Church, Wilford Woodruff, his legal successor. Behold the power restored which shall make the Gospel of the Son of God effective to all the generations of men as well to those who have lived

when it was not on the earth, as to those living when divine authority was on the earth, and the mercy of God by this means shall be extended unto all men—that is, the opportunities of receiving the Gospel shall be extended unto all men, whether they have lived in former ages or now.

This restored Gospel also looks into the future. It anticipates the coming of the Son of God in glory, and to the Church has been given the work of preparing the inhabitants of the earth for the glorious coming of Jesus Christ. As the ocean ultimately receives into its bosom all the streams of earth, so this dispensation of the fullness of times opened through the revelations of God to Joseph Smith, receives from all former dispensations, keys of power and authority by which all things shall be gathered together in this dispensation of the fullness of times. A universal Church, this Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, most truly!

Do the terms which describe the Church of Christ demand that she shall be Apostolic—that is, that she shall receive organization from Apostolic authority? If so, then behold the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the most Apostolic of all the churches that exist; for the reason that it was Peter, James and John who conferred the holy Apostleship upon the head of the Prophet Joseph, and he upon others: so that this power is here, and the keys thereof, and the authority to establish the Church of Christ by direct Apostolic authority is resident in the Prophet of God who was called to this work.

Here then stands the Church of Christ, with these powers, with this commission to preach the Gospel in all the world. To me, my brethren and sisters, her claims are consistent, her strength resistless, her future glorious, and her triumph shall yet be splendid. There is no question in my mind as to where the Church of Christ is. I find her, the bride of the Lamb of God, here, and I find her strength bottomed in the declarations of God: that He, the Righteous Judge of the whole earth, hath declared Himself concerning the contending sects that exist in the world, that they are not His Church or Kingdom—that they teach for doctrine the commandments of men. But God has restored His Gospel, re-established His Church, and given to men divine authority to speak and administer in His name. And who shall prevail against the Church of God that He hath thus established and founded in the truth?

But, notwithstanding our own assurance of the truth of these matters, we very naturally turn to such facts of history or prophecy that will aid us in presenting these truths to our fellow men; for to this end have they been given to us, that is to teach them to our fellow men. We stand, as a community, in the same position that the Apostle Paul stood in as an individual. He said, "Woe is me, if I preach not the Gospel of Christ!" So with us: Woe be unto us if we preach not these glad tidings of the Gospel of the Son of God restored! The responsibility of bearing witness to the truth rests upon us; and we cannot wait until we become, as a community, learned in the philosophies of the world, or skilled orators. The affairs of God cry haste, and speed must answer them. And as in former times, as I read at the opening of my remarks, in the Scripture, God took the weak things of the earth with which to accomplish His purposes, so now He has chosen the weak things of the world; men whose preaching and whose words stand not in the wisdom that the knowledge of the world teaches, but stand in the power of God. He must uphold His word; He must sustain His servants, else they shall never be able to perform the task before