

COMPREHENSIVE GOSPEL SERMONS.

Elders John Henry Smith and Charles W. Penrose in The Tabernacle.

MISSION OF "MORMONISM."

Includes the Preaching of the Gospel Unto all the World—Divine Authority.

The Latter-day Saints believe they have a mission to perform, and that that mission includes the preaching of the gospel to all the world, is the testimony delivered in the Tabernacle yesterday afternoon to an immense throng. Among those present were many visitors, who were greatly interested in the remarks made and who freely expressed surprise that the "Mormon" religion was so broad and liberal in its scope. The speakers were Elders John Henry Smith and Charles W. Penrose, of the Council of the Twelve, while the meeting was presided over by President John R. M. Tanner. An opening hymn the choir sang, "How great the wisdom and the love." Prayer was offered by President Richard W. Young of Ensign Stake. The choir rendered the anthem, "The Pilgrim's Chorus."

ELDER JOHN HENRY SMITH.

Elder John Henry Smith was the first speaker. He prefaced his remarks by quoting Rev. 14: 6-7. "And I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, kindred, people, and tongue; saying, 'Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment is come.'

"These words," said the speaker, fell from the lips of John the Divine, and gave evidence that there would come a time in the world's history when it would be necessary for the gospel in its fullness and purity to be preached among the children of men. If that time has not yet come in the history of the human race, it should certainly be looked for in the approaching.

Elder Smith referred to the many changes that had been wrought in the world's history, and to men who had appeared and presented doctrines for the uplifting of the human race, now claiming, however, to have received authority, etc., to do so. He spoke of the teachings of our Catholic brothers and sisters and of the great Greek church, and other churches that had taught the things which they taught were just and right.

He spoke of the manner in which Martin Luther and his attitude toward the mother church, and his attitude toward that world was virtually in revolt against the teachings of the Reformer, and that therefore they should be called to repentance. He did not claim, however, that he had received that authority spoken of by the Apostle Paul. "No man taketh this honor unto himself, but it is given him from above." He never claimed that he came from heaven had brought to him the everlasting gospel; and that the keys authorizing him to administer in the ordinances of the same had been committed to his charge. His contention was that he had found the mother church in transgression, teaching false doctrine, that immorality and carnal sins uttered broadcast and the ministry and the people were not in harmony with the doctrine of the Son of Man.

To the declaration of the Peoplers, Joseph Smith now had declared that they had received a direct communication from the heavens. Joseph Smith announced that he had a visitation from the Father and the Son; that the keys of the gospel were entrusted to him, and the requirement made that he would see that it was preached to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. It was not only to reach the living, but the dead also were to have it in the spirit world, and it was his duty to declare this to the children of men.

At this point Elder Smith gave way, apparently from physical indisposition, and Elder Charles W. Penrose was asked to continue the subject of his theme.

ELDER CHARLES W. PENROSE.

Elder Penrose stated that he was much interested in what had been said because of its great significance, and that he knew of no truth. "You have heard to some extent the great difference between the Latter-day Saints and the different Christian denominations," said the speaker. "That is to say, while the various denominations are set up according to their ideas and notions of what is right from the Bible, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is set up by direct commandment of God, as has been already quoted from Rev. 14: 6, 7. This angel has come from heaven to earth and told the world that God is in the flesh, and the gospel is not only to be preached to the living but to the dead also, as has been testified here this afternoon."

The speaker bore witness to the fact that in the nineteenth century our heavenly Father sent from His presence the angel seen in vision by John when banished on the Isle of Patmos, to restore the everlasting gospel. This gospel is the true gospel that has been given, is not new. It is the gospel of this age of the world, and many of its doctrines are new to mankind at present, but the church is the old church restored by God and the doctrines the same as those taught by Jesus and His Apostles, although they may be new to many in this age of the world.

The speaker said the Doctrine and Covenants contained number of revelations from God given through the Prophet Joseph Smith to His people and the people of the world. While it may seem strange to read from this book as a scripture, it is just as much scripture to us as the Holy Bible. It is true that God has inspired Prophets.

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see, are not His instructions to them as much scripture as those given through the Prophets of ages ago? If not, why not?

Some will say, "Have not the Christian churches claimed that the canon of scripture is full, and that after the days of the apostles for hundreds of years there was no direct revelation?" We admit that during the dark ages there was no direct revelation. But we do not claim to have revealed to us any secret according to their interpretation of scripture. We do not claim to have received any direct revelation. But we do not admit that the God has ceased to have the power over the Will to reveal Himself to His children. We do not concede that such a change has taken place in the power of Deity. The people ceased to seek for revelation, but it does not follow that there was to be none. We claim that there is ever the same and will remain. He who when called on in faith, nothing will stand in his way. And we shall receive, seek and want to find, knowledge, it shall be open unto us; yet it is a fundamental principle of the scripture of Christ. So we claim that people nowadays have the right to expect communication from God, as they did formerly. The people then read from the Doctrine and Covenants, section 82, in which authority is given from God to the leaders of this Church to create and administer the ordinances of the everlasting gospel.

Continuing, he said that when the Prophet Joseph Smith and his associates laid obligations upon him to preach the gospel to the children of men, He made arrangements for him to receive the payment. For this purpose John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, who gave him the keys of the kingdom and bestowed upon him the keys of the holy Apostleship that whatever they might bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever they might loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Elder Penrose referred to the simple commission given to the Prophet Joseph and the commission given in the statement of the keys mentioned in the last chapter of Matthew and the last chapter of Mark. This record was not given to anyone but to the 12 Apostles. Judas' place not having been filled, Christ appeared to them after His resurrection and said unto them, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature; that he which believeth not shall be damned." This command was given to no others and does not authorize anyone except those 12 to administer in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Many men had taken upon themselves the right to administer in the name of the Holy Trinity by virtue of the commission given to other persons hundreds of years ago.

The speaker cited the twelfth chapter of 1 Cor., showing the church was organized in the order and to what purpose. He said that he knew from history that these men were put to death, the church was persecuted, and were accused of all manner of things that were useful and untrue, many of the saints were slain; darkness came into the world, new ideas and notions were introduced and the world was left to itself, and that confusion came upon it that existed during the dark ages. But in the interval that has elapsed since then, many good and mighty men have arisen who have introduced reforms in religion. All light has come by the power of God, and all bloodshed, war and all evil has come from beneath.

In the intervening days, said the speaker, the gospel has come and brought light to the world, and the Lord has given His servants authority to baptize in the name of the Father and the Son.

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