

these last days it is considered a heterodox or heretical doctrine to entertain. It is now deemed sinful for us to claim that God reveals himself to men. This is indeed a most extraordinary doctrine when viewed aside from the prejudices which now exist, especially when we remember—as has been already told us this afternoon—that God placed in His Church Apostles and Preachers, Teachers and Evangelists, men inspired of Him; and that every believer in Jesus in the days of the Apostles, when the Church was organized and when the Gospel was preached in the greatest purity under the direction of those who were immediately associated with the Savior, received the promise that they would receive the Holy Ghost.

It is impossible to have a Church of Christ without the presence of the Holy Ghost. This is indispensably necessary, because without it God is not with that Church or the members thereof. Without unity this Church would not be the Church of Christ. Rob it of that characteristic, make us divided, cause us to be split asunder, and we cease to be the Church of Christ; we are no longer His people; He would disown us. Unity is the crowning characteristic of the people of God; it is this which makes us one on earth and will make us one in heaven. I have thanked God all my life for the union which the Holy Spirit has produced among the Latter-day Saints and for the oneness which prevails amongst them. I have rejoiced in this because of the prospect there is before us. I see union here on earth through the divine influence of that Spirit; I see men and women living together in love when under its influence; and if this be the case in mortality, tempted as we are by Satan, surrounded as we are by temptations and filled with human weaknesses, how much greater will be our joy when we are emancipated from the thralldom of sin, when the consequences of the fall will all have disappeared, and we shall merge into the full glory of our Father and dwell with Him as do the angels.

I wish to repeat that there never can be a Church of God on earth without a revelation from Him. It is an utter impossibility. Men may deride revelation; they may say the heavens are closed, no longer to be opened; but in this they teach a doctrine that is not of God; it is from beneath. If ever there was a need for revelation, for miracles and gifts, for God's voice to the heard, and for ministering angels to descend to the earth, it is today, when universal disunion, division, strife, and contention prevail, and men are arraying themselves against their fellows.

It is for us to contend for the faith once delivered to the Saints. Unbelief exists everywhere—in the newspaper, in the magazine, in the school book; in nearly all the works that we read today unbelief permeates almost from beginning to end. We breathe it in the very atmos-

phere, in our associations with our fellow men; we feel it as palpably as did the Egyptians the darkness which was brought upon them. We have these things to contend with, and the result is that our faith becomes weak; it is difficult for us to obtain the knowledge that we ought to have. Nevertheless, it is our bounden duty to contend for that faith, to plead with God to restore it to the earth, to make His mind and will clear to us, and to increase the gifts of His Spirit among us. Is this our privilege? It is; and there is no reason why we should not receive and enjoy every gift received by the most favored of the sons of men both in early and modern days. God has made a promise unto us, and instead of being ashamed of our union, of that which He has done for us, our hearts should ascend in constant thanksgiving to Him for the blessings which He has poured out upon us. It is this union which makes life sweet, which makes association delightful, and gives us a foretaste of that heavenly bliss which awaits us if we remain faithful unto God. Instead of being ashamed of revelation and prophecy, and those gifts which in former days were esteemed beyond price, and for which men and women were willing to lay down their lives, we should be thankful to our God that we are living in an age when it is possible to receive them through obedience to His Gospel, through the restoration of the Holy Priesthood. I have many times heard men say that they have known the day, before they heard this Gospel preached, when they would have traveled over sea and land and crossed continents in any way in order to see a man who had the authority of the Priesthood to administer the ordinances of life and salvation as the ancients did—a man who could make promises unto his fellows that if they would obey certain ordinances which God had revealed they should receive the gift of the Holy Ghost and those gifts which accompany it, as in the ancient days.

Men sometimes talk about the power which the leaders of this Church possess. Why, there never was a more democratic organization than the Church of Christ. It was so in ancient days; bond and free received the gift of the Holy Ghost without distinction of sex, position or class; and so it is today with every man or woman who obeys the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It would be impossible for the leader of this Church, whoever he might be, to lead the people astray. The people themselves know too well what is right; they are the judges, and they sit in judgment upon every man, whether he be President, Apostle, or whatever his standing may be. God has chosen one man to preside over His Church in order to prevent the possibility of confusion, disunion, or anything else calculated to divide the people. In His infinite mercy He has placed but one man at a time at the head to receive His revelation for the Church, and that man holds the keys

I beseech you in the name of Jesus to value your religion. Exercise yourselves in it, and to do this you must keep the commandments of God and pray unceasingly. When you cannot bow your knee in secret, or in your family, pray to God in your hearts. Men say we are sinful and wicked, but they said the same about our Lord and Master. If they called the Master "Beelzebub," how much more shall they deride those of His household? It was considered a merit to crucify the Son of God and to kill His prophets and Apostles. Shall we wonder, then, that the same spirit exists now? Do you believe the devil has died or been destroyed during the last 1800 years, or that he has lost his power or hatred? There have been two antagonistic forces at work from the very beginning of the world. The evil one is constantly seeking to destroy the work of God; Satan is striving today just as he did anciently to blacken the people of God, to give them a bad name, to make them so odious in the eyes of men as to lead them to believe they are doing God good service in slaying them.

Men believe this today when hurling thunderbolts against the Latter-day Saints. There are many who think that if all the artillery of the earth could be brought to bear upon this Tabernacle and all the Latter-day Saints could be destroyed, such would be a meritorious and God-blessed act. Why? Because they consider us so wicked as to be unworthy to exist on the face of the earth.

Now, my brethren and sisters, let us so continue to live that God will be our Friend. He has said we need not fear, that He will deliver us, as He has done before, and His promises can never fail. Heaven and earth may pass away, but the promises of God will endure forever. God help us one and all to be faithful is my prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

The choir sang the anthem:

O, Father Almighty.

Benediction by Elder Elias Morris.

Religious services were held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, Dec. 1, 1889, commencing at 2 p.m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding.

The choir and congregation sang:  
Do what is right; let the consequence follow;

Battle for freedom in spirit and might.

Prayer was offered by Elder Edward Stevenson.

The choir sang:

I know that my Redeemer lives;  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives.

The Priesthood of the Nineteenth Ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

ELDER D. M. M'ALLISTER

was called to address the congregation. He said this was the first time he had been placed in the position of speaking to an assemblage in the Tabernacle, and the task was by no means an easy one.