

ago. This thing has become so frequent as to give occasion for remark by all good and honorable people among us. We view this thing with regret. This sinful practice of Sabbath breaking has increased to an alarming extent of late—I was going to say through a looseness of the laws. I trust the Latter-day Saints will not fall into such bad habits, but will remember the words of God bearing on the same, wherein He says: "For verily this is a day appointed unto you to rest from your labors and to pay thy devotions unto the Most High." We have been promised that by keeping the commandments of God we will be blessed. We are refreshed both in body and in mind by attending to our duties on the Sabbath day, much more so than by pursuing any other course. I speak from experience. From my youth up to the present time I have never missed a public meeting of the Saints when it was possible for me to attend, neither have I engaged in any labor. I have been a hard worker all my life. I think my friends will give me credit for being a hard worker mentally. I have oftentimes needed rest and have got that rest by attending meeting. Many times I have suffered from fatigue through over-exertion, yet my body and mind have been refreshed by coming here. This is the experience of very many. By attending our meetings it brings us rest and is recreative. This is a fact, as all those attending meeting can testify who come to serve the Lord.

A great many of our people seem to think there is no pleasure in coming to meeting. And why? Because they do not take a course that tends to give them pleasure. As we all know, there is pleasure in serving God and keeping His commandments. Tens of thousands take more pleasure in taking a different course, and thereby bring condemnation upon themselves. We have no right to give way to our passions, or seek pleasure in this direction, though others do this. We should listen to the whisperings of the Spirit of God, which teaches us to serve Him. We should reverence Him in our words and acts, and seek to carry out His purposes in our lives. God is pleased with men and women who practice self-denial; with those who overcome their evil inclinations; with all those who live lives of purity; and this we should do every day, and also seek to do good to our fallen man.

Whatever our profession may be, let us seek to live according to the light that God has given us, and we will be acceptable to Him. The sincere Methodist, the sincere Presbyterian, the sincere Episcopalian, and the sincere Catholic are acceptable before God, so far as they live according to the light that He has revealed to them. I have known good men, not of our Church, pray to God and He has given them a portion of His spirit. This was according to their faithfulness and good desire; through their determination to do that which was right in the eyes of God and before their fellow men. He has blessed the sincere Mohammedan and the heathen; in fact God has blessed all according to their faithfulness and diligence in keeping His commandments and striving to do right by their fellowmen.

The Lord holds us, my brethren and sisters, to stricter accountability because of the things that He has revealed to us in the everlasting Gospel. He has restored the gift of the Holy Ghost and all the other gifts of the Gospel as they were enjoyed in ancient times. He has condescended in His great mercy to speak from heaven to man upon the earth, and committed to man His work. He has restored the spirit of union and of love, which produces great happiness. He has organized His Church according to the ancient pattern, with all the offices, with all the authorities, with all the powers and with all the blessings that were enjoyed anciently by His servants and His people. We are held accountable, as we have received the greater light, the highest laws. We have received and obeyed the Gospel in its fulness and in its purity, but if we treat lightly the knowledge and light which God has given us our loss will be far greater and our punishment more severe than those who know not the truth. We will be beaten with many stripes; while those who have not received the Gospel will be beaten with but few stripes. Where much is given much is required. This is the case with us. Any desire we may have in righteousness God will bestow upon us. You cannot think of any gift or blessing that He will withhold from us for our good. You Latter-day Saints know this. I can speak my own experience. I know, as you do, that God hears and answers prayers. I know that He bestows blessings upon His people according to their circumstances and real wants, and sustains them. He opens up the way before them; makes their paths plain, and cheers and sustains them in the midst of trials, difficulties and afflictions. He is working in a wonderful way, and is taking care of His people. Though we are in the midst of various difficulties and seem to be environed, and though it may appear to some there is no way of getting out at the present time, yet God is near and is guiding this work, and it will go forward fulfilling His purposes as spoken by the mouths of all His holy Prophets concerning it. No man or number of men can hinder it in its progression. All the men in the world combined could not do it. After a while men will begin to understand that this is the work of our Father in heaven and will let us alone.

My brethren and sisters, let us exhibit in our lives that our religion is a practical religion, that it enters into all the details of our daily actions and means a good deal with us. It is essential that we should have something different from the world, something nobler and better. We are in many respects a different people from the world. We should have different motives from theirs, for the reason that we are in a different condition to them. Brother Grant has spoken of looking out for ourselves and the accumulation of wealth, and not to use it for self aggrandizement, but be governed by high motives. I look for the time to come, and expect to see it, when a great deal of wealth will roll into this community because of the probity and honesty of the Latter-day Saints—because they can be trusted to do that which is right and not take

advantage of their neighbor. I say, the people of the nations will turn their eyes to Zion and admire the good qualities developed in the Latter-day Saints, and enter into dealings with them, therefore the Latter-day Saints should do nothing to injure their credit, their name nor the Kingdom of God. The time will come as predicted when all those who will not take up their sword against their neighbor must flee to Zion for protection. They will bring their wealth with them. This prediction was made a great many years ago, but it will have its fulfilment.

Another prediction was made concerning the war of the rebellion and the breaking out of that war in South Carolina. As long ago as 1832 this prophecy was made, and many of our people scarcely knew what to think because it was not fulfilled earlier than it was. It was twenty-eight years afterwards before this prediction was fulfilled. It seemed as if it would never be fulfilled, but it came to pass and brought sorrow and misery to many souls. It plunged this nation almost at one time into the abyss of ruin. The Lord has said that the day will come when all those who will not take up the sword and fight against their neighbors will be compelled to flee to Zion. This prophecy will be fulfilled. Those desiring peace at this time will come to Zion for personal safety and for personal liberty. Zion will be the only place where peace can be found on the earth, and people desiring peace will come here and bring their wealth with them in order that it may be put in a place of safety. But this question of wealth is a simple consideration with the Latter-day Saints when compared with the value of men's souls. The wealth of the world is perishable, but the souls of the children of men are eternal. Our aim is to labor for their salvation, to do everything in our power to hasten on the work of redemption; to induce men to turn to God and listen to a beneficent Father, and not reject Him through the allurements of Satan. It is our duty to warn the children of men against existing evils, to endeavor to incite them to walk in the paths of righteousness, and give heed to the Spirit of God, a portion of which is planted in every human breast, for their benefit. This spirit teaches the difference between right and wrong. Every soul receives some portion of the Holy Spirit, and this is what we call conscience. If men commit sin they grieve that spirit and by grieving it and continuing in this course such persons are plunged into wickedness and bring destruction upon themselves.

Our duties, as Latter-day Saints, are to seek to save the whole human family, especially those souls which God has placed in our keeping, and do all we can for their salvation. I pray God to bless you my brethren and sisters, and to lead us constantly by His spirit, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

An old infidel farmer, near Lebanon, Mo., sneered at the Bible miracles to his pious neighbors during an approaching thunderstorm, and that instant a bolt of lightning set fire to his field of ripe wheat and destroyed it, root and kernel.