

lieve that there are some sins which men commit that cannot be forgiven, but they have to pay the penalty. The Lord Jesus Christ was very particular to teach this to His disciples on this continent. He also taught them what the Father had declared through Malachi, that they might understand the conditions and the necessity of obeying the ordinances of the house of God.

Then again, we read of the son of Alma being smitten by the harlot Isabel, and following her; and Alma bore testimony that the sin of fornication was the "most abominable above all sins, save it be the shedding of innocent blood, or denying the Holy Ghost." (Alma 39: 5.)

The Latter-day Saints understand this principle, and it would be impossible for them to practice immorality and be the disciples of Jesus Christ. We have taken upon us the name of Christ; we are His representatives; and it would be more than we dared do to encourage such thoughts in our hearts. The scriptures say that a murderer hath not eternal life abiding in him. (1 John 3: 15.) There is no forgiveness for such a sinner. The question may be asked, Why is it that a murderer cannot be forgiven? Simply because he takes that which he cannot restore. How can he atone for the shedding of innocent blood? He cannot do it in this life. Look at the calamity that came upon the Jews through the shedding of innocent blood at Jerusalem, and then upon the Gentiles through the shedding of innocent blood at Rome! The curse of God came upon them.

Can you tell me of a more heinous crime, save the shedding of innocent blood, than for a man to secure the love and devotion and pure affection of an innocent young woman, and then to watch his opportunity and take advantage of her, rob her of her virtue, and then cast her off? Just think of it! He takes advantage of her simplicity, her affection, and her solemn trust. How can he restore that woman's virtue? For the protection of women there was a law in Israel anciently that if a man humbled a woman, she should become his wife, and he should not put her away all his days. Do you think we can commit such crimes and expect to please God? Do you think we can do such things and not have to face the bar of God and receive a just condemnation for deeds such as these? Yet men who do these things are frequently received in polite society! They never should be admitted into any decent society; for anyone that would be guilty of such acts is not worthy the fellowship of any decent man or woman. And when they have to stand before the bar of God and give an answer for the deeds done in the body, they will learn something concerning the miseries of hell. What is the result of such conduct? A wreck in the family! A broken-hearted mother! A sorrowing father! And to think that the guilty man can move in polite society and be associated with intelligent people, while the woman becomes an outcast. This is all wrong.

The Latter-day Saints should set their faces like a flint against every such sin. The Lord has commanded us over and over again to practice chastity, virtue and purity, and that we should not look upon a woman to lust after her. The world may think what they like about us; but I bear testimony that the Latter-day Saints are a virtuous people. They cannot be anything else. The man that has the fellowship of the Holy Ghost would be ashamed to have lustful thoughts; he would pray the Lord to deliver him from such impressions. The value of having the fellowship of the Holy Ghost is that we may have the strength of character to resist evil and

to choose the good. The Lord commands us to abstain from all evil, and to walk before Him with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, to be meek and lowly, teachable, learning the will of God and then doing it. That is what He has called us for. And he has brought us into His Church that we may assist in the establishment of His righteousness, and be a peculiar people, a holy people, walking in the reverence of the Lord. If we do not do it, we will become as ashes under the feet of the righteous. I presume there is no Latter-day Saint but what is looking forward for the second advent of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. That is what we are preparing ourselves for. And we know that when He comes He will come with ten thousand of His Saints, in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them who know not God and who obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now, are we coming with Him, or are we going to be left behind? If we are not prepared to receive Him, woe unto us! Supposing we die, do we not expect to come with the Lord Jesus Christ? And how can we ever expect this unless we accept of the eternal conditions of the Gospel.

The Lord requires of us one-tenth of everything He gives to us, in kind. As I mentioned at our last General Conference, it never came to me so forcibly and so simply as it did in hearing one of our sisters explaining the principle of tithing to a class she was teaching. She said unto them: "Suppose your father gave you ten apples, and he asked you to return one of them; wouldn't you be very covetous if you did not return that one?" They smiled at the idea of their father giving them ten apples and they not willing to return him one of them. Yet that is just so with some and the law of tithing. Whatever we honestly obtain in the dispensation of the providence of the Lord, He requires one-tenth of it to be given unto Him. That is the principle, and it is easily understood. And then He requires us to be large-hearted and generous to the poor, the widow and the fatherless. If we do not honor this requirement, we are under a curse. Now, the children smiled to think that they would not give one apple out of ten; but I tell you what some of us do: we cut the apple in half, and keep half of it; or we will give the Lord a quarter; and some, I am sorry to say, will bite a little piece off and give it to Him. That is just the way the Lord is treated by some with regard to the law of tithing. I want to ask this congregation whether under such conditions, we are preparing ourselves for the second coming of the Messiah. The Lord simply asks us to prove Him in this matter.

"Prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive." (Malachi 3: 10.)

I want to bear testimony that it is the Lord who provides, whether we acknowledge it or whether we do not. If we will prove Him, we will learn more about Him and about His ways, and understand the designs of His providence. We will be taught of God when we manifest unto Him that we honor Him and His laws, and that we are in harmony with these everlasting conditions. I do not understand how I can honor God except I do as he wishes me. Abraham was justified by faith; he was saved by grace. How was he justified by faith? Because he loved righteousness, honored the Lord in tithes and in offerings, and did everything He required at His hands. Of course, he had the favor of God; of course, he was saved by the grace of God. So may we all be upon the same principle. But we must have

faith, and we must demonstrate our faith by our works. We must prove to God Almighty and to each other that we have faith in these everlasting principles by doing the will of God and manifesting unto our Father in heaven that we value those eternal principles that He has restored to the earth, that we appreciate His loving kindness in giving us the honor of being adopted into His royal family, whereby we have become the sons and daughters of God, and showing our appreciation by honoring Him and reverencing His holy name.

My beloved brethren and sisters, let me exhort you, as your fellow laborer and servant in Christ Jesus, to live the principles of righteousness, and honor God by keeping His commandments, walking in the light as He is in the light, that we may have sweet fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse us from all sin, and prepare us for His coming and kingdom. This is my earnest prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE CAPITAL OF PERU.

Lima, Peru, April 17, 1898.

Take a walk with me this morning through the quaintest city of this hemisphere. We are in Lima, the capital of Peru. The streets on which we stand were laid out more than three hundred years ago. Lima was a city when Boston was in its swaddling clothes, when Philadelphia was a baby, and all of the west and south of it an unbroken wilderness. I can show you houses here which are two hundred years older than Chicago or Cincinnati, and I can even introduce you to one of the oldest citizens, the founder of the town, who, dried and pickled by this pure Peruvian air, has for over three centuries stayed here with his property. I refer to the Spanish freebooter Indian robber and butcher, Pizarro, who laid out Lima in 1535. He was assassinated on the spot where the president of Peru now lives, and his skeleton and his brains corked up in a bottle are kept in a glass case in the cathedral across the way. The skin is dried and it sticks to the bones, but with the exception of a patch which has been cut off here and there for relic hunters the hide is intact, though decidedly leathery and worse for the wear.

Everything but money lasts long in Lima. Where else in the world will you find a city built of mud three hundred years old? Lima has more than one hundred thousand people, and it is built of mud. It is about six miles around it and two miles from one side to the other. It has a network of narrow streets, which cross one another at right angles, with space clipped out here and there for parks or plazas. The houses are all of one or two stories, flush with the sidewalks, and in the business sections cage-like balconies hang out from the second stories, so that you are shielded from the sun as you pass through the city. Lima looks wonderfully substantial, and you would imagine it to be made of massive stone, which here and there is wonderfully carved. Some of the walls look like marble, others imitate granite, and the houses of all the colors of the rainbow line the streets like substantial walls. About the chief square there are enclosed balconies from the second story walled with glass, and under these are what look like massive stone pillars forming an arcade or cloister around two sides of the square in front of the stores. These pillars of mud, the polished walls of the houses are made of sun-dried brick coated with plaster of paris, and the second stories are a combination of mud and bamboo cane. Think of a great city built of mud and fishing poles! That is Lima. There are