

REMARKS

By President George Q. Cannon, made in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday afternoon, May 26, 1889.

REPORTED BY A. G. BENNETT.

I will read the 31st chapter of the 2nd Book of Nephi:

And now I, Nephi, make an end of my prophesying unto you, my beloved brethren. And I cannot write but a few things, which I know must surely come to pass: neither can I write but a few of the words of my brother Jacob.

Wherefore, the things which I have written, suffice me, save it be a few words which I must speak, concerning the doctrine of Christ; wherefore, I shall speak unto you plainly, according to the plainness of my prophesying.

For my soul delighteth in plainness: for after this manner doth the Lord God work among the children of men. For the Lord God giveth light unto the understanding: for he speaketh unto men according to their language, unto their understanding.

Wherefore, I would that ye should remember that I have spoken unto you, concerning that prophet which the Lord showed unto me, that should baptize the Lamb of God, which should take away the sins of the world.

And now, if the Lamb of God, he being holy, should have need to be baptized by water, to fulfil all righteousness, O then, how much more need have we, being unholy, to be baptized, yea, even by water.

And now, I would ask of you, my beloved brethren, wherein the Lamb of God did fulfil all righteousness in being baptized by water?

Know ye not that he was holy? But notwithstanding he being holy, he sheweth unto the children of men, that according to the flesh, he humbled himself before the Father, and witnesseth unto the Father that he would be obedient unto him in keeping his commandments.

Wherefore, after he was baptized with water, the Holy Ghost descended upon him in the form of a dove.

And again: It sheweth unto the children of men the straightness of the path, and the narrowness of the gate, by which they should enter, he having set the example before them.

And he said unto the children of men, Follow thou me. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, can we follow Jesus, save we shall be willing to keep the commandments of the Father?

And the Father said, Repent ye, repent ye, and be baptized in the name of my beloved Son.

And also, the voice of the Son came unto me, saying, He that is baptized in my name, to him will the Father give the Holy Ghost, like unto me; wherefore, follow me, and do the things which ye have seen me do.

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, I know that if ye shall follow the Son, with full purpose of heart, acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God, but with real intent, repenting of your sins, witnessing unto the Father that ye are willing to take upon you the name of Christ, by baptism: yea, by following your Lord and your Savior down into the water, according to his word; behold, then shall ye receive the Holy Ghost; yea, then cometh the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost, and then can ye speak with the tongue of angels, and shout praises unto the Holy One of Israel.

But, behold, my beloved brethren, thus came the voice of the Son unto me, saying, After ye have repented of your sins, and witnessed unto the Father that ye are willing to keep my commandments, by the baptism of water, and have received the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost, and can speak with a new tongue, yea, even with the tongue of angels, and after this should deny me, it would have been better for you, that ye had not known me.

And I heard a voice from the Father, saying, Yea, the words of my Beloved are true and faithful. He that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved.

And now, my beloved brethren, I know by this, that unless a man shall endure to the end, in following the example of the Son of the living God, he cannot be saved;

Wherefore, do the things which I have told you I have seen that your Lord and your Redeemer should do: for, for this cause have they been shown unto me, that ye might know the gate by which ye should enter. For the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water, and then cometh a remission of your sins by fire and by the Holy Ghost.

And then are ye in this straight and narrow path which leads to eternal life: yea, ye have entered in by the gate: ye have done according to the commandments of the Father and the Son; and ye have received the Holy Ghost, which witnesses of the Father and the Son, unto the fulfilling of the promise which he hath made, that if ye entered in by the way ye should receive.

And now, my beloved brethren, after ye have gotten into this straight and narrow path, I would ask, if all is done? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; for ye have not come thus far, save it were by the word of Christ with unshaken faith in him, relying wholly upon the merits of him who is mighty to save;

Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father, Ye shall have eternal life.

And now, behold, my beloved brethren, this is the way; and there is none other way nor name given under heaven, whereby man can be saved in the kingdom of God. And now, behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, without end. Amen.

I had hoped this afternoon to have had the privilege of listening to President Woodruff, but I regret to say that he has caught a severe cold and has almost entirely lost his voice, and is therefore unable to speak to us. I now rise to address you with a good deal of fear and trembling. When I look at the faces of this large congregation I naturally shrink from attempting to speak; but there are duties which devolve upon us from which we cannot shrink. In speaking to you on this occasion I trust I shall have the faith and prayers of my brethren and sisters. For as Brother Goddard in his opening prayer said, there is no one but God that knows the hearts of the children of men, and He alone can give to every soul that food which is necessary for his

spiritual growth and advancement in the things of the Kingdom of God. It is He alone who knows our wants and has the power to bestow upon us that which we need. Therefore, as is our practice, we have come together trusting that the Lord will give to us that portion of His Holy Spirit, that counsel and instruction, and, if necessary, that reproof or warning, which we may require.

As a people we need to live so as to have the word of God given to us. To be fed upon anything else but this would be a great disappointment and would leave us hungry and in a destitute condition. The life of a Latter-day Saint is such that he has need to be in close communion with his God; and the religion that we profess is one which imparts to the human soul at the very time that it is required the consolation, the strength, and the necessary gifts and powers to enable that soul to contend with and overcome all the evils that may lie in his pathway.

We have tested this religion of ours. It gives me great satisfaction and pleasure to know that our religion is not alone a holiday religion, a fair weather religion. It has been tested under circumstances that have been peculiarly trying, and the confidence which the Latter-day Saints have in it today has been gained by long years of experience in its powers, in its gifts, in its strength, in its resources and capabilities, to sustain them in the midst of the deepest trials and the most desperate straits in which human beings can be placed.

This is the secret of the cohesiveness of the people and their devotion to the truth. If there had been any failure in the past in its powers to sustain in the midst of deep afflictions, the discovery would have been made, faith would likewise have failed, and confidence would have been shaken. But this has not been the case; and, as I have said, this is a great cause of happiness and satisfaction to me, as I know it must be to you.

When we reflect upon the circumstances through which we have been called to pass, as a people, during the past fifty-nine years, since the Church was organized, how varied the scenes, how wonderful the vicissitudes, how extraordinary the trials with which the people have had to contend! Persecuted from the very outset, hated and maligned, driven, property destroyed, houses burned, hard-earned possessions wrested from them, driven out by violence, and even death meted out to some, compelled to go into the wilderness, through lands of which nothing was known, and to find a resting place in the distant valleys of the Rocky Mountains, with a scarcity of food, scant clothing, with few of the conveniences and scarcely any of the comforts of life. Under all these circumstances the Latter-day Saints have had the opportunity of testing their religion. Has it ever been found wanting? I see before me this afternoon men and women who have been connected with this Church almost