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Remarks made at the Salt Lake Stake Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday afternoon, September 2nd, 1894, by

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[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

I think I feel quite contented to meet with you, my brethren and sisters, this afternoon; but it is a task for any Elder to stand before so many of his brethren and sisters and attempt to speak unto them. However, if we are filled with faith in the Lord, and our hearts are lifted to Him in prayer and supplication for the speaker, the prayers of the Saints availeth much. No doubt most of us have experienced the feeling that I have at the present time, and feel considerable sympathy for a speaker.

I regret very much that I have not had the opportunity of being with the Latter-day Saints in this city and county more frequently of late; but we all have our duties to perform, and mine seems to have taken me away from this locality for several years past. It is our privilege, however, to grow and increase in the Spirit of God wherever we are. We can seek God in all places; for He is not distant from those who have a desire to know Him. He is a present help to every individual who seeks Him earnestly, whether he is Latter-day Saint or not. The household of faith especially have a right to go unto their Father and to receive a blessing from Him as they may need. We are more or less familiar with the duties that we have to do and the responsibilities that are placed upon us. We find ourselves today living upon the earth in the possession of faculties with which God has endowed us to perform the labor that He requires at our hands. How faithfully we are doing this is a matter that must remain in our own breast. We know our own hearts better than any other human being can know them, and we have to sit as judges upon ourselves. We are our own judges in this matter, to a great extent, and I think sometimes that we are a little too lenient. We do not rein ourselves up so tightly as our neighbors would do, or even as a judge in Israel would do. No one is standing by to know the thoughts of my heart, and I am inclined to be very charitable with myself; but God will judge me, as He will you, and the spirit with which we judge ourselves will be made known to our neighbors sooner or later. The spirit that a man is of will be demonstrated some day

clearly before all men, and we will stand approved or disapproved, as we have ordered our lives. It will not be precisely the same judgment with which we judge ourselves; but with that judgment I judge my neighbor shall I be judged. We cannot cherish within our breasts a spirit, good or bad, without it being manifested some day unto everybody. Even in this life the neighbors soon find out what manner of men we are. If we were a people unto whom no promises had been given, we might continually judge ourselves leniently; and it is possible that God would judge us mercifully if we were in ignorance; for it is written that the heathen, having lived without law, will be judged without law, and it will be far better for they who have lived and died without law than for those who have received light and intelligence and the laws of the Gospel, but have disregarded them. The black man is just as precious in the eyes of God as the white man, if he lives according to the light he has. Those are my views in relation to that matter. Condemnation will come upon those who are called great and noble as it will upon the lowest of God's creatures on the earth, if they do wickedly. But here are a people that are living under the laws of God. We have had great promises made to us, and we cannot ignore the situation in which we live and stand before God without sin. Where much is given, much is required. From the organization of the Church until the present day we have been blessed unprecedently. God has acknowledged us and our labors. He has been with the people in the desert, in the canyon, and in the valley. He has been with our President. We can have no fault to find with our God for His manifestations unto us. But we are living under the law. We have the revelations of Jesus Christ. We have a work today entrusted to us that is superior perhaps to any work that has been performed on the earth, save that of the Savior. I will read to you a verse or two contained in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants which, to my mind, shows precisely the situation of the Latter-day Saints. In a revelation given in Jackson County, Missouri, April 26, 1832, commencing at the 7th verse you will find:

And now, verily I say unto you, I, the Lord, will not lay any sin to your charge; go your ways and sin no more; but unto that soul who sinneth shall the former sins return, saith the Lord your God.

And again, I say unto you, I give unto you a new commandment, that you may understand my will concerning you,

Or, in other words, I give unto you directions how you may act before me, that it may turn to you for your salvation.

"I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I

say, but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise.

The Lord here declares that He has bound himself to this people; and I know of no cancellation of that bond. It is in full force between God in heaven and the Latter-day Saints on earth this day. But He says, "I, the Lord, am bound *when ye do what I say*, but *when ye do not what I say* ye have no promise." This is one of the most important statements contained in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants. It is for us to learn our duty and then to do it. We can have no excuse. The Lord has given us line upon line, precept upon precept, and we have had the spirit of revelation all the day long. He has fostered and nurtured us in these mountains until we begin to stand at the head. The Latter-day Saints have arisen from the long night of their persecution, and they are shining before the world as they have never done before. God has caused the wrath of men to praise Him, and the residue He has restrained. We are living witnesses of this fact this day. I desire, for one, to fulfil the commandments which God has given, that I may receive of His blessings, that He may be bound to give them to me through my obedience. And I know this is the condition of the people. We all desire this. But are we doing His will? Are we keeping His commandments? Are we continually enjoying the Holy Spirit which God willingly gives unto those who seek him? We have a labor to perform that is stronger upon us now than at any time, and that labor is incumbent upon every Latter-day Saint. If we had no responsibility we might act as those do who have no responsibility. But the Latter-day Saints are bound, just as much as God is, by this compact into which we have entered, and it is incumbent upon us to observe our part of it, and to do so faithfully and well.

We are now living upon a land that has been dedicated and set apart for the dwelling place of the Latter-day Saints, as other places have been in the past. And we are seeking at the present time to prepare ourselves for the great events which God has said should come upon the earth, and which are nigh unto us and unto the inhabitants of the earth. While reading to you, I was reminded of a passage which may be found in the revelation on tithing, and which explains to us some of the duties of the Latter-day Saints. I will read it:

Verily I say unto you, it shall come to pass that all those who gather unto the land of Zion shall be tithed of their surplus properties, and shall observe this law, or they shall not be found worthy to abide among you.

And I say unto you, if my people observe not this law, to keep it holy, and by this law