

designed to give to us through His servant enables us to see how we can honor the ancestry through which we have come, and also prevent the breaking of the ties that should connect us with them, and avoid confusion and disorder in regard to these matters.

There are many things that the Lord will give us revelations about from time to time. He has done this in a marvelous manner thus far. There has been nothing that we have needed for the progress of the Church that has not been given. We have built these Temples, and we are doing a very important work connected with them; and it is necessary that that which we do should be done aright. It is necessary that adoptions should be correctly made. Think how important this is! It affects the whole human family. How important it is that we should know the plan that the Lord wants carried out, and not the plan that man wants! And there will be many things revealed from time to time. You will see difficulties probably in carrying this out, and it will require the wisdom of heaven and the word of the Lord to settle points connected with it; but the Lord is able to give the necessary light. His hand will be manifest, and we shall see how good and kind He is to us in making communications upon every point that is necessary for the progress of His work.

There are other matters that I would like to mention this afternoon, if I can get the Spirit to do so. We have heard from President Joseph F. Smith a little concerning secret organizations. I do not know any subject that needs to be spoken upon with greater plainness to the Latter-day Saints than this.

Of course, there are many other things that we need to be warned about. We need to be warned about these false spirits that are going abroad. I do not suppose there ever was a time when there were so many delusive spirits going abroad among the people as at the present time—false Christs, false prophets, and all sorts of things to lead away the people of God. Everything, it is said, will be shaken that can be shaken. God is going to have a pure people. Those who commit sin and persist in it, will lose the Spirit of God and be removed from among the people of God. We may expect that sinners will leave us, and that we shall have men and women falling into the dark because of transgression; but it is our duty, as watchmen upon the walls of Zion, and as the shepherds of the flock of Christ, to lift up our voices and warn the people of the dangers there are around them, and to point out the path of safety, that they may not stray away from the flock and be devoured. We therefore feel to warn the Latter-day Saints in regard to these delusive spirits. We warn you to be on your guard, to watch carefully, to pray earnestly, to live in purity, so that you shall have constantly the light of the Spirit of God to be with you. Do not be carried away by every wind of doctrine, nor by deceivers; but listen to the voice of the Spirit of God, which bears testimony to you in your hearts concerning the truths which you hear. You ought to be able to tell the voice of the true Shepherd from all other voices, so that no one assuming sheep's clothing and professing to be what he is not can deceive you. It is your privilege to recognize the

voice of the true Shepherd, and to know by the testimony of Jesus whether that which you are taught is true or not.

There are now many societies being formed that make great professions. They claim to be benevolent societies and to do great good to the people. I have not the least objection to this. I would not say one word to cast any reproach upon any organization, by whatever name it may be called, that has objects of this character in view. It is not my purpose to decry them. It is not my purpose to belittle philanthropic efforts by individuals or by societies for the welfare of their fellow creatures. The Lord forbid that I should ever do anything of this kind! It is not in that spirit that I allude to these things. But I want to say to the Latter-day Saints that the Lord has organized a system which is perfect in all its details. There is no need to have it supplemented by anything of man's device. It is that thought which I desire to impress upon the Latter-day Saints. God has founded Zion, and the poor of His people will put their trust in it. There is nothing lacking in this organization. There is no benevolent society that exists, or that can be formed by human beings, that will reach the wants of the children of men as effectively as the organization which the Lord has given to us, and of which we now are a part. I know that there are men who have very plausible and attractive ideas concerning the evils that exist in society and the manner of correcting them. Attempts to correct them have been made for years and years; but they have not resulted successfully. I can state, without the least fear of successful contradiction, that the Latter-day Saints have done more as an organized society towards redeeming the people and correcting the evils that exist in society, and under which society groans, than any other organization on the face of the earth. I make that statement with a full understanding on my part of its meaning and extent. And that which we have done is only the beginning of that which we propose to do in the Lord's good time. The Lord has not left us in ignorance concerning these matters. This doctrine of equality that the anarchists, nihilists, socialists and such people dwell upon (some of them are resorting to the most dreadful violence to carry out their schemes), is understood by us, for the Lord has revealed to us how and to what extent it shall be fulfilled. He has given us the law with a great deal of plainness. But we are not prepared to carry it out. The leaders of the people are doing their best in teaching the people the primary principles of equality; but it will take time, it will take the power of God, it will take circumstances that will almost compel us to adopt that which God has revealed, in order to carry out that which He has laid before us as a duty that we must perform. I want to say to you that the day will come—and it will be brought about by the Latter-day Saints—when there will be such an equality in all things among us that there will be no want, no deficiency of any element necessary for man's happiness, no monopoly; when one man will not have more than he can use and another man be destitute. We are aiming at that, my brethren and sisters, and we are the only people, I am free to say, that can entertain the least hope

that they will ever accomplish it. These secret organizations may throw down thrones; they may destroy dynasties; they may cause blood to flow in torrents; but they will never accomplish this reform that we shall achieve, and that, too, by peaceful methods—by the operation of laws which God has made plain, so plain that, as the Bible says, a wayfaring man, though a fool, need not err therein.

The Lord has given enough to the earth to make all its inhabitants happy. There is no element that is not in sufficient abundance for all. And it is contrary to the will of God, so He has revealed to us, that one man shall possess so much above another—one wallow in luxury while his neighbor goes destitute. He has taught us the way by which this shall be corrected. This being the case, shall we turn our eyes from the Zion of God in this or in the other direction, looking for something better? If we do, we despise the wisdom and counsel of God; we throw aside that which He has revealed in the greatest plainness, and we turn our backs upon the history and experience of this people.

Let me say to you that it is in vain for men to endeavor to patch up systems to remedy the existing evils. They have not the wisdom to do it. You can see the condition of the world in consequence of man's wisdom being exercised. On every hand there is confusion, turmoil, strife. There is poverty and misery on one hand and luxury and a superabundance on the other hand. This is not right, and it will be corrected. How? Well, the Lord attempted it in the early days of this Church; but the people did not have faith. He is now schooling us. We shall have faith sooner or later, and we shall be chastened probably till we do it. I do not want to prophesy any evil concerning Zion. I do not want to threaten. I have none of the spirit of gloom about me connected with Zion. I feel to prophesy good always about Zion. But the Lord will bring us through circumstances that will open our eyes, and cause us to see the value of the counsel that He has given to us. We should teach it to our children. We must unlearn the traditions that we have received from our fathers. Those traditions teach us that it is the duty of each one to look out for himself and to care but little for his neighbor. We have got to unlearn that lesson. We have got to live for the benefit of all. But, like all benefactors, in doing so we shall very likely be misjudged. Did you ever see a man that was a benefactor, from the Lord Jesus down, that was not loaded with opprobrium, and misunderstood? Jesus set us the example of self sacrifice. What a life His was! The Redeemer of the world, coming down from the mansions of glory, taking upon himself mortality, living in humility, and doing all that He could for man's redemption; yet He was hung upon the cross, crucified between two thieves! So it has been, to a greater or less extent, with every man that has attempted to benefit his fellow man. He must expect to be misunderstood, to be misrepresented, and to have his motives traduced. He must not expect to have the love of those he is trying to save. He may have a little of it; but men are so ungrateful by nature that they do not recognize their true bene-