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[REPORTED BY ARTHUR [WINTER.]]

I desire to have you, my brethren and sisters, pray unto the Lord, that what I may say may be dictated of Him. I have no desire to speak of myself; for I know that I am weak and frail, and one that stands before this people to speak in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ should be inspired by the Holy Ghost. The Apostles of Jesus Christ were commissioned of Him to go forth and preach the Gospel throughout the land, and He said unto them, "He that receiveth you receiveth Me, and he that receiveth Me receiveth Him that sent Me." They went forth, they ministered, and returned rejoicing that the sick were healed, devils were cast out, the lame were made to walk, the eyes of the blind to see, and the poor rejoiced in the preaching of the Gospel. Jesus charged them that they should not rejoice in that these powers were given unto them, but that their names were written in the Lamb's book of life. These same men who were thus commissioned and delegated with authority by Jesus, after His resurrection, were charged of Him that they should not undertake to preach the Gospel until they were endowed with power from on high. He explained that He must needs go away, and when He was gone He would send the Comforter unto them who should bring things past to their remembrance and show them things that were to come. They were to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endowed with this power from on high. In the 16th chapter of the gospel according to Mark, commencing at the 14th verse, it says:

Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

And these signs shall follow them that believe: In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.

This is the testimony of Mark as it is transmitted to us. What Gospel was this that they were to preach in all the world? It was the truth that Jesus revealed unto His disciples. It was the Gospel that Saul, who persecuted the Saints, was converted unto. It was the Gospel that was ministered by those commissioned to bear the Holy Priesthood. It was the Gospel that Cornelius was taught. He prayed unto the Lord and gave alms to the poor, inasmuch that the heavens were moved in answer to his prayers, and an angel descended to the earth from the regions of glory, and told Cornelius that his prayers had been heard, his alms had been accepted, and God had sent him to tell him where he might find men who would teach him the principles of eternal truth. It was this Gospel that justified God in showing unto Peter the heavenly vision which he received on the housetop at the residence of Simon, a tanner, who dwelt at Joppa, by the sea side. In that vision he saw a sheet lowered wherein were all manner of four-footed beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. He was commanded to slay and eat. But Peter declined. He could not feel that he was justified in partaking of things that were forbidden by the law of Moses. A voice spake unto Peter and said, "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common." While Peter was pondering on this vision, "the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. Arise, therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them." This commission given unto Peter was as sacred as that given unto him by his Divine Master when He ascended on high. The messengers guided him unto Cornelius' house, and there Peter beheld that God had sanctified that man unto the end that he and his household might be recipients of the Gospel. Peter, having witnessed that the Holy Ghost descended upon Cornelius and his household, was led to say, "Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?" He could not dispute but that the Gospel was designed for the salvation of Cornelius and his household. This man Saul, who persecuted the Saints, and carried orders from the chief priests to apprehend them where they were found testifying in the name of Jesus, was stricken down by the wayside by the power of God, and he heard a voice, the voice of Jesus, rebuking him for the persecutions he was heaping upon His people, Saul continued his journey, and found that he was blind. A servant of God was

communicated with by the power of heaven, and he was told to go and meet this Saul and minister to him. He went to the house where Saul abode, communicated to him the mind of God, ministered to his relief and the scales fell from his eyes, and he witnessed that God had wrought the restoration of His sight.

One would have thought that a man who was so righteous as Cornelius, whose alms were held in remembrance by the Lord, and who had prevailed with God, would certainly have been in a saved condition; that having received such manifestations of God's approval and divine favor, he would be qualified to go and minister to others. Not so with Cornelius. He did as the angel told him; he sent for Peter, and having received Peter, it appears that he listened implicitly to his instructions. By this he and his household were justified. One would have thought that Saul, having received an admonition from the Lord Jesus himself, and having been rebuked for persecuting the people of God, thinking he was doing God's will, was justified in commencing his ministrations and was fully qualified to preach and bear testimony of Jesus' divine and omnipotent power. Yet he did not. When at Antioch the voice of God came unto certain prophets that were there, and they were commanded to set apart Paul and Barnabas unto the ministry. God told them that He had a work for them to do, and He designed them to bear His name before the Gentiles. When he was ordained he went forth, ministered in the name of Jesus, and was equally valiant with the other Apostles in bearing testimony of God's omnipotence.

John the divine, banished to the Isle of Patmos, beheld the darkness that succeeded the preaching of the Gospel by Jesus and His Apostles; he saw the persecutions that ensued, and he was filled with sadness when beholding the desolation that was exhibited through persecution and the banishment of God's priesthood from the earth. Yet he saw, as recorded in the 14th chapter of Revelation, another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach to them that dwell upon the earth, to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. Was it the same Gospel that Jesus taught? Certainly. There is only one Gospel. Paul says, "Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." This Gospel that John saw the angel bearing in the midst of heaven was the Gospel of faith, repentance, baptism for the remission of sins, and the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. It was a Gospel