

noted among my brethren for my poverty. Neither are the brethren who have labored in the same manner. The Lord has blessed the men who have been devoted to His cause. The Bishops who labor disinterestedly in the cause of God—as many of them do—spending their time in caring for the people, the Lord blesses them, and puts means in their hands. He can do it, too, as He has proved to us. He can increase this people in wealth, and in everything else.

But He does not want us to be a selfish people. He wants us to carry out the principles of the Gospel as they are revealed to us, and to make a change in the earth. I tell you, the way things have been going, the devil has had full sway. The devil's principles and teachings are dominant and followed by the world. The world have taken Satan for their guide, and they have said it is impossible to carry out in human life the teachings of the Son of God. Why? Because Satan reigns in their hearts, and over the world, and men are led and guided by his examples and teachings.

God has founded this Church to create a complete revolution in the earth in these respects; to raise up a people entirely different from all the peoples upon the face of the earth, with a different foundation for their action, with different views, different aspirations, and laboring for different objects. When the Latter-day Saints trample upon each other, when they try to take advantage of one another, then they are following the teachings of Satan. But when they help each other, when they are kind and full of benevolence and charity to each other, praying for each other, expending means for each other as needed, devising measures for each other's benefit and salvation, then they are the children of God. It is the design of Satan to make the children of men unhappy. It is the design of God to make them happy and loving one towards another.

For this purpose the Lord has revealed the Gospel. To accomplish these great changes to which I have alluded, He came himself, accompanied by His Son Jesus, and opened up the way for the establishment of this work; and then He sent heavenly messengers. It needed some one to come from heaven to do this. How could it have been done otherwise? The inhabitants of the earth had abandoned themselves to false teachings, and were led by false teachers, until the whole earth was filled with violence; and the meek, the lowly, the poor and the humble stood no chance on the earth with the proud, the haughty, the strong and the mighty among men. But this Gospel has come for the salvation of the poor. It has come to redeem the poor; to lift them up from their poverty; to abolish oppression and wrong in every form; to make men live, not for themselves alone, but for their fellow men, for humanity at large, and to frame plans and devise measures that will result in the uplifting of our race and making it that which God designed it should be.

We ought to be thankful that God has revealed this Gospel, and that He has established this Church. There is hope in this Church for mankind. It stands as a tower of refuge. And it will stand. Nations may fall to pieces; destructions and calamities may come, and the whole earth be covered with war and desolation; but firm as the eternal heavens, unshaken as the throne of God, this Church will stand as a tower of refuge—a place to which all mankind may turn with comfort, because they will see here something that is going to outlive all these elemental disturbances and stand as a place of safety for the children of men in their hours of trouble or days of

calamity. Thank God for this Church! The poor among men can rejoice in it, as the Prophet said they would. The Lord has founded Zion, and our hearts should be set upon building it up. Every power of our natures should be engaged in it; for it is God's work, and we are doing God's work in building it up. Oh! that we had all the wealth of the world at our command with which to build up Zion in purity and redeem the earth—not for our own enrichment or advancement. When I see Latter-day Saints building up themselves and their own families, and thinking of that only, I mourn over them. They have not comprehended the mission of Zion. It is not to build up ourselves; it is to build up the work of God, for the salvation of all our brethren and sisters on the earth. God will build us all up if we will build up His Zion, and He will build up our children after us. The Lord will bless the children of the Latter-day Saints who serve Him. His promises will accompany them throughout all their generations, and we shall have a generation of pure people on the earth.

Should we not be encouraged, in view of all that God has done and is doing for us? Why, His power and Spirit are as visible in this work as the light of the sun is visible to our mortal eyes, if we will but open the eyes of our understanding to see. Men talk about this organization and the other organization as going to result in great good to humanity. I say unto you that men have tried in vain. They have got up organization after organization to effect these results, and failure is written upon every one of them. Therefore, the wisdom and power of God were needed. I say there was need for angels to come from heaven; for there was no man on the earth that knew what to do. And angels have come. The Lord Himself has come, and has revealed a perfect organization—one that reaches out for all, regardless of sex, of condition, of birth or of color. It embraces all humanity. Every human being can come and be associated with the Church of Christ, and receive the blessings that belong to him or her, according to the promises of God given to us as His children.

My brethren and sisters, let us take hold of this work with energy. Let us love the Lord our God with all our hearts, and let us endeavor to carry out practically in our lives the principles that we believe in. Do not let us be hypocrites, professing to be one thing and living another. We profess to be Saints of God; let us carry out our professions in our lives, and show to the Lord that we are struggling to overcome the traditions of our fathers with which we have been enveloped from our birth. The traditions of ages have accumulated around us, and we are a prey to them, to a certain extent. Let us endeavor to cast aside these traditions, and to get the light and power of the Spirit of God, to show unto us how we can live better. Let our constant prayer be unto God to show unto us our weaknesses and faults, and help us to overcome them, so that we may be a humble and meek people before Him—not a quarrelsome, contentious people; not a people struggling for our rights at the expense of doing wrong. There should not be a Latter-day Saint who would want to go to law with his brother. We cannot do it without violating the counsels of our Savior. There is no justification in our going to law. We cannot do it without committing sin. We should not have litigation among us. If we are sued at the law for something that belongs to us, let it go, if we cannot keep it without going to law, and let the Lord judge between us and the one who sues us. God will bless the men and

the women that will submit to wrong, rather than do wrong. I know how contrary to fallen human nature this is. It is the nature of man, under the influence of the fall, when he is reviled, to revile again, and when he is attacked, to strike back. He thinks it unmanly not to retaliate. These are some of the teachings of Satan to which I refer. He would make this earth a pandemonium. He would array nation against nation, man against man, family against family. He would make a hell of this earth. He has done it to a great extent. He would make it still more so, if mankind would listen to him. But we have got to make this earth a heaven. That is our mission. We must take a course that will result in the binding of Satan; for God will bind him, and he will not have power in the earth. And those who seek for and cultivate that spirit will live to see that day and be participators therein; if not in the flesh, they will in the spirit; and their children after them. But men and women who give way to the spirit of Satan will not be permitted to dwell on this earth when it is a heaven—at least, not where Christ is. Our wish is to make the earth a heaven. Satan has made it almost a hell for hundreds and thousands of years. He has succeeded in carrying his operations into effect until he has killed off everyone that would oppose him. Every man that had revelation from God he destroyed. And he would kill us, too. He has shed the blood of Prophets and Apostles and righteous men in this generation; and he would continue to do it until he wiped the whole Church of Christ and every element opposed to him from the face of the earth; but God has made promises to this people, and those promises will be fulfilled. He has promised that Satan shall not have power to destroy this people, and all heaven is bound by that promise and is laboring to that end. Therefore, let us do our part to make this earth a heaven, and to seek to prepare it for the coming of the Lord Jesus, who will certainly come. The heavens cannot hold Him, because it has been decreed that He shall come. Then destruction will be meted out to the wicked and the ungodly; but the righteous will be preserved. That is the promise of God, and it will be fulfilled.

It is our duty to read and ponder upon the teachings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ while He was in the flesh. Fortunately for us, we have some portion, at least, of these teachings. We have His teachings as recorded in the Bible and in the Book of Mormon. We have also His teachings as contained in the revelations He has condescended to give to this Church. From all these sources, and from the teachings of His servants who speak to us from time to time, we have abundant sources of knowledge and information as to the will of God. Let us make these teachings applicable to us and a part of our lives. Do not be like people who have never heard the Gospel. You know how it is with the churches that do not believe in revelation. They do not progress, because they have reached the limit of their growth. There is no power that they are still reaching out for; for they do not believe in the bestowal of gifts and power; they do not believe in miracles; they think the heavens are sealed, and they are content to reach a certain level and stop there. I sometimes think we are like them in this one respect. We get baptized; we have hands laid upon us; we become members of the Church, and then we do not strive any farther. We do not look upward as we should do. We do not plead with the heavens for the bestowal of greater gifts, greater powers, greater qualifications, as we should. We should plead with