

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, Oct. 13, 1889, commencing at 2 p.m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding.

The choir and congregation sang:

The time is far spent there is little remaining.

To publish glad tidings by sea and by land.

Prayer by Elder N. V. Jones.

The choir sang:

O God, th' eternal Father,
Who dwells amid the sky!

The Priesthood of the Twelfth Ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

ELDER CHAS. W. PENROSE

addressed the congregation. He remarked that "after a storm comes a calm." Last Sunday this building and the Assembly Hall were not able to accommodate all who came to Conference, but today the number of attendants, though aggregating several thousands was unusually small. This was probably due to the unpleasant state of the weather. If, however, we have come together in faith, and with a sincere desire to worship God and be instructed, the blessing of the Lord will be with us. We have a great privilege in being able to meet and worship God in the way He has appointed. We are privileged also in having the word of God to guide us. We have the Hebrew scriptures, which contain a portion of the things revealed through the Hebrew Prophets. We have the New Testament also, which, however, has but a portion of the writings of the disciples of Christ. These have been translated and published in our own tongue, and if we have the Spirit by which they were written we can understand them. We have, too, the record of the people who dwelt on this continent, who were a branch of the house of Israel, and also of a still more ancient people, who came to this continent from the Tower of Babel. This record has come forth in "the dispensation of the fullness of times," a dispensation when all things in Christ are to be gathered together; when the scriptures as well as the people shall be gathered in one. The record of the people on this continent that I have spoken of was translated by the power of God, while the Hebrew scriptures were translated by the learning and wisdom of man. This record is called the Book of Mormon. It contains the word of the Lord through ancient Prophets to people on this land.

Thus we have the benefit of the word of God given to people anciently, on both continents. We find that the same Spirit prompted those who made all these records. We rejoice in these writings, and have found that in ancient times God not only manifested Himself through His chosen servants the Prophets, but was nigh unto all who had faith in Him. Paul exhorted the people

to give heed to the things which were written aforetime, and also said that the Saints had "a more sure word of prophecy." That is, they also had the living oracles with them. We are similarly blessed. God has restored the ancient Gospel, the ancient Priesthood, and the gift of revelation. We also have the living oracles, and what they do under His authority in the way He has pointed out, and in conformity to His will, is the same as if performed by Deity in person and therefore the word of the Lord, for they are His representatives. "The letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life." Holy men, inspired by the Holy Ghost, reveal to us the living word of God, and those who give heed to their teachings receive for themselves the same Spirit and a knowledge of the things of God.

The grand object of the ministrations of the servants of God in all ages is to bring the inhabitants of the earth into harmony with their Father in heaven, that God may rule in their hearts, and that they may become holy and pure, and thus be able to dwell in His presence. Unless our faith and desires bring forth good works they are vain. All the ordinances instituted by our Father in heaven are to bring men to a plane where they will be in harmony with Him. They will become fit for His presence by putting away everything which is corrupt, and becoming absorbed in truth and purity. The whole tendency of the teachings of holy men is to lead people to righteousness; to bring them to a union of spirit and action, and fit them to dwell in the presence of God.

There has been a long period of darkness on the earth. After the Apostles were put to death the people went into transgression, and what little there was of the Church divided. The unity of the faith was lost, and prophecy, revelation and the gifts of the Spirit were no longer in the midst of the people. A church arose that was in form and spirit, in doctrine and ordinance, altogether different from the Church of Christ. After a time reformers arose, and since then there have been many other reformers, until today there are hundreds of opposing sects, with no bond of union, but all claiming to be the Church of Christ. In the times in which we live God has seen proper to restore His Gospel, in its primitive purity and power, which is to increase in the earth, and have greater power than at any time preceding. Thus we have the living oracles to comfort and bless us and lead us to the unity of the faith. To accomplish this, God set in the Church certain officers. Their work is the same today as anciently—to bring the Saints to a knowledge of the Son of God, to the statue of a perfect man in Christ Jesus. We are not to stop at our union with the Church, but to progress in righteousness and to a unity of the faith in all things, until we come to a perfect knowledge of the Son of God. It is only by the witness of the Holy Ghost that we can know

that Jesus is the Lord and attain perfection and become fit to associate with our heavenly Father.

During the time the world were dependent upon the uninspired teachings of men, many false doctrines were introduced. I know of none more soul-destroying than that of justification by faith alone, the dogma that belief in Jesus Christ is alone sufficient for salvation. By this heresy millions have been led away and encouraged in acts of wickedness. They have been taught that nothing they can do will be of any saving virtue, that Christ has done all the work and all they have to do is to believe. It may be asked, Is not this a New Testament doctrine? No it is not. It is true that the Apostle Paul said: "By grace are ye saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works lest any man should boast." But it is through a misconception of the meaning of such words as these that uninspired ministers, who have depended upon the dead letter of the Scriptures, have led mankind astray. I will read to you what the Apostle James says on this subject: (Read James ii, 14-20). This is good, common sense and was the doctrine of the Church of Christ. "Faith, if it hath not works is dead, being alone." Paul taught this as well as James, and Peter and the other Apostles. They all preached the same Gospel. They all spoke by the Holy Ghost. That is "the Spirit of Truth." It guides into all truth. It never contradicts itself. The lapse of ages makes no difference. It will teach the same today as centuries ago, and it is the light of God to all mankind. The key to Paul's doctrine about the inefficacy of works is to be found in Romans iii, 20: "Therefore, by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin."

There are two sides to every question. Paul showed one side, James the other; but both agree in doctrine when each is understood. The works which Paul said were insufficient were the deeds of the law of Moses, which had been fulfilled in Christ, and the Apostle showed the absolute necessity of something more, namely, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, which, as James shows, is exemplified by works. And to prove that Paul agreed with James on this matter, I will read to you from Roman ii: 3-11. Here the Apostle declares that God will "render unto every man according to his deeds," giving glory and honor and eternal life to those who work righteousness, bringing tribulation and anguish, indignation and wrath upon every soul that doeth evil."

All of the Apostles labored to bring men to good works and to put away evil. The doctrine of the older Prophets and also of Christ, is, "Cease to do evil, learn to do well." Some people think and teach that the righteousness of Christ will be imputed to them through faith, and that without any act of theirs His blood will wash away all sin. That is not true. Every man must