

THE DESERET WEEKLY.

Truth and Liberty.

No. 15.

SALT LAKE CITY UTAH, SEPTEMBER 24, 1898.

VOL. LVII.

REMARKS

Made at the Sixty-eight Annual Conference of the Church in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, Thursday afternoon, April 7, 1898, by
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"There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

"The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto Him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

"Nicodemus saith unto Him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water, and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

"That which is born of the flesh, is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit, is spirit.

"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

"Nicodemus answered and said unto Him, How can these things be?

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness."

It has been demonstrated at this Conference that the same Spirit that existed in the primitive Church exists in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints today. The testimonies that have been borne by those who have addressed us have all given witness of the same thing, that we are living in the dispensation of the fullness of times. We are bearing our testimony to the world that the angel that John saw on the Isle of Patmos, when he received that wonderful revelation, showing things that should happen hereafter, has come. In that revelation was given a description of the Church of Christ going into the wilderness, the Priesthood being taken from the earth. Rev. XII, the establishment of false systems that would make all nations to drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Rev. XVII. John also saw a mighty angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach to those who dwell upon the earth, crying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment is come. Rev. XIV. We testify that this angel has come, that this everlasting Gospel has been restored, and that the Gospel of

the kingdom is being preached by the Latter-day Saints in all the world for a witness. We take unto them the glad tidings of great joy. We call upon mankind everywhere, no matter what their profession may be, to worship the living and true God, who hath spoken in these last days. We cry unto them repentance, reformation, to cease from their evil ways, and to worship the living and true God, and to obey His Gospel. We entreat them to be baptized by immersion for the remission of sins, that they may enjoy the blessings resulting therefrom, and that they may be sanctified by the precious blood of Christ, which follows the water, and be prepared for the reception of the Holy Ghost. We promise unto them if they will obey this form of doctrine; if they will humble themselves before the Lord, and seek wisdom at His hands; if they will give unto the Lord the broken heart and the contrite spirit, they shall know, as we know, that these principles are true.

We are sending our missionaries all the time, and when they return they testify that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph Smith was a true Prophet sent of God. If they did not know it when they started out to preach the Gospel, they obtained this information before they came back, simply because our Father in heaven is doing His own work. It does not require an artificial education to prepare a man to declare the word of the Lord unto the people. It is not by wisdom, it is not by might, it is not by oratory, it is not by logic; but it is "by my Spirit, saith the Lord." Our message unto the people is one: that every individual is interested in, no matter what his profession may be. The word of the Lord is to every individual. As the Lord Jesus Christ said to His ancient Apostles, so He hath said in these last days:

"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."

You may ask why this condemnation should come unto the people. Simply because it is not our message; it is the message of God Almighty. Whoso receiveth us receiveth Him; whoso rejecteth us rejecteth Him.

The great problem before the world is, was Joseph Smith sent of God, or was he not? No matter how much you may vilify him, no matter how much evil may be said concerning him, it is a solemn fact that he was sent of God, and we bear testimony that we know it. We have been gathered out of the world. We were Catholics, we were Protestants of various denominations, and when the word of the Lord came to us we obeyed it. A great many of our friends rejected it; but those of us who have obeyed it have this living testimony that we know that God lives, we know that Jesus is the Christ, we know that Joseph Smith was a true Prophet of God, and we know that the Church of Christ,

in its present organized state upon the earth, is the Church of the Redeemer, and that the signs follow the believer. Test our principles. As far as we are concerned as a people, we are a variety. The wheat and tares are growing together, are they not? The wise and the foolish virgins are living together, are they not? But the Lord's own love Him and keep His commandments. They do not rob Him in tithes and offerings. They are consistent in their profession and in their faith. They hear the word of God and do it. Although none of us pretend to be good (for our Royal Master said that no one was good save God), still by way of comparison we say we have the good, the King's own, those who love Him and keep His commandments. You may know them when you take them by the hand. They are filled with thanksgiving and praise to God for the redemption that He has wrought out; and we say with the Psalmist of old:

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for His mercy endureth for ever.

"Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;

"And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south.

"Oh, that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" Ps. CVII.

We are the redeemed of the Lord. We have accepted of the principles of redemption, and consequently have been sanctified in the precious blood of Christ. Those who love God and keep His commandments represent Him and the Lord Jesus Christ. They love one another, and they are known by their works. Their faith is manifested by their works. Then we have a class that are not so good, that are not so faithful. They have not the faith of the Gospel so much as this first class, who represent the celestial kingdom. But they are those who rob the Lord in tithes and offerings. They are those who are not valiant for the testimony of Jesus. They are those who do not magnify their calling. Consequently we say they are not so good. Then we have another class, I presume, representing the telestial. They are good for nothing. But we call them all good. These are the simple facts in the case. We manifest our position by our works. This immense congregation here, I suppose we represent the different degrees of glory. It is to be hoped not. It is to be hoped that we represent the celestial kingdom. But according to the testimony of the Spirit that was manifested here by some of the brethren who spoke, there are quite a number who profess to be Latter-day Saints, but are not of the celestial kingdom, simply because they do not love God and are lukewarm.

I do not know how far we may be justified in going into debt;