

and had to receive it from his brethren, had a right to pay one-tenth of this gift for a tithing and to claim the blessing of having paid his tithing with the promise that he should not be burned. There are promises of the Lord behind all these things. The whole thing is not executed today, because judgment and vengeance are not executed at once, the sinners goes on and think they are going to pass by. I tell you the best thing is to bring yourself to judgment now, and cleanse yourself from sin and unrighteousness. If we judge ourselves by the law of God we shall not have to be judged. But if we do not, and our sins follow us to the day of judgment, we shall wish we had done differently here. We profess to know some things by the spirit of revelation concerning the future; we profess to know some things concerning the past, and we may as well be using that reason, judgment and understanding to direct our steps now while we are in the way.

There is another thing I would mention. Any of you brethren and sisters that have got anything into your heads or hearts against any brother or sister, and you are carrying that evil thought day by day, let me tell you it is bad business, for while you entertain these feelings you do not have the Holy Spirit. It cannot dwell in the heart as it would like to where such feelings exist. We must dwell together in love and fellowship in the Holy Ghost, fellowshiping each other, in fellowship with the angels and with our Lord Jesus Christ, and He will bring us into fellowship with the Father. Oh! what a blessing it is to have the fellowship of the heavens, to know that they are ready to help us in the hour of our raitened need. How was it with the Apostle Peter? The Lord looked him in the face as they sat at table and said, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: but I have prayed for you, that thy faith fail not." That is just how narrow an escape that great man met with from being overthrown. He obtained that one great thing—the fellowship of the Lord Jesus Christ, so that He prayed for him, that his faith fail not, although he denied his Master three times. Was not that a narrower chance than any of us want to take?

The fact of the matter is, there is an etiquette in the Church and kingdom of God different from the etiquette of the world, and we need to learn it. When people get into the various quorums and councils of the Church, they must learn it, or they will stumble and reel till they will not know whether they are standing or falling. And that etiquette is founded on the principle of obedience. That principle has to come in everywhere. It is the first principle with children to their parents. It is the first principle with parents to God, to His ordinances, and to the officers of His Church. It is the first principle all the way through the councils and quorums of the Church. It is "obedience that is better than sacrifice." We have got to have it in our souls, with the light of the Spirit to know whom we should obey and the authority that is entitled to expect obedience from us—that authority which God has appointed to direct and lead us in the way of life everlasting. We have to learn of these things and carry them with us day by day, that they may hallow and sanctify us.

Then, we must be filled with a feeling of generous benevolence to the poor that are around us, and especially to the poor that died before us, who were our fathers and our mothers. Oh! what has the Lord done for us to give us these temples, to bring to pass and restore the things that are lost; to give to us through the Prophet Joseph, before he could be taken away from us, knowledge of heavenly things which are not only for time but for all eternity! It is necessary for us, once in a while, knowing the things of God and the power of godliness, and the fate of the ungodly, that the terrors of the Lord should be poured out upon us, so that we may be kept in the right way and take warning; for His Spirit will not always strive with man after He has bestowed upon him such knowledge and intelligence as He has poured out upon us.

Fathers and mothers in Israel, see to it before you go away, that you confer upon your race which you leave in the earth, every blessing of the kingdom and the covenant that you can. If you have not paid your tithing, you are in a bad condition. You ought to have your tithings and your offerings paid. You ought to feel that you are entitled to every blessing the Lord can bestow. You ought to pour out blessing upon your race, that when you are gone they may be strengthened in your words, and walk in your counsels and precepts till you and they meet again. I have to say, that the more and more I learn and know that everything I do in the Church of God adds to my testimony of the truth of the work in which we are engaged.

I want to say a word or two to Saints who have just come over from the old countries. Some of them have lived there years, patiently waiting to be gathered. So intent has their effort and desire been to get to Zion that it has seemed as if they thought the great end of their existence was accomplished, and they could sit down and do nothing, as if they were tired out and able to do no more. Bless your souls, you have only just come where you can go to work in the right place, at the right things, and become the right kind of persons yourselves, just as the light comes into the room. The light is not given simply for you to see by only, it is given to enable you to work by. We ought not to feel laggard, and dull, and stupid about these things. If you cannot get a full price for your work, work for what you can get, be thankful for that, and the Lord will open your way.

Every experience that we have in life is intended to enrich us in the knowledge of God and His ways, to increase our usefulness and qualify us for greater, larger and more important work. How is it with the blacksmith? With his continual striking he gets so that by and by he makes a blow more powerful by many fold than the man who has not been doing this. The use of his muscles has strengthened them till he can make a very powerful blow. So it we exercise our faculties and the faith and spirit we have got, practising and improving in our ministry in the ways of the Lord, He will increase our strength, and will qualify us to magnify our positions and prepare us for that which is before us. "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeith every son whom He receiveth." Then the anointing is

upon us. How can we be still? When we see our fellow men going down the way of wickedness, and when we see our brethren and sisters sometimes full of the traditions that they have brought from the Gentile world, how can we hold our peace? We must to teach by example as well as by precept how to walk in the way of Lord.

I wish to testify that the things which I heard this morning I approve and confirm with my testimony. The Lord is going to work more and more among us and like Himself. But He will do that according as we manifest our desires for righteousness. I pray the Lord to bless you, my brethren and sisters of Davis County. I hear a good report of the Davis Stake of Zion. I hear that it stands among the first in its efforts and labors to provide for the poor and to preserve the tithing intact for the Church. I can testify that President Hess is growing in grace and in the knowledge of the truth, and in the wisdom and power of the Priesthood. I feel to bless him and his counselors, and to bless the Bishops and those who are in authority in this stake all through, the brethren and the sisters, the old and the young; that you may be blessed with power to do good, with a disinclination to all that is evil, and become sanctified by the working of the Spirit and a belief of the truth unto everlasting life in the kingdom of our God.

I pray that He will have us all in His holy keeping, and that while the judgments of God go forth unto victory, His people may so live that the angel of the Lord will pass by with the judgments and not deliver them upon us. I pray that He may bless President Woodruff and his counselors, Brothers Cannon and Smith, to have eyes of the Holy Spirit to search all things that pertain to the welfare of Zion, and to maintain the authority, the purity and power of the Holy Priesthood. And so with the Apostles, that they may unanimously help to carry out their will, their spirit and instructions among all Israel and in all the world.

I feel myself one of the least of the Apostles. Unless God be with us we can do nothing; but if He will guide us we can do all things that He will require, through Christ strengthening us. Now, may the blessing of the Lord be upon you, your persons and your substance, and all your interests, for time and for eternity, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

IN PENNSYLVANIA.

SCRANTON, August, 28th, 1896.

I have no doubt, but what the readers of your valuable paper are expecting to see something more about the work of the Lord in this part of His vineyard. Since my last writing of July 5th, we have been very desirous of spreading the word of God among the people by tracting and preaching and in conversation. After the resolutions referred to in my last letter were passed it did not stop us, in the work we were sent out to perform, but aroused in us that feeling to never give up in a righteous cause. We went to the Mayor of the city and asked for permission to preach in the streets of Carbondale. He told Elders W. W. Crockett, D. T. Edwards, A. A. Fuller and myself that we could, but we were not to go on the main streets. We thanked him, promised him we would