

that Gospel. He held the Priesthood, and he taught me the same Gospel that Paul taught. As many of you may have heard me remark before, I went to Sabbath school, in my boyhood, under Dr. Porter, in Farmington, Connecticut. He and Dr. Haws, of Hartford, Conn., were Presbyterian divines, and were considered great men in that day. In that Sabbath school I read the New Testament. I learned verse after verse and chapter after chapter. What did the Testament teach me? It taught me the Gospel of life and salvation; it taught me a Gospel of power before the heavens and on the earth. It taught me that the organization of the Church consisted of Prophets, Apostles, Pastors and Teachers, with helps and governments. What for? "For the perfecting of the Saints, for the work of the ministry: for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." These are the things which I learned, and they made an impression upon me. I believed in them; yet I had never heard them taught by any clergyman or divine upon the earth. In my early manhood I attended the meetings of almost every denomination there was. On one occasion I attended one of those great meetings which were sometimes held in Connecticut, at which forty or fifty ministers of various denominations were gathered together. They prayed for a pentecostal season and for a good many other things. At this meeting permission was given for anybody to make remarks. I was quite young then. I arose and stepped into the aisle, and I said to that body of ministers: "My friends, will you tell me why you don't contend for the faith once delivered to the Saints? Will you tell me why you don't contend for that Gospel that Jesus Christ taught, and that His Apostles taught? Why do you not contend for that religion that gives unto you power before God, power to heal the sick, to make the blind to see, the lame to walk, and that gives you the Holy Ghost and those gifts and graces that have been manifest from the creation of the world? Why do you not teach the people those principles that the ancient Patriarchs and Prophets taught while they were clothed with the revelations of God? They had the administrations of angels; they

had dreams and visions, and constant revelation to guide and direct them in the path in which they should walk." The presiding elder said: "My dear young man, you would be a very smart man, and a very useful man in the earth, if you did not believe all those foolish things. These things were given to the children of men in the dark ages of the world, and they were given for the very purpose of enlightening the children of men in that age, that they might believe in Jesus Christ. Today we live in the blaze of the glorious gospel light, and we do not need those things." Said I: "Then give me the dark ages of the world; give me those ages when men received these principles."

There is where I stood in my youth. I did not believe that these gifts and graces were done away, only through the unbelief of the children of men. They were done away when men rejected the law of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; turned away from the Kingdom of God, built up altars to Baal, and sought to carry out principles of their own. And the earth remained in that condition until the Lord raised up a Prophet in these last days. He raised up Joseph Smith, who laid the foundation of this Church and Kingdom. And from that day until the present, whenever any one has embraced the Gospel of Christ and lived that religion, the gifts and blessings of that Gospel have been bestowed upon them. And this will be so unto the end.

I have traveled many thousands of miles, at home and abroad, preaching the Gospel of Christ to my fellow-men; and, in my experience, I have never known a man or woman who, when they received the Gospel with honest hearts and were baptized, did not receive a testimony for themselves. While in England, in 1840, I was inspired of the Lord to go to Herefordshire. There had never been any Elders in that part of the country. When I arrived there I found about six hundred people called United Brethren. They had broken off from the Wesleyan Methodists. They sought for those ancient gifts that I have been speaking about. They had been praying to God to open the way before them. What was the consequence? All of them, except one, including forty-five preachers, were baptized in thirty days. They received the Gospel, and the gifts and graces followed them.

As I said before, these are the

principles that I believe in. And I will say here that this same Gospel was with Father Adam, with Noah, with Enoch, and with all the ancient patriarchs and prophets. There has been no change. And I say, as a servant of God, there is no change in the eternal and everlasting Priesthood. It is without beginning of days or end of years. It is from eternity unto eternity. By the power of that Priesthood, God, our Eternal Father, has organized all worlds, and redeemed all worlds that have ever been redeemed. By that same Priesthood men have administered on the earth in the ordinances of the Gospel of Christ. There is no change to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, nor to one of the ordinances thereof. And whenever that Gospel is offered to the children of men, it is by the power of the Priesthood. No man who has ever breathed the breath of life, since God made the world, has ever had the power to go forth and minister in one of the ordinances of the Gospel of Christ, without that Priesthood; and no man ever will. This may not be believed by many of the inhabitants of the earth; but it is true.

We have been gathered to these valleys of the mountains by the power and inspiration of God. We might have gone forth and preached till we had become as old as Methuselah, and if the power of the Almighty had not attended that preaching, Utah might still have been a desert. But the Spirit of God bore record to the teachings of the Elders of Israel, and the honest in heart and meek of the earth received the Gospel and gathered to these valleys. This is in fulfillment of the revelations of God. John the Revelator, in his vision on the Isle of Patmos, saw "another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come." Those words have been fulfilled. The angel of God has visited the earth and delivered the fulness of the Gospel unto the inhabitants thereof, and they are receiving it. By the power of that Gospel you left your homes and came to these mountains of Israel.

Now, Paul says that if we preach any other gospel than that which he taught, we should be accursed. The first principle in that Gospel is faith in Christ as the Savior of the world.