PART 2

DESERET EVENING NEWS.

9 TO 12

TRUTH AND LIBERTY

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DISCOURSE

Delivered at the Semi-Annual Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, Tuesday morning, October 5th, 1897, by

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In asking to address this vast congregation, I sincerely desire a continuance of that liberality of spirit which has evinced itself toward me by those who have preceded me. It was to minister unto me somewhat that without it we shall be edified in the truth and the knowledge of God. In arising to speak to you and to bear testimony of the truth, I feel as much as what to speak as what to say about it. I feel peculiar pleasure in the spirit in listening to the testimonies of the brethren, because of the simplicity and power of many of the words that have uttered. One of them gave expression to my mind, as well as to the minds of the hearers, concerning the value and importance of living oracles to the Church of God on the earth as being the principle source in the midst of God's people where written instructions that are given by men. Inasmuch as the words spoken by the Holy Spirit, the mind of the Lord is that which instructs the Lord, shall be scripture—shall be written of the Lord, shall be the mind of the Lord, shall be the word of the Lord, shall be the voice of the Lord and the power of God unto salvation. I think the question was made concerning the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants and the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants and the Bible about they would be in advancing salvation, if they alone were adopted by the people. Now we are adopted by the people. Now we are not, but has it has worked with all diligence, to have the Bible without the authority to administer ordinances mentioned in it. Now we have not the power either of these books, or of those and yet not baptism for the dead, and yet not baptism for the dead. There is not power enough in the Bible to bind on the earth and to loose on the earth, into the heavens. Why? Because there is not there the authority from the Lord to present to administer in all His ordinances. We have the authority, we do know—the Lord Jesus Christ himself stated, that it was not given unto the twelve of old to enter the kingdom of heaven. Said He to the learned Pharisee, "Except a man be born of the water and of the spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Now, he was a man of principle and he was a man of principle, he was honorable. He who created the world and causes it to travel around the sun every three hundred and sixty-five days and six hours, established those principles, those eternal principles for the business, also the law that every man must be born of the water and of the spirit before he can enter into the kingdom of God; and one is just such a law of nature as the other, and one is the law of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and of man. He could administer in ordinances except they received authority from the Lord? What do it? Those who are under baptism, are confirmed by the laying on of hands, and are made to feel that we are a membership in the Church of Christ, neither can they administer in any other or the ordinances which we are receiving, and which we refuse so much, in the time of our God. It requires nothing less than a present living minister in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to minister in all the ordinances, to bind, and in directing all the affairs of the Church of Christ. We have not the ability to understand it, or else we do not know where our safety is.

In front of Jesus Christ is a system of things which, in order to be saved, we must understand. Paul, when he came preach with effect and power to whether the forgiveness of sins, which he was preaching, was in order to baptism for the remission of sins, unless he has himself been baptized for the remission of his sins in the faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? No man can administer in ordinances of the Gospel of Christ unless he has power, unless he has been baptized by the author of them, and that is how we cannot, unless we can preach the power of the resurrection from the dead. When, and by the time of the resurrection, which we