

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, March 30, 1890, commencing at 2 p. m., Counselor Joseph E. Taylor presiding.

The choir and congregation sang the hymn beginning:

We thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet,
To guide us in these latter days.

Prayer by Counselor John W. Young.

The choir sang:

Again we meet around the board,
Of Jesus our redeeming Lord.

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

ELDER DAVID H. CANNON,

of St. George, was called to be the first speaker. He said the Latter-day Saints were frequently referred to as being a peculiar people. One of their peculiarities is their belief that God has revealed His will in this age, and has organized His Church and sent forth His Gospel for the salvation of mankind. The Saints believe in the principle of gathering, and have mainly assembled in one locality. This is regarded by some as having a tendency hostile to the interests of the people of the nation; but any one who investigates the effects of this gathering together can easily see that there is no hostility in it. The people are collected together that they may be better able to promulgate the Gospel and to perform ordinances that they consider necessary for the living and for the dead. This spirit of the gathering is one that comes upon all who join the Church, even where the principle has not been preached. They desire to unite with the body of the Church, and, having done so, the bond of union with their brethren and sisters is much stronger than before they received the Gospel. The Spirit of God inspired those who obeyed the Gospel message to devote their energies to gathering with the Church and to press forward in a life of faith and purity. If there have been any who have been baptized who have not been thus inspired, it is because they have not been sincere in their professions, and in a comparatively brief time their course has given the evidence of it.

The clouds seem to lower at times about the Saints, but there is no reason for us to be discouraged. On the contrary, there is every reason for us to feel encouraged, for the Lord is manifesting by the signs of the times that He is about to bring to pass the wondrous work of which He has spoken in connection with present conditions. I have witnessed the fulfillment of many of the predictions of His Prophets, and I expect to see many more, though, after the Prophet Joseph was martyred, it appeared to many as if about the end of "Mormonism" had come. But the Lord could not fail to fulfil His word, and He raised up men to perform necessary duties.

The work, instead of being hindered, moved forward with increased power. It will be the same in the outcome of the situation in which we now are. Though we may be called upon to pass through narrow places, yet there is a bright future before us. The way is being prepared for the coming of our Lord Jesus, to reign as Lord of lords and King of kings. I would advise those who seek to destroy the Saints to pause and consider the lessons of the past. If God is with us, the puny arm of flesh can accomplish nothing that will hinder this work. To me this is the brightest day I have ever seen in the history of the church. I know that we have the Gospel of Christ—the power of God unto salvation. May we live faithful and be entitled to the reward of such is my prayer for all.

COUNSELOR CHAS. W. PENROSE

was the next speaker. He testified to the restoration of the Gospel in this dispensation. The Latter-day Saints have a special mission. In various ages and various nations God has moved upon people to perform missions, and they have been a blessing to mankind in fulfilling those missions. We are called to be Saints, to listen to His voice, to follow the inspiration of His Spirit and labor for the salvation of the living and the dead. We have received the Gospel of the Kingdom, which Jesus said should be preached in all the world before the end should come. He told of the tribulations which should come on the earth, and especially of His second coming. He said that in the latter days the Gospel of the kingdom should be preached in all the world and then should the end come. We are called to preach this Gospel as a witness of His coming to reign on the earth. Jesus sent out His Apostles with a special mission, to preach the Gospel to all nations. They fulfilled that mission, baptizing those who believed, and laid hands on them that they might receive the Holy Ghost. But these Apostles were despised, and their testimony was received but by few. They were persecuted, and put to death, sealing their testimony with their blood. Darkness followed the rejection of the Gospel. This is set forth in the first three chapters of the Revelations of Saint John. We know by history what has been, and we know what is the condition of the world today, among all Christendom. The professed Christian world is divided as to doctrine, and there are hundreds of different sects. Even the Pope while, claiming to hold the keys of Peter, does not claim to be an Apostle and a revelator. He dare not come with "Thus saith the Lord." He claims to be a bishop, which Peter never was.

The Church of Jesus Christ differs from all others of today. It is not an organization like them, but is a restoration of the old Church; it is the everlasting Gospel again revealed to man with all its powers, gifts and blessings. Joseph Smith did

not organize it by the knowledge he had of the Scriptures, but gave only that which God gave to him. Jesus Christ established the Church; by His power it is protected and made triumphant. Out of this Church will grow the Kingdom of God, established by His power, and not by the power of man.

The Lord has promised those who obey His Gospel that they will receive a testimony of its truth, and will obtain the blessings that attend its reception. The Saints received this Gospel, and the testimony of the Holy Ghost rested upon them. They know that they have obeyed the will of God. By the Holy Spirit they are united, and labor together for the one great work. No one is dependent on the other, but the testimony comes to each, individually. The gifts that attended the Saints anciently also attended the Latter-day Saints. The lame are made to walk, the deaf to hear, the blind to see, the sick are healed, and the Holy Ghost rests upon the Saints, enabling them to bear persecution, and to be faithful to the truth. The Prophet whom God had raised up was slain in cold blood, when under the pledged protection of the State of Illinois. He was not slain for any wrong that he had committed, but for the truths He taught.

The people were driven, and they came to these valleys, where they have been engaged in turning the desert into a garden. The Lord calls His people to come out of the world. The Saints have come out with this purpose, to walk in truth and righteousness. There are some who have followed the ways of Babylon. But they have in the main followed their calling, and are engaged in preparing for the coming of the Lord Jesus. They have borne trials. They have stood poverty, persecution, imprisonment and adversities. They have to be tried with the allurements of wealth, and this seems to be the greatest temptation. But the Church will remain intact, and in the main they will seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. The trials we have had give us experiences that are necessary. The tribulations are to try us, whether we will pursue the straight and narrow path. They are to qualify us to become a part of the greatest government in the history of the world. Now it is the Church of Christ, as it was organized anciently, set up, maintained and inspired by God Almighty. The testimony of His servants is the testimony of Jesus, and their word is His word. Whoso receiveth them receiveth Christ, and whoso rejecteth them rejecteth Christ.

These servants of the Lord are in our midst. We are associated in a work set up by God. We should be willing to be guided by good counsel. There is nothing that is coercive or compulsory. We are not compelled to obey any particular command; every soul is free. But we are under covenant to obey the commands of God, and if we do not do so, He is not bound by the covenant. No matter how great