

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, October 12, 1890, commencing at 2 p. m., President Joseph E. Taylor presiding.

The choir sang:

I'll praise my Maker while I've breath;
And when my voice is lost in death,
Praise shall employ my nobler powers.

Prayer was offered by Elder John Nicholson.

The choir sang:

O Lord of Hosts, we now invoke
Thy Spirit, most divine.

The Priesthood of the Twenty-second Ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

DOCTOR JAMES E. TALMAGE

was the first speaker. He said in substance: It is necessary in our congregations that every one should do his duty; if not, he will be responsible for having attempted to hinder the flow of the Spirit; for we believe that it is incumbent upon everyone to exercise faith and prayer and thus draw upon God for that which is necessary for edification. This is a peculiarity of the Latter-day Saints, and one which does away with the necessity of notifying the speakers beforehand.

Among the Latter-day Saints there is peace and union, and by the power thereof we obtain the good things of our Fathers house. We are here before the table of the Father and in partaking of the sacrament, we take upon us the name of Christ and the solemn responsibility envolved therein. We have taken upon us the exalting title of Saints and should examine ourselves to see whether we are entitled to be thus designated or not.

The Lord desires the authority He has bestowed to be recognized. Christ in the parable of the vineyard teaches us that when men reject the authority of God, His anger is kindled and He is prepared to mete out terrible justice unto them. The authority is necessary for the salvation of human kind and for the redemption of the earth, and everyone should remember that we at the table of the Lord profess to take upon us His name. Here we should put away every vain thought, all that is not connected with the purpose for which we have come together. God has always acknowledged His constituted servants. For instance, Cornelius had been praying for light, and he had proved by his acts that he was honest. His prayers were heard, for God sent him a heavenly messenger, but the latter had no authority to expound the principles of the Gospel and administer its ordinances, but he told him of Peter, through whom the instruction should come. Peter was only a fisherman, yet the angel respected his position as the presiding Elder. We also should regard those who hold the authority in our day.

When David was still a boy, although he had been anointed the future king of Israel, he respected Saul as holding the office, even

when the latter attempted to take his life. David had no enmity in his heart against Saul, as he proved in the cave of Adullam where he was near enough to kill him. Long after that, when Saul had been slain and a soldier brought the message to David, he wept aloud. Those who are the Lord's anointed should be respected in their office, and every one should have the spirit to which he is entitled, that there may be an echoing chord in their hearts as there is harmony between different chords of the same tension on musical instruments. Those who address the Saints should seek for the revelations necessary to lead them that they may touch the harmonizing chords. Words may be misunderstood, but the Spirit is able to give the right impressions to those that hear.

We should seek for that which can help us to perform our duties. A railway track is illumined for a few yards ahead, but as the train goes, the light goes ahead of it, too. So with the Saints, even if the future is in the dark, yet the present is light and we can go ahead in faith.

APOSTLE ABRAHAM CANNON

then addressed the congregation. We have heard, he said, this afternoon, some very precious truths and our hearts must have responded with pleasure to these words and the Spirit accompanying them. The Spirit is always with those who live as Saints and directs their affairs on the earth. It is strange to some to speak of the Spirit in the business of life, but we understand that the principles of the Gospel must be practised every day, if we will not come short of salvation. The Gospel is a perfect law of liberty, but under it, a man has only liberty to do what is right. We have before us the good and the evil, the path to darkness and to light. We may select which one we will follow. If we select through the Spirit, then we will go to light. It is necessary that there should be opposition in all things, otherwise we could not appreciate the blessings of the Gospel.

We have seen in the past and have felt the opposition of the world, inasmuch as God has chosen a few men to establish the truth, but we have never been in any worse position than were the ancient servants of the Lord. The Prophet Joseph was told that this was a work to which all the hosts of darkness would be opposed, one which only a few of mankind would embrace, and we have found that this has come true. In every nation only a few have received the Gospel. These few have been surprised that the whole world could not see it, especially as the promise was given that those who would seek for guidance should find out for themselves, whether it was true or not, a promise which has always been redeemed wherever the Elders have proclaimed the message, go where they might, where there has been a branch organized.

Very few of the Saints here present were acquainted with Joseph Smith, and yet they would all tell you that he was a Prophet. How

do they know? By the testimony of those who were acquainted with him? No. But by seeking God in humility and prayer and by seeing the wonderful works that have accompanied this work, a testimony that cannot be overcome by arguments or opposition. The still small voice is what gives this testimony, the pearl of great price, for which they have diligently sought. No man, however great, can lead astray the Church of God.

When we see how many great men have been led away, we are admonished to humble ourselves and not feel too confident in ourselves. God has taught us the reason that He is not dependent on the strength of men to carry out His work, for He has chosen the humble in this world to carry out His great objects, and this He will always do. When man has pride in his heart and thinks that he has a great responsibility in this work, this spirit will drive him away from the Church unless he shall repent.

God has promised many glorious things concerning this Church. We must overcome the spirit of wickedness that operates in the world and then we can obtain those blessings.

Joseph was an inexperienced boy, a farmer, and yet, how marvelous was his growth, when he placed himself in the hands of God. In a few years, he grew beyond any ordinary human capacity. He was seeking for truth and was filled therewith. So with all who seek for wisdom and do not rely wholly upon themselves. This is the higher education which the Gospel gives, telling men about things present and to come. Those who seek this are progressing and receiving a wisdom which no worldly training can withstand. We speak of a time when the Spirit of God shall be poured out upon the people. When He comes, He gives them dreams and visions and leads them onward. And as long as that power remains among us, there is no danger of false Christs to lead us astray. We will need this influence in the future of this work. We feel careless, frequently, as long as we have the leaders among us, but should they be temporarily withdrawn, every member must have the Spirit and each man or woman can be a Prophet or a Prophetess in the midst of the people. The day is near when every man must rely upon the guidance of the Lord, or he will fall. All must have trials, each in his own particular way, and without having stood the test, they cannot enter the celestial glory. The test is not very far distance. We may have to stand a test as Job did, the mighty man of God. Without the testimony of Jesus we in darkness. We must keep aloof from all that is evil and seek daily for guidance. Then we will be united and feel that the Divine presence is among us.

APOSTLE HEBER J. GRANT

said he knew it was necessary to have a personal testimony of the truth. The world held that the