

In every particular as the Latter-day Saints, who were quite as sincere, just as earnest in their faith, in their religion and as devoted to God. He had, however, in the course of his experience, met many who did not believe at all in Mormonism, who did not believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the Latter-day Saints believed it, and who were so prejudiced against them that it seemed impossible to open their eyes to the truth; yet they were more consistent according to their faith, according to their ideas of religion, and in their duty to God, more earnest and devoted than hundreds, aye, thousands, of those who professed to be Latter-day Saints and to have received the Holy Ghost. He had seen people who had such faith and such love for Jesus Christ, the Son of God, that they would not allow an ornament or an image in their house, nor even a picture to hang upon the walls, for fear that their thoughts, desires, and affections should be drawn from the great object they had in view—the worship of God. And yet they were not Latter-day Saints; neither could they be convinced as to their error with regard to their religious belief. He had asked himself often what would be the condition of this class of people when they came to be judged “for the deeds done in the body.” While they had the privilege of hearing the Gospel preached in their lifetime, yet because of the superstition in which they had been brought up, because of the traditions of their forefathers, of the prejudices that had been begotten in the minds of the people generally concerning the Latter-day Saints, concerning new revelations and new religions, they closed their ears against the truth as revealed by God in these latter days.

The point to which he wished to draw attention was in regard to this thought. How would it be with the Latter-day Saints who had received a fulness of the everlasting Gospel and the ordinances appertaining thereto, but who were not sincere in their religion, who proved by their acts that they were not generous and kind to their brother and their neighbor, who were not honest in their professions and promises, who did not honor the Sabbath day and keep it holy, who used strong drinks and tobacco, who violated the Word of Wisdom and the law of God as revealed unto them, who were not charitable but judged their brother harshly, who were willing under some circumstances and in some cases even to wreck the kingdom of God on earth, as it were, and betray their brethren into the hands of their enemies out of spite, out of a feeling rankling in their bosom, and who were in every sense of the word anything but good Christians, to say nothing about being Latter-day Saints. He asked, what would be their condition when they stood before the bar of God “to give an account of the deeds done in the body.” Without attempting to answer this, he would assume that the condition of the heathen and the unbelieving, those who had never known God but had rejected the truth because of ignorance and superstition, would stand higher and receive a greater and more eternal weight of glory than such Latter-day Saints as he had mentioned; because

when men and women descended to such conduct they ceased to be Latter-day Saints; they cut themselves off from the presence of the Father, from His mercy, and from the rights and blessings which He had in store for the faithful. Yet some of them had a standing with their brethren. They called themselves Latter-day Saints, and would feel very much offended if told that they were not entitled to all the ordinances of the holy Gospel. We were all weak and erring creatures, and liable to do those things which were displeasing to God; we ought not to do these things with our eyes open, when we knew better. Little acts made up the sum total of our existence on earth. The speaker, in passing, urged a strict observance of the Sabbath day, and said that lying was an abomination in the sight of God. A man must not take advantage of his neighbor to wrong him in order to build himself up at another's expense; he must not try to injure his character or stigmatize him in any way, because the Bible taught him different. Latter-day Saints must not do this, or they would bring down upon their heads the condemnation of God.

The speaker next touched upon the importance of prayer and the keeping of all God's commandments. Zion could only be built up on the principles of truth and righteousness. Men could not help to build up Zion who were hypocrites, liars, thieves, adulterers, whoremongers, or otherwise wicked in their hearts; neither could they have any lot or part in Zion when it should be built up. Therefore it behoved us as Latter-day Saints to remember what we had covenanted with God to do, and to do it.

Some of those who knew him thought that he was a radical sort of person, that he was austere, somewhat harsh, perhaps, and exacting; but he believed there was not another man in Israel who was more ready to extend the hand of forgiveness and charity towards one who erred and made mistakes in regard to the matters on which he had been speaking, than Joseph F. Smith.

The speaker here read from the Sixth Lecture on Faith, (Book of Doc. and Cov.) to show that exaltation in the Kingdom of God is only attainable by strict conformity with the law of self sacrifice—the giving up of all earthly interests and even life itself if necessary, for the sake of the truth. Only in this way can a man know that he is accepted of God and take hold of eternal life.

Having dwelt upon the subject of love to God and to our neighbor, President Smith touched on that of faith. He instanced the cases of Job and Abraham, both of whom he said stood the severe test made by God in order to prove the sincerity of their love for Him. Later the Son of God Himself was put to the test, and later still the Apostles of Jesus Christ were subjected to torture, and even death, in order to prove whether they had the love of God in their hearts. Let the Latter-day Saints, he said, apply the test also and ask themselves the question, “Am I in a position to endure such tests of faith as these and not flinch?” God help us to live our religion, for it is

good, it is righteous, pure and God-like; for it emanated from God.

#### President Wilford Woodruff

Remarked that as a few moments yet remained before the service of that afternoon closed, he desired to occupy the remainder of the time. He had been very much afflicted during the last three or four days—so much so that he at one time feared he would not be able to speak at this Conference at all. However, he had some things upon his mind that he would like to say to the Latter-day Saints before the Conference ended, and there were a few he might mention that afternoon. Referring to the subjects treated upon by the preceding speaker, President Woodruff said the Lord had labored from the creation of the world to do all that He could, consistent with the agency of men, to fit them for the highest glory they were capable of receiving; and from the days of Father Adam down to our day, whenever the Lord had a people on the earth who would obey Him, He had raised up Prophets and Apostles and given unto them the Holy Priesthood and the keys and powers thereof, that they might administer to the sons and daughters of Adam and prepare them for celestial glory. But under that law, under the administration of those men, the opposition of the world had been encountered; and whenever men undertook to live righteous lives and keep the law of God they had to suffer persecution.

The Lord had promised through the mouths of the ancient Patriarchs and Apostles, for thousands of years that are past and gone, that in the latter days He would send the fulness of the everlasting Gospel to the children of men; that He would raise up Prophets and Apostles; that He would organize His Church and Kingdom on earth; that He would raise up men to go forth for the last time and prune His vineyard with a mighty pruning, to prepare for the coming of the Son of Man. The sons of Israel today who dwell in the congregation before him were a class of those men. God had called them from the nations of the earth—Apostles, Prophets, Elders, Seventies and High Priests, and the Lesser Priesthood, to labor in the vineyard for the last time, to gather out the inhabitants of the earth as far as they would listen to the testimony borne to them, calling upon them to prepare for the great work of God which was at their doors. The Elders of Israel had traveled tens of thousands of miles to accomplish this.

The conduct of the Latter-day Saints should be very different from the rest of the world, who did not profess these things. The Kingdom of God was here upon the earth in its fulness. There were many things belonging to this Church and Kingdom which were not looked for in the world. One of these was union. That was a law of God belonging to the Latter-day Saints. Like the ancient Prophets and Apostles, the modern Prophets and Apostles should be united in their work in the flesh; and we as a people should not deviate from this rule. There should be unity throughout, a unity of heart and mind, from the President of the Church and his two coun-