

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, August 7th, 1892, commencing at 2 o'clock p.m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding.

The choir sang the hymn:

Softly beams the sacred dawning
Of the great Millennial morn.

Prayer was offered by Elder George B. Wallace.

The choir and congregation sang:

How firm a foundation, ye Saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word.

The Sacrament was administered by the Priesthood of the First ward.

APOSTLE ABRAHAM H. CANNON

then addressed the congregation. The speaker said he arose in the hope that the Saints would sustain him in faith and prayer before God, that what he should say might be dictated by the Holy Spirit. The Latter-day Saint who lives his religion is at all times in possession of a testimony from heaven of the divinity of this work, whatever the time and circumstances may be, and if his heart be right before God, He will aid him to speak of that testimony. And humble though it may be, He will sometimes cause the words spoken to reach the hearts of those who are honest and move them to seek for themselves and learn His will. For we believe the Lord is not only able, but also willing to speak to His children on earth, and reveal His will to them.

We do not believe that revelations are given to those alone who are members of the Church, though we do believe that this is the only Church that professes to be guided by continuous revelation. We hold that Scriptures are being made continually, and that the revelations given in this age are just as binding and necessary for salvation as those given in ancient times. While we do not in any respect reject the Bible, we do acknowledge that God is just as capable of making known His will now as formerly.

One evidence of our faith in this doctrine is the gathering of this people to these valleys. No person could have drawn them together unless God had influenced their hearts. It is the testimony of His Spirit that has moved the hearts of men and women and caused them to leave homes, friends, relatives, and all that was dear to them, in order to come here, where, as they believe, they could be taught more fully in the laws of the Lord. It has not been the eloquence of missionaries nor inducements of a temporal nature that have brought us to this country, but it has been hope and faith in the promises of God. It has been the knowledge that these are the latter days, spoken of by Prophets of old—days in which judgments are to be poured out upon the wicked, previous to which God should speak again through His servants.

The Elders have gone forth to preach the Gospel as they were directed by the Holy Spirit. Nor have they taken the honor of themselves, but they have been called as was Aaron. Joseph Smith received reve-

lations from on High, before the Church was organized. He was a prophet, a seer and a translator before that event, but though he had these marvelous gifts, he was not thereby authorized to establish the Church, before he was especially ordained to do so. It was only after John the Baptist, who held the authority to baptize for the remission of sins, had restored to him these keys, that he received power to administer in this ordinance. And then it was necessary that he should receive the keys of the higher Priesthood, held by Peter, James, and John, by which he was endowed with power to lay the hands on the believers for the reception of the Holy Spirit. After he had been given this power, he was instructed to organize the Church of which we are members.

In the same manner he called others to the ministry, and conferred on them the same power he had received, and they went forth to the nations of the earth, and the evidence of their divine calling is seen in the fruits of their work everywhere, where the Gospel was preached. They were called from their humble avocations, but a power rested on them that was divine.

Now, what is the Gospel? Is it anything new, anything strange to Bible readers? No. It is the old, everlasting Gospel, once preached by Jesus and His Apostles. He sent these out to preach to every creature that he who believes and is baptized shall be saved and that he who does not believe shall be damned, and various gifts were promised to those who should accept the Gospel of the Kingdom.

No argument is needed to convince Christians that Faith is necessary to salvation. This is a fundamental doctrine held by all believers in Jesus. They admit that it is necessary to believe in God the Father, and His Son and the Holy Spirit, but there is a great difference in the opinions of men concerning the divine Being. We believe that God is a personage and that He has a real body and parts and passions, and we find numerous places in the Holy Scriptures in confirmation of this. We believe that Jesus came in the flesh, suffered and died, and rose again, and that the body which was laid in the grave was the one which he received in the resurrection, though immortal and pure, and that He has the same body today. We believe that the Holy Ghost is a spiritual personage who stands at the Father's command and that a portion of the Holy Spirit is given to every Saint or every one who tries to serve God. A portion of this Spirit enlightens every person coming into the world. Man may neglect to follow His counsel and even drive Him away by continual opposition, but it is nevertheless the heritage of all to have Him. This is our faith concerning these personages.

We also think it necessary to believe all that God says to us.

The order of the Gospel is first, faith; second, repentance; third, baptism, and fourth, the laying on of hands. Then follows the other ordinances and laws and commandments necessary for the salvation of man.

Repentance is acknowledged among men generally as a correct principle. When any one has done wrong, he is

expected to turn from it and do it no more. No death bed repentance is accepted, or one lasting but for a moment and then easily forgotten, but one which changes the whole course of man, if he has done wrong before.

Then comes baptism and we believe in the ordinance as Christ set us an example. Baptism is the immersion in water of those who have reached years of accountability, who can exercise faith and show evidence of repentance. It is an ordinance for those who have grown up and have done wrong of which they repent. To such, and not to infants, should it be administered, in order that the old life may be buried and the repentant believer rise again to newness of life.

After this comes the laying on of hands by those who have authority to do so, whereby the Holy Ghost is conferred. He is the Comforter who takes of the things of God and reveals to man, and gives a testimony in our hearts. It is by the Spirit that the sick are healed and even the dead raised, if necessary, and the gifts of tongues and interpretations, etc., are imparted. This is the Spirit Jesus promised to those who accepted His word. It is the same Spirit who has been promised to those who shall accept the testimony given by His servants in this age. Here is something for the world whereby to test this work, whether it is from God or not. It is an infallible test. It is not even necessary to receive every ordinance of the Gospel in order to receive a testimony. There are instances where God revealed His will before baptism, as He did to Cornelius in ancient times, or as He did to Paul who was a persecutor, but received a revelation informing him that he was fighting against Jesus. Had he rejected this warning, he would have been worthy of damnation, but he accepted it and received a testimony and from that day devoted his life to the defense of the principles he had formerly opposed. The same testimony lives in the hearts of many Saints today, and it is so strong that they are willing to sacrifice all for it.

The sufferings of the Saints were referred to by the speaker as a proof of this. What greater evidence can be given than the sacrifices asked of the hands of the Saints, many of whom have left all in order to serve God? The Lord has accepted these offerings brought by many of His people. Their sincerity has been manifest even to the world, and their testimony shall not be without its effect on the children of men.

Many people, who are fair minded, and yet do not believe in God, wonder why the Saints have always been persecuted. There are various reasons for this. It is stated in the word of God that all those who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus must suffer persecution. Christ plainly told His followers that they must expect to suffer persecution and they found it as the Master had predicted. They were opposed everywhere. Their lives were filled with trouble and finally they sealed their testimony with their blood. This was the fate of all the Apostles with one exception. Persecution followed them until the Priesthood was taken away and the Church removed from among the children of