

For behold, it is not meet that I should command in all things, for he that is compelled in all things, the same is a slothful and not a wise servant; wherefore he receiveth no reward.

Verily I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness;

For the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves. And inasmuch as men do good they shall in no wise lose their reward.

But be that doeth not anything until he is commanded, and receiveth a commandment with doubtful heart, and keepeth it with slothfulness, the same is damned.

Who am I that made man, saith the Lord, that will hold him guiltless that obeys not my commandments?

Who am I, saith the Lord, that have promised and have not fulfilled?

I command and a man obeys not, I revoke and they receive not the blessing;

Then they say in their hearts, this is not the work of the Lord, for his promises are not fulfilled. But woe unto such, for their reward lurketh beneath, and not from above.

"Inasmuch as men do good they shall in no wise lose their reward." The speaker wished to impress upon his hearers the necessity of obeying the Word of Wisdom. Any temporary blessing promised would readily be accepted by all. But here in the Doctrine and Covenants the following promises are given: "And all Saints who remember to keep and do these sayings, walking in obedience to the commandments, shall receive health in their navel and marrow to their bones, and shall find wisdom and great treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures; and shall run and not be weary, and shall walk and not faint; and I, the Lord, give unto them a promise, that the destroying angel shall pass by them, as the children of Israel, and not lay them."

Now, it is one of two things: Either the revelation here contained has come from God, or the religion we have espoused is a fraud. Either this book must be accepted or rejected. If we accept it, it seems to me that there is not one promise in the whole book that exceeds the one just read. And to obtain it we ought to be willing to work for ye, if that were required of us. We are told that the intelligence we acquire here shall rise with us in the resurrection. Our wealth shall not go with us, but our treasures of knowledge we shall bring with us and have that much to start with in another life.

Further, we are promised that the destroying angel shall pass us by and our knowledge shall increase and this simply for doing what will benefit us bodily, as well as our family by leaving us more means to provide for them. It is a fact that more is consumed every year in the purchase of tobacco, for instance, than bread. And no one dares to stand up and say that this weed is good for man. It certainly makes a man indolent, careless and indifferent as well as unclean, and leads him onward on the path of immorality and crime. A smoker is no gentleman. A man who has the right to this title would not annoy anybody, but a smoker cares for nobody, not even the ladies, as long as he can get his smoke. The tobacco habit seems to be upon within a man the finer feelings of sensibility. It is poison. Soldiers wishing to

escape service sometimes make themselves sick even by outward application of it in a certain way. How can a true Saint say he has not the strength of character to abstain from such a thing?

The speaker had observed that families raised by parents who keep the word of wisdom more often grow up faithful to the truth; because God blesses such families. If God commands and we do not obey, He revokes His promises. But if we obey, we will be blessed both ourselves and in our families.

BISHOP WM. B. PRESTON

wished to bear his testimony to the remarks made by Elder Grant and add that it is not the hearer of the word that will be blessed but the doer of it. If we do not practice what we hear, it will not profit us anything. We are laboring in a great cause, one which we have been gathered from the nations of the earth to accomplish—to establish on earth a kingdom of righteousness and to learn the will of God. Those who are willing scholars will be blessed by our heavenly Father. Those who will repent, be baptized for the remission of their sins and have the hands of the authorized servants of God laid on them for the gift of the Holy Ghost will be blessed by God. All promises given by the Lord will be fulfilled, if we will do what He requires of us. When He speaks to us, His children, through His servants, He expects us to obey just as much as we, as parents, do of our children.

We are living in a remarkable age. God is gathering His children, as many as will listen to His word, in order that His laws may be kept in this land. The Lord has been merciful unto us in many respects, and we must keep His laws in every particular as our part of the covenant.

In regard to the duties of the Lesser Priesthood, the speaker said the members of it could be of great help to the leaders of the Church, by setting a good example before their children, training them in the various duties of the Gospel. If they are well taught in the principles of the Gospel while young they will know how to walk when they are old.

The speaker wished that the word of God might be given heed to by all the people of God.

BISHOP ELIAS MORRIS

said he had been very much pleased in listening to the remarks made this afternoon, for he knew they were inspired by the Holy Spirit. The speaker knew, to some extent, how things were among the people. It had grieved him to see the indifference existing among our sons and daughters, born in the new and everlasting Gospel. Many of us who left other lands and came here, looked with fond anticipation upon the change we had in view. We left a world full of corruption, with hopes that made us glad, contemplating the privilege of living among a people blessed by the presence of Apostles and inspired men, who could teach us the mind and will of God. We rejoiced in the hope of seeing our children walk in the paths of God. The opposite experience grieves us and gives us pain.

The speaker referred to the scout attendance of the Saints in the evening

meetings. He had felt some anxiety to know what the cause of this is. The responsibility of the salvation of the people rests to a large degree upon the Bishops and the teachers of the people. Referring to the labors of the Teachers, he said they should visit all and strengthen them and encourage them to work in the kingdom of God. Some families have to be labored with not only for minutes, but for hours. There are men in some of the wards that do not attend to their duties and do not desire to do so. At the same time, when affliction comes, even such are forced to call upon the servants of God for help and comfort. But when called to visit those whom we know to perform their duties we feel we can bless them in the name of God. How different when we go to other families of which we know that they take no interest in the work of God. It is a hard matter to bless those who hardly want any blessing, as evidenced by their living without regard to the commandments of God.

The teachers should visit every family in the wards and report in full, so that we might know how to deal with each one and revive the spirit of the Gospel in our midst.

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH

was the next speaker. He said he had been very much pleased with the remarks of the previous speakers. He had been wondering, as he came to the meeting, whose boys were they whom he saw playing at marbles as he walked along the street. He had seen quite a number of them amusing themselves in that way. He wondered if perchance any of his boys were there. He felt grateful to say, however, that he did not discover any of them. Still, children are children. And if they are left to themselves, it does not matter to them on what day they play at any game. For they are thoughtless. It depends on the parents a great deal as to what the children are taught in regard to the Sabbath.

Then, the speaker said, he wondered if the children referred to were the children of Latter-day Saints, and he came to the conclusion that not all of them were the children of the Saints. For it would be truly sad if such numbers of the children of the Saints could be found on the Sabbath playing in the streets or doing anything else which does not become the Saints of God. Parents can only be responsible for their own children, and they should see that they honor the Sabbath and also their fathers and mothers.

Dishonoring the Sabbath is not the only evil to be contended against. Some children do not honor their parents. There are some children of prominent men in the Church who do not show proper regard for the wishes of their parents. This is very much to be regretted. Disregard to the wishes of parents lies at the foundation of many evils such as referred to here today. It is true that the parents are responsible to a great extent for the conduct of their children. It seems that if the parents would draw the children up to them in kindness, reason with them, instruct them, and show them affection and love, and at the same time use proper restraint, the probability is they would be inclined to render obedience. A child that under such circumstances