

The Priesthood of the Sixth Ward officiated in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

APOSTLE JOHN HENRY SMITH

addressed the congregation. He said in substance: If there is one thing above all others for which I feel grateful to my heavenly Father, it is the testimony of the truth revealed to me and the privilege of seeking to administer His word among the children of men. I will read to you the fourth chapter of Malachi.

After having read this portion of the scriptures, the speaker continued:

I desire to have the assistance of the Holy Spirit, as I recognize the fact that without Him it is better for those who are called upon to speak to the Latter-day Saints that they remain in their seats and give the opportunity to others, who may be inspired by the giver of that heavenly gift.

I rejoice in the hope inspired by the Gospel of Christ and in the revelation that has come to me and led me to accept and believe in the Redeemer of the world. I am happy in the knowledge that Jesus of Nazareth is indeed that Redeemer, and that through His sacrifice an opportunity has been given to the children of men to hear the Gospel and to accept it in their hearts or reject it, as they shall choose for themselves.

It has been a question of great moment, from the time that our Savior introduced the principles and doctrines known as Christianity, in the minds of many great men as to whether He was indeed the Savior of the world. Men of great intellectual powers, men of research and learning have died without a correct understanding of the mission of the Messiah. They have looked upon Him as a being in possession of wonderful endowments, but that He was a divine personage was to them very doubtful. And yet, notwithstanding their doubts, they were compelled to acknowledge that He was possessed of wonderful gifts and that His mission resulted in the introduction into the world of views very different from those which were entertained previous to His visit to the earth.

It is true that the labor of other beings who have introduced religions in various parts of the earth has wrought changes and accomplished both good and evil. But in the case of our Master, the rules and regulations laid down by Him were designed to enlighten and to bless the whole human family, to give them light and knowledge as well as understanding of the rights and liberties of our fellow-beings.

The words just read: "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings," have been fulfilled and are made manifest in the various improvements which can be seen among those who have accepted the doctrines of Christianity. Even if those principles have not been fully put into practice, yet the acceptance of them in part has had a wonderful tendency to develop the human race, and enlighten the mind in everything to which it felt inclined to devote itself.

When we consider the conditions among the human family and the growth that has taken place among

the "Christian" nations and elevated them until they have become a power in the earth—when we cast our eyes abroad and see how these Nations have adopted everything that can bring out the genius of the human family, can we doubt for a moment that unspeakable blessings have attended the introduction of Christianity among men? In many instances, people, in accepting the Redeemer and his laws and ordinances, have modified and changed them by intermixing their own traditions, but the central idea embodied in the Christian system has taken hold of the hearts of the purest and best of men and women. The spirit of Christ's mission may not have been fully comprehended, yet what has been understood and accepted has worked out many of the ideas that were set forth by Him and His followers, opening up the scriptures and enlightening mankind.

The experience of those who first went out to promulgate these principles and proclaim that Jesus of Nazareth was the Savior, to whom dominion was to be given, was to meet with the hatred of their fellowmen and to be put to death one by one. Yet, they changed the world. They opened the understanding of men and the people were educated in many respects and gained a higher conception of the Deity. The hatred was conquered. The maxim, "Do good to those that despitefully use you; return good for evil" was a strange one. Formerly it had been, "An eye for eye and tooth for tooth," but He who possessed perfect knowledge of the human nature and understood the laws whereby all moral truths are governed taught us another lesson, and it is to this that we are indebted for the fact that the world has become liberalized in its views. While at first met with hatred, the idea finally became a living principle that changed the condition of the earth.

At the introduction of Christianity in the world it was perfectly well understood that it could not at once be comprehended by men in its entirety. We notice the condition of the world at the time and if we are conversant with the pages of history we know that the first proclaimers of the message were everywhere opposed. They dared not, sometimes, to preach in the daytime. Their lives were in jeopardy. They had to gather during the night in caves and preach the Gospel. But step by step the doctrines were introduced and they have now spread and been embraced by the best men that ever lived on the earth. The world has become liberalized and is more independent than it ever was before. Truth is more eagerly sought for.

There are many perversions of the doctrines which Christ introduced. Uninspired men have sought to promulgate principles of religion, grasping perhaps a single idea without comprehending the whole programme of life. Change after change has occurred. Now, it has been the endeavor of the Latter-day Saints to grasp the whole truth and gather in one cluster all the doctrines taught by the Lord in former days and in these latter days. The Christian religion is to become universal. It comprehends not only God's children now living on the earth, but also those

in the spirit world, that they may all, by faith, be accepted by the Father in heaven.

I am a believer in Christianity as introduced by Christ Himself and as more fully explained to the world in our own age. The limited idea of the world concerning the plan of salvation was not sufficient to satisfy my heart or to give me a full understanding of the plan of our Father in regard to His children. But when I read the Scriptures and perceive the fact that the Savior was sent to accomplish an atonement, the benefits of which will extend to all God's children, both the living and the dead, I feel a joy and satisfaction which I cannot adequately express.

The speaker referred to the narrow views of a great many, according to which millions were assigned to eternal banishment from the presence of their heavenly Father, and this because they had never heard the Gospel and, consequently, never been in a position to accept it, nor to reject it. He contrasted this disconsolate idea with the glorious doctrine of a plan of salvation that extends even beyond the veil.

The Prophet Malachi predicts a time when "the heart of the fathers shall be turned to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers." This may seem to be a singular expression, but we see it fulfilled in a most wonderful manner in the laborious work that is now going on in the tracing of genealogies. Children are searching for their ancestors among the dusty records of the past. The spirit of the fathers are working with their children, and all this that they may be eternally united in the presence of their Father.

Strange to say, the world supposes "Mormonism" to be narrow in its scope, but when this glorious doctrine of a vicarious work for the dead was first announced, the world was amazed. The idea opened up a field so wide that the children of men wondered at the sight. But they did not receive the doctrine. They were too narrow-minded to comprehend it. The handwriting on the wall could not be read by them.

Although the world have the scriptures and can read the doctrines as taught by Paul and Peter, yet, neither "his Holiness" in Rome, nor Luther, Melancthon and the other reformers ever developed a doctrine so glorious in its results as this which has been announced by the servants of God in these last days. By it men are become sanctified, purified, made more holy and, therefore, better prepared to enter the celestial worlds.

I rejoice in the plan of salvation because I love the human race and I can enjoy a Gospel according to which the purpose of God is explained to be salvation not condemnation of men. These principles come from God. There is salvation both for the living and the dead. Men will be exalted and become rulers with God and with Jesus, the Redeemer of the world. Those who accept Him, both living and dead, shall be made one for ever and ever.

The choir sang the anthem:

"Praise ye the Father."

Benediction by Counselor Chas. W. Penrose.