

THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY

NO. 5.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1861.

VOL. XI.

REMARKS

By Prest. HEBER C. KIMBALL, Tabernacle, Sunday morning, June 24, 1860.

[REPORTED BY J. V. LONG.]

I have no desire to detain you here and weary you, for there has been more said now than you can retain in your minds. All the items that have been advanced by br. Young are very good. When you reflect and take into consideration the religion of Jesus Christ, view it from the beginning to the present time, you can easily see that it is for you and I and every man upon the face of the earth to be wide awake to our duties, to be Saints, to be righteous, virtuous, pure and holy men and women. It is all to be comprehended in the words of James the Apostle. He says "Faith without works is dead, being alone."

Now, our position is such, that we are required to manifest that which is in us by our works. The following reasoning by the Apostle James is excellent upon this subject: "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the friend of God.—Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." James, Chap. 2, verses 14-26.

Can you tell me about anything that has been accomplished without works? It matters not how much faith you have got, except you have works with it. We read in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants that men can accomplish much by faith; but of course that faith must be accompanied by works. Whenever a man of God undertakes to do anything, he does it by the power of faith and works.—Upon this principle the Lord brings about his purposes, and there never was anything of any moment accomplished upon any other principle. The Almighty has said that in the latter days he will send forth his angels to inflict punishment upon the wicked, and that a certain angel shall blow his trumpet proclaiming that time shall be no more. An angel will also be sent forth to destroy the wicked, or as the scriptures say, to reap down the earth.

There is virtue in the words of a man of God, and when he rises to address the people he tells them his message plainly, commands them to repent of their sins, and to be baptized for the remission of them, after which he promises them the gift of the Holy Ghost. Then when persons are received into the church they begin their lives anew, as though they had never sinned, and thus go on unto perfection.

We are told to work out our salvation by our faith, and with fear and trembling. And cannot you readily see that works are required at the beginning of our career, and from that time to the end of our lives? Where is there a man in the world that ever raised a crop of grain without works? If a man wishes to raise a crop of wheat, he first plows the ground, then he drags it, he next sows the wheat, and when the dry season comes on in this country, he irrigates it; when it is ripe he reaps it, hauls it home, stacks it, and when he gets ready thrashes it, takes it to the fanning mill, from there to the grist mill, where it passes through the smutter; it is then ground, bolted and taken home ready for use. And every process that the wheat passes through is controlled by works, and it is so with us, we are required to perform works of righteousness all the day long.

Brethren you are required to be very diligent and cautious, and as br. Joseph said, be careful not to put in anything that will sour and destroy the good that you do. Take good care of all the good you get; increase in faith and in good works, for as James says, "Faith without works is dead, being alone."

Then go on with your works of righteousness; be diligent and faithful in all things committed to your charge. Let the Elders be at their posts, and be ready to administer in the ordinances of the House of God whenever

duty requires it of them. If the Elders will be faithful the power of God will attend them in their administrations, but if the people to whom they administer have not repented, they will not receive the remission of their sins, nor the gift of the Holy Ghost, for that spirit will not dwell with that person who does not honor his calling, and who is not sincere and truly penitent before the Almighty. You may go to meeting and sit from one day end to another and it will not profit you anything, if you do not perform the works of righteousness required by the law of Heaven.

I can live my religion whether at home or abroad, whether I sit here, preach to the people, or do anything else that pertains to my calling and position. If it is necessary for me to preach, I rejoice in doing it, or in the performance of any other duty; if I do not confess I shall be condemned.

I have noticed that there are not many of those "counter jumpers" come to meeting; the saloon keepers are not much better. It is hard times with them; there is not much money stirring now; the business is almost all done on credit now days. What do you think I think of old gray headed men who sell whisky all the week, and then come to meeting on Sunday? I don't fellowship such men, be they young or old; I dis-fellowship them all. I cannot fellowship the old men who have loved it from their youth, and then go and give it to young men, and lead them to destroy their bodies and defile the earth. It is drunkenness that leads to whoredom and abominations of every kind, and br. John A. Alger, senior, who sits before me, knows it as well as I do. He knew me when I was a mere boy, and there was not a drunkard in all that district of country, but now they are nearly all drunkards in that part of the State; yes, men and women are leading each other to destruction; then who can have any feelings against me for talking against these things?

I wish now to speak of works. Let us consider those principles and ordinances that lead to life. The doctrines we teach are good and wholesome, and every man and woman that will observe them will be saved; they will be at peace at home and abroad. Do you think it will inspire a man who is already honest to become a Latter Day Saint? No, I am just the same in that respect now as I was before I embraced the gospel. I was honest then, and I am honest now, and br. Alger knows it. The man that will be dishonest with what we call gentiles, will rob me, if I give him an opportunity. You should be as honest with those comers and goers as you are with me. God has never given you the right to be dishonest. There are too many such characters in our midst. Sometimes I am sorry, sometimes I am glad and sometimes I am ashamed of what I see and hear. How long will such things continue? Not many years I can tell you. Our Father will sweep them from the land, and that man who is dishonest, although he does not profess religion at all, will be saved, but those who profess and do not possess the spirit of their profession, and who do not live up to their privileges will be cast out. None can stand or endure the trying day except those who are active and diligent in the discharge of their duties.

There are some people who think I am very hard, and occasionally pretty rough in my sayings; but I can tell you that I am not as severe as I ought to be, considering the persons and cases I have got to deal with. When I see people taking a course to lead them to destruction, I feel anxious to save them from falling. I know that I am a poor frail mortal, liable to err, but I know better than to cheat or rob a neighbor, and so does every man that has been baptized into this church; but men give way to temptation. If men steal they know they are doing wrong and sinning against God.

In regard to trials that br. Joseph was speaking of, I consider that I never had any that affected me, and if anybody ever rejoiced in tribulation, I did when I had to break up and go and make a new home. When the proper time comes we shall all have the privilege of attending to the ordinances necessary for the salvation of our dead. My brothers and sisters, and all my relatives almost died before the gospel was revealed, and when we get a temple built I will go forth and be baptized for them, and bring them to enjoy that which is their right. At present I have to say to you, brethren and sisters, live the life of the righteous, do that which is required for the benefit of the living, and the day will come when you can go through the ordinances of the House of God for the dead.

I am free to acknowledge that a great majority of this people are improving, and I am sorry to say that a few of them are retrograding. Some have become contaminated by associating with this army. They are responsible for this themselves for God never suffered an army to come here to corrupt the people, but to try them, to prove them in this as well as in other things. It is true the army

has been a curse to many, more so than any previous influence with which they have come in contact. We have to be tried, and this has been suffered to see what we would do. Many who have come here would, if they had an opportunity, debauch our families, seduce our wives and daughters; there are some honorable exceptions to this, and those who would not do it here would not do it at home.

There are many enemies of ours that look upon us as the outcasts of all creation, because of our religion. I expect to see the day when they will have to come and be our servants, and they cannot avoid this.

This is the Church and Kingdom of God, and the religion we have embraced is the gospel of Jesus Christ, and it will ere long prevail over the whole world, and the wicked cannot prevent it. Do you think they believe it?—Yes, the Congress of the United States have more trouble about us than they have about the whole world besides.

This is a day of judgment; hurricanes are passing over the land, and terrifying the inhabitants of the earth, and this is not the end. Many persons who profess to know, have been predicting that in the year 1861 more events of a marvelous character would take place than in any previous year, but whether this is the case or not, I know that the judgments of God will pass over the earth.

In conclusion I feel to bless this land, these valleys, mountains, waters, also our herds and flocks; I feel to bless all the righteous, and predict judgments upon the wicked. Let the Elders who meet to pray after the holy order of the Priesthood, ask the Father to hasten the consummation of his work, that the Saints may inherit the earth.

God bless you all for ever. Amen.

DISCOURSE

By Prest. DANIEL H. WELLS, Bowery, Sunday Afternoon, September 16, 1860.

[REPORTED BY J. V. LONG.]

I feel to rejoice this day in what I have heard. The kingdom of God is independent, and so are the servants of God. They should act so always, and not be afraid to tell the truth.

I rejoice particularly in the overturn of affairs suggested by our President this morning, in regard to assisting the Elders from this end of the route.

This is a good day for Israel, the very best day they have ever seen; they are prospered; they are becoming wealthy in the good things of life; they are comfortable, and they have peace in all their borders. They go forth upon the right hand and upon the left, and they are building up the kingdom of God; they did more yesterday than the day before, and they are continuing to do so every day, and thus the kingdom is increasing.

How fully we should realize, and perhaps many of us do partially realize the greatness of the work in which we are engaged, the magnitude of the work of this last dispensation. What else should occupy our attention equal to it? There are scarcely any one, be they rich or poor, but what have these feelings, and they have come here in consequence of them, and some few may have come for other motives. But I take it for granted that those who come here, do so because their hearts have been touched with the light of truth.

This is the beauty of the revelations and principles that have been revealed in these last days, they that have embraced them desire to build up and exalt righteousness upon the earth, and to walk wickedness and every specie of abomination under their feet, and for this cause have they assembled themselves together in these valleys of the mountains.—There is less of wickedness, and of those who desire unrighteousness, and to roll it as a sweet morsel under their tongues; their desire is to exalt the principles of truth with which they have fallen in love. They have crossed the great seas, the plains, and many of them have striven for years to come to these mountains to associate with those that have pursued the same course, stimulated by the same influence.

We have great reason to rejoice that there is a nucleus formed here that we can gather to. It should be the feeling of every heart: not to build up ourselves, but to build up the kingdom of our God. How is this to be accomplished? We are to be united as the heart of one man. We have difficulties to contend with, as the people of God always had. We need food and clothing, but we do not need the wickedness which other people revel in, or the wastefulness with which others trample under their feet the good things bestowed upon them by our Heavenly Father, but we require that wisdom that will enable us to live and accomplish the most good, in the best way, in the work in which we are engaged.—It is our business to provide for ourselves and our households those things that are necessary

to make them comfortable; it is our duty to teach them how to pray, and how to practice economy and do all things for the building up of the kingdom of God. How shall we use the bounties of nature, so as to build up this kingdom? We must go to work with spirit and energy to do those things that are necessary for our existence, and to give us greater ability for the rolling forth of the work of the Lord. Let virtue and truth control us in all things. Are we not living in an age of revelation? Do we not have revelation day by day, week by week, and month by month, pertaining to our salvation? Suppose that one of you were living in some dark corner of the earth, and the light of revelation and truth should reach and penetrate your understanding, and leave a testimony in your bosom higher in value, and more to be coveted than gold; would it not be more appreciated than it is now?

If we cultivate the spirit and influence that was spoken of to-day, and if we notice and observe its operations, it will be like the voice of the true shepherd speaking unto us. If we clothe ourselves with that spirit we shall be blest with its guidance and inspirations from time to time; we shall have line upon line and precept upon precept. If this influence and spirit were to control us continually, we should see, feel and appreciate it; we should know that it was from Heaven—the voice of the Almighty unto us. I have heard many say that they required not "Thus saith the Lord," because they knew the words of the servants of God to be true, by the spirit and influence that accompanied them. This satisfies any one who has the light of truth within him.—And this is what we all can have; we can all attain to it, if we have this spirit. When this is our guide, we know what is the true voice from Heaven; we can then tell when anything emanates from the right source, and we can see the beauty there is therein; and the propriety of following out the dictates of wisdom, and the instructions which we receive from day to day; we should strive to appreciate and understand the things we hear, and then go and practice upon them. We should love the truth for the truth's sake, as we were told this morning, and do all that lies in our power for the advancement of the cause of truth. We should labor for the attainment of this object, with perseverance and energy, and work humbly and diligently, that hundreds and thousands more may be brought to an understanding of the same glorious principles that we now rejoice in. We should also strive to learn more of everything that is necessary for our benefit, and that we may be useful in the kingdom in which we are engaged, and thereby we shall learn to be diligent in the work of the Lord.

Have we any need to see any idle times in our experience in this church and kingdom? I have not found any peace in my experience where I could be idle for one moment, and if I have not had my mind and hands employed, I have always felt that I was idle and unprofitable. And I will here remark that I think, if we are willing, we have plenty to do, and I think it would be so with every one, if they had the right spirit.

Let us all strive to be in the way of our duty, and ready to jump into any place and work, no matter what is to be accomplished, do it with an eye single to the glory of God and the advancement of his kingdom. My soul delights in seeing any measure adopted, which has a tendency to roll on the great work of the Lord. I rejoice that the means of the church is now going to be husbanded and kept for the gathering of the Saints, instead of being expended for fine clothing and other unnecessary articles, which is almost equal to squandering the money away. I know the feelings of President Young upon this subject, and have for years. He has been borne down under this for some time and all Israel ought to rejoice in this movement, for it is lifting a great burden from the people abroad as well as from the Presidency; and I consider that the Saints in these valleys ought to be thankful for the opportunity of doing some thing for the spread of the gospel. Have you not seen many precious opportunities for doing good and neglected them, and afterward regretted that you have let them pass? If you have, remember now, and consider that you will regret more if you let the present redeeming chance pass without doing something to aid in sending forth the gospel to the nations of the earth. I would likewise advise you to make you deposits towards gathering the poor. Remember that it is one of the chief duties of the Saints to gather Israel, in building up the kingdom of God; and every thing we do should conspire to this end.

It is for this purpose that we gather together, and that we may have greater power and put our means together to accomplish it in a greater degree, and that we may see how we can best operate to bring forth more fully the kingdom of God and the gathering of Israel.

I am told that in the Old Country they have a saving fund, into which they cast their