

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, Aug. 10th, 1899, commencing at 2 p. m., Elder Henry P. Richards presiding.

The choir sang:

On the mountain tops appearing,
Lo, the sacred herald stands!

Prayer was offered by Elder Theodore Curtis.

The choir sang:

How dark and gloomy was the night
When Satan did his powers array.

PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON

addressed the congregation. He said the Saints are often told when they come to worship God that it is their privilege to have His Holy Spirit to give the instruction best adapted to them. The field of the Gospel is very extensive. There is no end of subjects to be treated on in connection with it, but there is no one but God who knows the wants and needs of men. Discourses may be prepared, as many are, by professed ministers of the Gospel. But what man is there who knows the necessities of the humble followers of Jesus? Therefore, it is commanded that His servants should depend upon His Spirit to give that which they should say. It is in this way that the Elders of Israel have taught the Gospel, and whatever glory there is for their success is due to God and not to man. If the teachings of the Elders have borne fruit, it is because God has convinced those who have heard the word. The preaching of the Gospel has had a great effect wherever it has gone, and the hearers as well as the preachers have been tried, especially the latter, whenever they have gone forth without purse or scrip.

I know of no people who have given greater evidence of their willingness to trust in God than have the Latter-day Saints. I am very thankful for this, and am thankful that God has raised up a people and told them His will concerning their lives. It is comparatively easy for men to go and preach when they receive a regular stipend for their labor. It is no particular hardship for a man to go to a foreign land and preach when he knows that his wants will be supplied by the society which sends him. But when a man goes among strangers and puts his trust in God for his food and shelter and raiment, it requires some faith. He must have reliance upon God. But by taking this course, men get a knowledge of God. If they are hungry and destitute, and have no means, it requires faith on their part to ask God to bestow the things they need, and to have confidence that their prayers will be answered.

I am thankful today in reflecting upon the fact that God has restored His faith and raised up a people who have exemplified in their lives the confidence they have in Him. I thank Him for the experience He has given to me, to all His faithful Elders, and to His people. It is a testimony that we are doing His will. In this manner all have been bene-

fited—those who have preached and those who have received the Gospel. It was a great trial to the first Elders to go out in this manner; it was so different from everything then practiced, for it was a fashion that ministers should be paid as other laborers. They had means for their sustenance and for their traveling expenses. But the Elders in Israel had faith in God, and went forth without purse and scrip, and the experience of sixty years has shown that God is able to administer to the wants of his servants today as He was anciently. He has shown that His arm is not shortened nor His power lessened. The Gospel has been preached by men who trusted in Him, and who were chosen by Him. They were not educated in seminaries, but were called from the farm and the workshop to go forth and proclaim the truth. He promised that He would provide for them, that they should not lack for food, raiment or friends. These promises have been fulfilled.

These valleys have been peopled by the preaching of the Gospel in this manner. This Gospel of Christ which the world calls "Mormonism" has been carried to the ends of the earth by men of faith and power. A great people have been gathered from the remotest parts of the earth, and united in one body. And all this has been in harmony with the plan which God revealed anciently, and which has been again revealed in this age. It is a marvelous work, accomplished by such means and in such a way. Men may scoff and deride, as they did anciently, for the Latter-day Saints have no more been held up to public approbrium than were the immediate disciples of Jesus Christ. Pure and noble as the Apostles were, they nevertheless died violent deaths. They were not killed because they were thought to be innocent, but because the people thought them too vile to live. It was thought to be a praiseworthy act to take their lives. Peter was crucified; at his own request his head was placed downward because he thought himself not worthy to die in the manner Jesus did. Paul, whose memory is now so greatly honored, was beheaded. And so on with the others, except John, who was immersed in a caldron of boiling oil, and who was an exile, on the Isle of Patmos when he received the book of Revelations. But because they labored and suffered for, like that the Latter-day Saints are engaged in, is the work of the Lord, and He will care for it.

God's ways are above those of man. He never attempted to perform any work on earth that was not opposed by men. Therefore, with the history of the past, men should mistrust their own judgment, lest they commit the same errors their forefathers did. Jesus asked the Jews which of the Prophets their fathers had not slain. Nearly all had been killed, and all had been persecuted. The present generation appears to be as ready to persecute and destroy as any generation that has preceded it.

Jesus said, "By their fruits ye

shall know them." In this way He taught the people to judge of His doctrine. The same rule applies today. If a people are serving God their lives will be the proof of their doing so. They will exhibit the proofs of their profession by their conduct. We can judge ourselves and each other by this rule, and form an excellent idea concerning the truthfulness of our lives. If we are Saints of God we will bring forth fruits of such a life. If we are true followers of Jesus there will be no trouble on the part of a sincere seeker for the truth to distinguish us. If I wanted to find a people of God I would look for a people who brought forth such fruits as did the disciples of Jesus. The Lord did not select the learned, but He chose humble and unlettered men. Through obedience they received the power of God. Jesus called and ordained them and sent them forth, and they reported to him that the very devils were subject to them. They had a power which they could not receive in seminaries of learning, and were able to perform many wonderful works. If I were seeking for the people of God, and found those whose fruits were like those of the disciples, I would stop and investigate their claims and lives. I should want a people who believe in Christ, and had faith in Him; who believed in repentance and in baptism which follows; who also believed in the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost, and who had that Spirit to be with them. This is the kind of people the former-day Saints were, as we find recorded in the Bible. If anyone should say that the gifts of the Holy Ghost were done away with, as a seeker for the truth I should demand their proofs. But the evidence is to the contrary.

After Jesus was crucified and had arisen, He appeared to His disciples and commanded them to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He told them of the signs which should follow the believers, in the wonderful works that should be manifest among them. As a searcher for the Church of Christ I would require a church that exhibited the same powers as were shown in His Church anciently. Where do we find such a Church today? Where are the precious powers which God said should distinguish His people? We behold the divisions which exist among those who claim to be the followers of Christ. Is this the fruit of the Gospel? Are the many disagreements as to the ordinances of the Gospel evidence that those who disagree are right? Paul says there is one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. It is said that the Christian world are like men going to a mill by different roads, but that all will get there. With the discord which exists among Christendom, what kind of a heaven would they have? Christ sought to bring that union between His disciples and Himself that there was between Him and His Father. Anything short of perfect union is short of what Jesus taught. There is