

Herein, he continued, comes condemnation upon many. They hear the testimony of the servants of God and the Spirit of truth bears witness, but they shut their hearts against it. Jesus said: "This is the condemnation, that light has come into the world, but men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil." There is a way by which everyone can find out for himself whether this testimony is true or not.

The Spirit of God is free to all, like the air or the pure light of the sun. God wishes all to come and partake of this Spirit of truth. But He is a being of order. He has demonstrated this in all his works. Everything that comes from God is in order and brings harmony and unity and peace. All things with Him are governed by law. As it is in natural things, so it is in spiritual things. Now, there is a plan of salvation. It is fixed, as in all God's works. "Strait is the gate and narrow the way that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." "He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber." So said the Savior. The burden of the preaching in Christendom is to the effect that all sinners, however vile, need to do is to believe in Jesus. But Christ Himself never taught that, neither did His chosen Apostles. They proclaimed a plan of salvation comprehended in the Gospel. Its principles can be found in the New Testament. Faith is but its first principle. Faith in God is the beginning of true religion. That faith must be centred in the true God. Men must turn away from idols. Not only from worshipping stocks and stones and animals and planets, but from adoring the offspring of vain imagination, a phantom that has no existence, being without parts and occupying no space, not even as much as the point of a cambric needle. The true God, as Jesus tried to make plain to the people in His day, is our Father, and made man in His own image. He dwells in heaven and is omnipresent, not in his personality, but by his universal Spirit. Faith in Jesus Christ is also necessary because, though all things are of God, they are by and through His Son Jesus Christ.

True faith is shown by works. Our actions must correspond with our belief. Repentance will therefore follow upon faith, and true repentance consists in leaving off the things that are wrong and doing that which is right. There is no real religion in weeping over sins committed and then doing them again.

After repentance comes the doctrine of remission of sins. Turning away from the sins we have committed does not in itself wipe out or remit those sins. If we have run into debt at a store and we decide not to run in debt any more, that is very commendable, but it does not pay the old score. The remission of sins comes through faith in Jesus Christ and His atoning blood, and by

obedience to the ordinance of baptism. That is what baptism is for. It is ordained for the remission of sins. When the repentant believer is buried in the likeness of Christ's burial and raised up from the water, in the likeness of Christ's resurrection, he receives the remission of his sins. But the ordinance of baptism must be as authorized by the Lord. It is to be administered in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. No one has a right to administer in the name of the Deity, unless authorized by the Deity. And such authority cannot, of course, be given unless there is some communication between heaven and earth. Now this communication is just what the churches of the world deny, and they therefore virtually admit at the same time that they have no divine authority.

When a person has been baptized and received a remission of his sins, he is prepared to receive the Holy Ghost, the Comforter. This he receives by the laying on of the hands of men having authority from God to do so. This is the spirit of revelation and prophecy, and gives each recipient a testimony that he has received the truth and is accepted of God.

These are the first principles of the gospel, and by obedience to them a man or woman is received into the Church. This is according to the word of Christ to Nicodemus. "Except a man be born of the water and of the spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." No matter what the ministers of the sectarian world may say, this is a divine decree, an immutable law of the Eternal God. The word of the Lord has gone forth to His people that they should gather themselves together. The elders are not emigration agents as supposed, laboring to induce people to come to Utah. If this was our purpose we could easily fill these valleys with people from all parts of the globe. But the Spirit of God moves upon those who receive the Gospel, and because they become desirous to learn more of the principles of the Gospel, they come here to be instructed and to worship God in the way he has appointed.

We have erected several Temples in these valleys, and we expect to build more, into which we can enter and administer for our dead. This is part of the work of the dispensation of the fulness of times and affects the gathering, in one, of those who are behind the veil. We thus have an object in life which is more than to live for the pleasures of the earth; we have a work to do for the future and for those who are behind the veil.

This dispensation of the fulness of times, then, has come, and the person who was called upon to usher it in was not one of the learned and wise of the world. Joseph Smith was a humble farmer's son. But he received the keys of this dispensation and laid the foundation and all the outlines thereof, and, having accomplished this great work he laid down his life to seal the testimony he had given. I testify that

he was a Prophet of the living God. People will not look into the revelations which God has given through Him, and therefore they fail to see the beauties thereof, but to my soul they are sweet food and to my eyes they are full of beauty. These revelations make clear to us the path to our Heavenly Father. They open up the way whereby we may approach to the Highest, may ask and receive, seek and find, knock and the door is open to us. They tend to make men holy, in nature and act. I know that the work which has been commenced will go on to victory. We expect the world to be against us, but as God Almighty lives, this dispensation will go on and accomplish that for which it was sent.

These are the times of the restitution of all things spoken of by the holy prophets. The keys of all dispensations are here, all truth, all power, all Christ's people will be gathered in one, and the prophecies will be fulfilled, and the servants of God will labor until this earth has been redeemed and made glorious and the way has been cleared for the dominion of Jesus Christ, who shall reign from pole to pole and from shore to shore. I pray God to bless this congregation. Those who are not in the Church I invite to investigate the principles of this gospel. I ask you to do so, with all earnestness, and if through prayer God gives you a witness of the truth, be sure that you do not reject it. I exhort the Latter-day Saints to live in accordance with the truths that they have received, that they may progress in faith, in intelligence and in holiness, and be prepared for the advent of our Lord to meet with the Saints when He shall come in His glory.

The choir sang an anthem: "O, be joyful" preceded by a solo by Brother Matthew Noall.

Benediction by Bishop William B. Preston.

COMPELLING THE POOR TO SELL.

ONE of the most commendable features connected with the population of this city, in the past, has been the possession by the people of all classes of their own homes. Instead of being renters the working people have been holders and have lived under their own roofs. They have also sat under shade of their own trees and vines.

This delightful condition of comfort, thrift and comparative freedom from annoyance, bids fair to fade away and become a mere memory of the past. The present government is one well calculated to obliterate it, and make this what a rabid "Liberal" faction have threatened—"a rich man's city."

The policy of the present municipal government is calculated to produce that undesirable result. It is a legitimate outgrowth of the intention of the party who were enabled