

the husband or brother earns for their support, to gratify his own ambition to make money and become in part if not wholly responsible before God. Therefore, he is injuring his neighbor and is committing a grievous wrong. Hence he is not free. The truth is men should not engage in such occupations as these. They are not legitimate occupations. They do no good to any man or to any community; but they do harm to men and communities. Therefore, the man that conducts himself in this way should repent and forsake his sin; he should learn the truth and abide in it, that he may be indeed a disciple of Christ and that the truth may make him free.

The man who ignores the Sabbath day is not altogether on a par with the man who keeps a saloon, or with frequenters of sinful resorts or with gamblers; but he is treading a forbidden path and it will lead him to these things if he does not repent. The Lord has said, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." It is a law of God, not only unto this people, but unto all mankind. The member of the Church who does not honor the Sabbath day and keep it holy is in transgression; he continues not in the word of truth; he is not in very deed a disciple of Christ; he will not know the truth, and the truth cannot make him free unless he does know it and live by it. The man that profanes the name of God is also a transgressor. Therefore, he is a servant of sin; a bondsman, and not a free man in the house of God. The man who neglects his prayers, and forgets to call upon God in the name of His Son, in humble acknowledgment of the mercies and kindnesses of the Father unto His children, is also in the bonds of iniquity, and he continues not in the word of the Lord. And these commandments are given to all mankind, bond and free, black and white, Christian and heathen. The law of God is to all the world and is applicable to every creature that is born in the image and likeness of the Father. The Lord "now commandeth all men everywhere to repent;" and if you repent not, then are you the servants of sin, and not free men.

Another thing: God has established an order in his Church. He has revealed the Gospel in its fullness. He has restored the Priesthood to the earth. The Priesthood means the authority of God delegated to man, by which man can act in the name of the Father and of the Son, and by which he can forgive sins and they will be forgiven in the world to come—if it be done in righteousness. No act performed in unrighteousness will God accept. But if man possessing the keys of the Holy Priesthood will act in righteousness before Him, then that which he does will be acceptable in the sight of God. If He shall bless, blessings will follow; if He shall pronounce a curse, the curse will follow. Now, while the commandments of God are to all the world, there are some special commandments that are applicable to the Latter-day Saints only. What are they? One of these commandments is, that we shall honor those who preside over us; in other words, we shall honor the Priesthood. I ask no man to honor me, unless I do that which is strictly in accord with the spirit of my calling and the priesthood which I hold. No member of the Church is bound to honor me if I step beyond that priesthood and

authority which has been conferred upon me by the choice of God and the voice of the Church. But when I do speak by the Spirit of the Lord in accordance with the duties of my office, it is proper for every member of the Church to hearken to that which I say. For if it is said by the Spirit of God and in accordance with my duty, it is the word and will of the Almighty.

And whatsoever they shall speak when moved upon by the Holy Ghost, shall be Scripture, shall be the will of the Lord, shall be the mind of the Lord, shall be the voice of the Lord, and the power of God unto salvation.

Behold this is the promise of the Lord unto you; O ye my servants.—Doctrine and Covenants, section 68, 4, 5.

It is the privilege of all to know whether I speak the truth by the Spirit of God or not. To the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints it is given as a commandment that we shall hearken to the voice of the Spirit made manifest through those channels that God has appointed for the guidance of His people. If they do it not, then are they in transgression and in sin; and bondmen, not free men. If we speak the truth and if we do the truth, then the people are under obligations by their covenants and by the very name that they bear, by the allegiance that they owe to God and His work, to hearken to the counsels of those men whose right it is to counsel. If I counsel in unrighteousness, I will be brought to judgment. No man can teach wickedness to this people and continue in it long; for God will detect him and will reveal the secrets of his heart; his purpose and intent will be made manifest to the Saints, and he will stand judged of the Spirit of God before the Saints. If you acknowledge Wilford Woodruff to be the President of the Church and be and his counselors as the presiding authority, then the member who does not give heed to their counsel deserves pity, for he is in transgression. These men will not counsel you wrong. They have never counseled you wrong. I am at the defiance—if I should give way to that feeling—of any man to point to a thing that has been said or done, or to any counsel that has been given to the people, which has been for their injury, and has not been sustained by the blessings of God if wisely obeyed. The Lord Almighty has magnified His servants. He has honored President Woodruff, President Cannon and those faithful men in the quorum of the Apostles, before all the world, giving them honor, that a few of the Latter-day Saints are not willing to give them. This has convinced me that some of the people are not living up to their privileges nor enjoying the light that they should possess.

Brethren and sisters, let us be free. I contend—and I think I have a right to do so—that I am a free man, in accordance with my observance of the commandments of God. If I do wrong, I am in bondage to that wrong. If I commit sin, I am in bondage to that sin. If I transgress the laws of God, I am responsible before the Lord. But I contend that as to liberty, as to freedom of speech, freedom of will, freedom of action—as to everything that goes to make a free man in the midst of men, I do not believe there is another man on earth any freer than I am. Bless your soul, I can commit sin if I want to. I have as much liberty to commit sin as any man. No man has any right to

commit sin; but all men have the liberty to do so if they will. God has given to them their agency. Is there any manhood displayed in my committing sin because I have liberty to do so? I have liberty to go to a saloon and drink liquor, if I choose, or go to a gambling hall and gamble. I possess just as much liberty in regard to these matters as any man living on earth. But the moment I should do such a thing as this I become a slave and a bondsman to iniquity. On the other hand, if I am not guilty of visiting saloons, or of playing cards, or of gambling, or of other crimes I am innocent of them and so far I am a free man. The truth has made me free in regard to this. No man can say to me, "Brother Joseph, you are guilty of oppressing your brother and grinding him down into the dust," for I have not done this. But I have spoken of transgression, I have pointed out errors and evils in the midst of the Latter-day Saints; and if by telling the truth and by admonishing those who are guilty of wrong, I am in transgression, then I stand a transgressor. I never want to see the day come when these men, to whom you have entrusted the right and power to preside, shall have their mouths closed so that they dare not reprove sin or rebuke iniquity. That never can be. The moment you shut their mouths that they cannot speak the truth that moment you destroy the very principle of government in the Church and you tear asunder the power and authority necessary to control and govern the work of God in the earth. While God is with His people and His servants, this cannot be. Men cannot shut the mouth of President Wilford Woodruff, nor mine, when it comes to rebuking iniquity. It is our duty to do it. We are here for that purpose. We are watchman upon the towers of Zion. It is our business and duty to point out errors and follies among men; and if men will not receive it, they must go their own way and abide the consequences. Those who will not obey righteous counsels will be the sufferers, and not those who rebuke iniquity.

President William Budge and his counselors are placed over the Bear Lake Stake in the similitude of the Presidency of the Church. As the Presidency of the Church preside over the whole Church—over all the stakes, all the wards, and all the missionary fields in the world—so these men preside over this Stake of Zion, and all the wards and branches therein; and when they call upon the people to sustain them in that which is right, if the people fail to sustain them the consequences shall be upon the heads of the people and not upon the heads of these men. It is their duty to rebuke iniquity and to reprove unrighteousness. It is their duty to counsel and exhort the people to be faithful and diligent throughout all their Stake. And no man has authority to say, why do you so? Brother Budge is the man who presides in this Stake of Zion. No apostle presides here, unless he is sent here by the Presidency of the Church to fill a mission they have appointed unto him. I want you to distinctly understand this. Brother William Budge is the President of this Stake. It is his right to preside, to counsel, to direct, and to watch over the interests of the people here; and it is not the right of any of the Twelve to come into this Stake and set him aside, and say,