

glory in the kingdom of God, if through my neglect of duty my children should become the children of darkness and be cast out from the presence of God. So great is the responsibility resting upon parents toward their children that it is a most terrible thing for parents to neglect their children in this regard. Let us remember that God Almighty has spoken from the heavens in these last days, that He has restored the Gospel in its fullness, and that He has bestowed the Holy Priesthood upon men. Let us remember that He has given unto us talents and gifts, and He holds us responsible for the use we make of those talents and gifts. It is a matter of integrity on the part of the people of God toward God himself. It is a matter which savors of life unto life or of death unto death, unto all that have entered into the covenant of the Gospel of Christ. It is not something that we can trifle with. It is like a two-edged sword; it cuts both ways. Therefore, we should look well to our ways, and see to it that we discharge our duties faithfully as parents in Zion. The wives should be united with their husbands, and the husbands with their wives, in exerting their influence over their children in this direction. I cannot conceive of anything that would grieve my heart so much as to see one of my children turn away from the Gospel and become an unbeliever, and separated from the people of God. There is nothing I can think of that would be so dreadful to me. Death of the body from any cause would be preferable to one of my children turning away from this Gospel. My children must not and will not turn away with my consent. If they do turn away, it must be over my protest, and against my example. I will plead with my children; I will endeavor with all the power I possess to have them as true and faithful to this Gospel as it is possible for me to be; because without all of them in the kingdom of God I would feel that my household was not perfect. I want my children to go with me. If I can prove myself worthy of an entrance into the kingdom of God, I want my children there; and I propose to enter into the kingdom of my God. I have set out for that, and I propose, with the help of the Lord and through humility and obedience, to complete my mission on this earth and to be true to God all my days. I have made up my mind to this, and am determined with the help of God that I will not fail. Therefore, I want my children with me. I want my family to accompany me, that where I go they may go also, and that they may share whatever exaltation I receive. It grieves the hearts of parents when their children are disobedient to them. I would like my children, and all the children in Zion, to know that there is nothing in this world that is of so much value to them as the knowledge of the Gospel as it has been restored to the earth in these latter days through the Prophet Joseph Smith. There is nothing that can compensate for its loss. There is nothing on earth that can compare with the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Let, therefore, all the parents in Zion look after their children, and teach them the principles of the Gospel, and strive as far as possible to get them to do their duty—not mechanically, because they are urged to do it, but try to instill into the hearts of the children the spirit of truth and an abiding love for the Gospel, that they may not only do their duty because it is pleasing to their parents, but because it is pleasing also to themselves.

We heard this morning something about the tree which puts forth good

fruit, and that an evil tree cannot put forth good fruit. We have all kinds of trees, and those trees which really do put forth good fruit are comparatively few. When I speak of good fruit, I refer to that fruit which is mete for the Father's kingdom. There are many varieties of fruit, and there are many degrees of goodness. Then there are trees which bear no fruit at all. These cannot continue long; for when the tree ceases to bear fruit, it becomes cumbersome to the garden, and ere long it will have to be hewn down and cast into the fire, because of its worthlessness. The same result will follow with those trees which bear bad fruit.

In Christ's Church we cannot be neutral nor inert. We must either progress or retrograde. It is necessary for the Latter-day Saints to keep pushing on, in order that they may keep their faith alive and their spirits quickened to the performance of their duties. Let us remember that we are engaged in God's work—and when I say God's work I mean that we are engaged in the work which the Almighty has instituted in the earth for our salvation individually. Every man should be laboring for his own good and as far as possible for the good of others. There is no such thing in the science of life as a man laboring exclusively for himself. We are not intended to be alone in time nor in eternity. Each individual is a unit in the household of faith, and each unit must feel his or her proportion of the responsibility that devolves upon the whole. Each individual must be diligent in performing his duty. By doing this, and keeping himself pure and unspotted from the world, he assists others to keep themselves pure and unspotted. For instance, a man who is faithful in observing the Sabbath day and in attending to the duties of that day, will at least set an example unto all he is associated with. The man who is prayerful before the Lord will set an example before all others who see and know his conduct. The man who is honest in dealing with his neighbor will set an example for good. Those who do this are genuine representatives of Zion; they are the children of God indeed and of a truth, and there rests with them the spirit of light and the love of God. They are in a saved condition, and will continue to be in a saved condition so long as they continue to observe the principles of the Gospel. It is useless for us to mourn over the evils that we ourselves have caused, unless by repentance we may make restitution for the evils we have done. It is a terrible thing for men and women to allow themselves to go so far in the neglect of duty that evils will result from their misconduct which they will be powerless thereafter to eradicate or to make restitution for.

Let us repent now; let us observe the commandments of the Lord; let us do our duty from this moment on; let us be honorable and honest before God and men.

May God bless the people, and may His Spirit abide in our hearts and lead us in the path of duty, and may all this people realize that they are associated with God's great latter-day work, which has for its purpose the reclamation of the world and the salvation of the children of men, both those who are living in the earth and those who have died without a knowledge of the Gospel; for God has revealed a plan and has established means in His Church by which the Gospel may be preached not only to the living but to the dead. This is the last call upon the inhabitants of the world to repent. All men are now called upon to repent of their sins, to forsake them, and to turn unto God and live, and to receive

His Priesthood, which He will freely give to all who are worthy, that they may receive exaltation in His kingdom. Men cannot be exalted in the kingdom of God who receive not this Gospel and this Priesthood. Men may be saved without possessing the Priesthood, but no man can be exalted without it. Men and women may be saved singly, but men and women will not be exalted separately. They must be bound together in that union which has been revealed in this great latter dispensation. The man is not without the woman in the Lord, and neither is the woman without the man in the Lord. Whatever men and women may say or think in relation to this, they cannot obtain an exaltation in the kingdom of God single and alone. Therefore, I repeat what I said before, that we do not labor for ourselves alone. There is no such thing as single exaltation in the kingdom of God. We are bound together by cords which can never be broken. The hearts of the fathers are turned unto the children, and the hearts of the children must be turned unto the fathers. The fathers and the children must be bound together in the new and everlasting covenant, and they must be bound by the power of God, else they may be put asunder. This uniting together of husband and wife, and of parents and children, under the new and everlasting covenant, is an essential part of the glorious Gospel that has been revealed in the latter days; and a man who has neglected these essential duties will be in a sorry plight when he presents himself at the door of the celestial city and asks for permission to enter there. No man will ever enter there until he has consummated his mission; for we have come here to be conformed to the likeness of God. He made us in the beginning in His own image and in His own likeness, and He made us male and female. We never could be in the image of God if we were not both male and female. Read the Scriptures, and you will see it for yourselves as God has said it. He has made us in His own form and likeness, and here we are, male and female, parents and children. And we must become more and more like Him—more like Him in love, in charity, in forgiveness, in patience, longsuffering and forbearance, in purity of thought and action, in intelligence, and in all respects, that we may be worthy of exaltation in His presence. It is for this that we have come to the earth. This is the work we have to perform. God has shown us the way and given us the means by which we may consummate and fulfill our mission upon this earth and perfect our destiny; for we are destined and foreordained to become like God, and unless we do become like Him, we will never be permitted to dwell with Him. When we become like Him you will find that we will be presented before Him in the form in which we were created, male and female. The woman will not go there alone, and the man will not go there alone, and claim exaltation. They may attain a degree of salvation alone, but when they are exalted they will be exalted according to the law of the celestial kingdom. They cannot be exalted in any other way, neither the living nor the dead. It is well for us to learn something about why we build temples, and why we administer in them for the dead as well as for the living. We do this that we may become like unto Him, and dwell with Him eternally; that we may become sons of God, heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. Therefore, it will not do for us to allow our children to grow up like noxious weeds. We must bring them up in the way they should go, that when they get old they will not depart