

a man in these latter days. I realize, my brethren and sisters, that I have only just touched this subject; that a great deal more could be said, and more effectually, than what I have said. The evidences that have come to us of these divine truths may be weighed in the balance, may be tested by all means known, and in every instance they will not be found wanting. We have the testimonies of the disciples of Christ, written in the Bible. "Oh!" says one, "they were given centuries ago; what do you know about them now?" We know the truth by the gift of God, but we will now turn to the modern revelation contained in the Book of Mormon and the Book of Doctrine and Covenants. The Prophets on this continent bore record to the same things. Therefore, we have the testimony of the disciples of Christ on the Asiatic continent and the testimony of the disciples of Jesus on this continent, bearing record to the same truths. Then we have the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, which contains the revelations and testimonies of God to his Servants and Saints in the day in which we live, the third testimony of these things. In addition to all this, and above and beyond all this, we have the testimony of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, which cannot be denied; for he that receiveth this testimony by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost cannot be deceived. The Spirit of God does not bear record of that which is not true. Therefore, if you have received the witness of the Holy Spirit in your heart, you know that your Redeemer lives. Besides the testimonies of the ancient disciples upon the two continents, we have the testimony of the Prophets and Apostles of this present age, who have seen and heard for themselves, and who have received ordination under the hands of messengers sent from God. And better than all this, you have the testimony of the Holy Ghost himself, and that cannot make any mistake. I will read to you a few words in relation to a modern testimony of Christ. There are testimonies contained in the Doctrine and Covenants. (See Section 76:20-23; also Section 110) that probably are more pointed than this; but this is a narration of the witness himself, and therefore I want to read the words of Joseph, the Prophet of God, and his own testimony concerning the restoration of the Gospel in the time in which we live:

While I was laboring under the extreme difficulties caused by the contests of these parties of religionists, I was one day reading the Epistle of James, first chapter, and fifth verse, which reads, If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth unto all men liberally and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him. Never did any passage of Scripture come with more power to the heart of man than this did at this time to mine. It seemed to enter with great force into every feeling of my heart. I reflected on it again and again, knowing that if any person needed wisdom from God, I did; for how to act I did not know, and unless I could get more wisdom than I then had, would never know; for the teachers of religion of the different sects understood the same passage so differently as to destroy all confidence in settling the question by an appeal to the Bible. At length I came to the conclusion that I must either remain in darkness and confusion, or else I must do as James directs, that is Ask of God. I at length came to the determination to ask of God, concluding that if He gave wisdom to them that lacked wisdom, and would give liberally and not upbraid, I might venture. So, in accordance with this, my determination to ask of

God, I retired to the woods to make the attempt. It was on the morning of a beautiful clear day, early in the spring of eighteen hundred and twenty. It was the first time in my life that I had made such an attempt, for amidst all my anxieties I had never as yet made the attempt to pray vocally.

After I had retired into the place where I had previously designed to go, having looked around me and finding myself alone, I knelt down and began to offer up the desires of my heart to God. I had scarcely done so, when immediately I was seized upon by some power which entirely overcame me, and had such astonishing influence over me as to bind my tongue so that I could not speak. This darkness gathered around me, and it seemed to me for a time as if I were doomed to sudden destruction. But, exerting all my powers to call upon God to deliver me out of the power of this enemy which had seized upon me, and at the very moment when I was ready to sink into despair and abandon myself to destruction, not to an imaginary ruin, but to the power of some actual being from the unseen world, who had such a marvelous power as I had never before felt in any being—just at this moment of great alarm, I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun, which descended gradually until it fell upon me. It no sooner appeared than I found myself delivered from the enemy which held me bound. When the light rested upon me, I saw two personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name, and said (pointing to the other) This is my beloved Son, hear Him.

My object in going to inquire of the Lord, was to know which of all the sects was right, that I might know which to join. No sooner, therefore, did I get possession of myself, so as to be able to speak, than I asked the personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right (for at this time it had never entered into my heart that all were wrong), and which I should join. I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong, and the personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in His sight; that those professors were all corrupt. They draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; they teach for doctrine the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof.

He again forbade me to join with any of them; and many other things did He say unto me which I cannot write at this time.

Here is the testimony of Joseph Smith. It is true, he was but a boy; but he could have no object in telling an untruth concerning this. The disclosure of the things which he witnessed brought upon him the ridicule, persecution and hatred of the world. He had nothing to gain, from a worldly point of view, by attempting to deceive. It is preposterous to think of a boy fifteen years of age constituting himself a deceiver. He was honest and innocent, and what he said he believed; and, so far as he was concerned, the knowledge he possessed was true; and he could not deny it. Subsequently other witnesses were raised up. John the Baptist came and laid his hands on Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery, and said,

Upon you my fellow servants, in the name of Messiah, I confer the Priesthood of Aaron, which holds the keys of the ministering of angels, and of the Gospel of repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; and this shall never be taken again from the earth, until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness.

This Priesthood was conferred upon them, and they were commanded to go into the water and be baptized, Joseph first to baptize Oliver, and Oliver then to baptize him. After that they were commanded to lay hands upon each

other and ordain each other to the holy Aaronic Priesthood. We read here in the Book of Mormon the testimony of three witnesses that an angel of God came from heaven and showed the plates unto them, and that the voice of God declared unto them that it had been translated by the gift and power of God. Then we have eight other witnesses, who saw the plates, and who testify that they were shown to them by the power of God. We have eleven witnesses to the divine mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith in this dispensation, who declared that the Father and the Son descended from the courts above, and one turning to the other said, "This is my beloved Son, hear Him." Then in addition to these testimonies, we have the testimony of the Holy Ghost in our hearts, confirming the truth that Joseph is a Prophet of God, and that the holy Gospel has been restored to the earth in its fulness in this dispensation. The Holy Priesthood also has been renewed unto men, and authority delegated unto men by which they can officiate in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, in those ordinances which are needful for the salvation of the human family. We have these testimonies before us. Therefore, we know that our Redeemer lives. We have the testimony of the Father Himself. We have the testimony of the Son. We have the testimony of Joseph Smith, and the witness of his mission. I bear you my testimony that the Redeemer lives. May this testimony find a place in your hearts. May you forgive me for my transgressions, and I will forgive you for yours. If we will love each other and do good to each other, we will then carry out the precepts of the Gospel of the Son of God, the doctrine of Christ, which is calculated to redeem and exalt the world and bring back mankind into the presence of God, which may we all have the privilege of receiving and enjoying, is my prayer. Amen.

Written for this Paper,

WHERE COTTON IS KING.

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URING the past week I have been traveling through some of the richest cotton districts of the south. I came from Washington to Atlanta over the Southern railway. The line runs down through Virginia and crosses the best of the pine level uplands of North and South Carolina into Georgia. I rode for hundreds of miles through fields loaded with the woolly white fiber, and here in Atlanta I am in one of the chief cotton states of the Union. Those who have not traveled through the south in the autumn have no idea of the gorgeous splendor with which nature here decorates the dying year. The mountains are now ablaze with color. You ride through forests where the green pines mix with the leaves of other trees of all the colors of the rainbow. The contrasts are greater than those of the north. The green is greener, the red leaves range in color from that of fresh blood to a royal purple, and the yellows are of every hue