

them. Our reliance is not in the wisdom of man; it is not in the ability of man; it is not in his eloquence; but it is in the power of God, and there we must rest our case. Our words are weak; the Gospel we preach, "to the Greeks," may now as of old seem foolish, but it is the power of God, nevertheless, to those who are humble and believe. The power of God and not the power of man has drawn this people together, and holds them here in the splendid unity that is an object lesson to the world, testifying that here Christ is not divided! but is One; and His Church is one. I rejoice in this strength of the Church of Christ.

I have lately listened much to a learned gentleman from the East, who, with a frankness that I admired, tells us that our cause is stronger than we put it. There is more in "Mormonism" than we are able to present. I am happy that he made that remark. Without a moment's hesitation, at the time of our conversation, I accepted it. Yes, infinitely stronger than we have wisdom or ability to put it. And I thank God that a learned man could see more in "Mormonism," so-called, than we are able to point out to him. It is one of the evidences to me that this work is of God, because men do not produce things higher than they are. The stream rises not higher than its fountain. If this work were of men, it is quite probable that it would be no higher than they were. But the fact that it is higher, the fact that there is more in it than we have yet been able to tell the world of, is one of the evidences that it did not come from man, but that it came from God, and hence is above us, and always will remain above us. Let us strive as hard as we may, let us develop all the wisdom and learning that we can, yet above us shall be the work of God, expanding and growing still greater as we go further into it. We shall find it something like the horizon—never quite able to overtake it; and yet sometimes when out upon the ocean the horizon seems so very near to us! It will only be a little while apparently until we shall reach the point where sky and ocean seem to meet; but behold, as on we speed, the horizon still flies on before us. So shall it be with the work of God—ever in advance, ever higher, ever above the wisdom and the learning of man. That is one of its glories. That is one of the things that I love it for. It foreshadows to me the fact that the spirit of man shall ever find room, shall ever find opportunity for advancement, for progress; for God will continue to lead the way to realms higher and to things that are better, and more glorious.

But we go with this message to the world, and in our weakness we try to convince them of its truth. What means do we use to bring that about? We look through the New Testament scriptures, and we find in those scriptures certain forebodings expressed, certain warnings sounded, certain prophecies uttered, that the order of things then being established, that is, the Gospel of Christ, should be departed from by the children of men; that the Church of Christ should be destroyed; that false teachers should bring in abominable heresies, and that a great falling away should take place. For example, I read in the writings of the Acts of the Apostles, on the occasion of Paul coming to Ephesus and calling the Elders together, the following:

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the Church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood.

"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock,

"Also of your own selves shall men

arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

I read again Paul's admonition to his beloved Timothy, that companion of his soul:

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

"And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

I read the warning prophecy of Peter when he referred to false prophets that arose in ancient Israel. He said:

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them."

I read again the prophecy of Paul unto the Saints at Thessalonica—to my mind one of the grandest prophecies to be found in the New Testament:

"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him,

"That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he, as God, sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

"Remember ye not, that when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

"And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming:

"Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan, with all power, and signs, and lying wonders,

"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."

I pray you, pause a moment and think how earnest is this prediction of the great Apostle to the Gentiles, and how heartrending it must have been for him to contemplate it. Behold a people looking for the immediate coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, checked by this Prophet of God, who tells them that glorious day will not come until there be a falling away from the truth, from the Church of Christ; not until the power of Satan shall usurp a seat in the very temple of God, and sit there as if possessed with the authority of God, "showing himself that he is God;" and he shall continue in this usurped authority and power until he shall be consumed by the brightness of the Lord's coming. And, said Paul, "the mystery of iniquity doth already work" that shall accomplish this usurpation of divine authority; even while inspired Prophets are yet with the Church—behold the mystery of this iniquity doth already work! "Now you know what it is that withholdeth"—you know that the watchmen, the holy Apostles, are upon the

towers, restraining and hindering the full development of this mysterious power that shall wreck the Church of Christ; but behold, presently they shall be removed, and then shall that "wicked one be revealed whom the Lord will destroy by the brightness of His coming." A marvelous prophecy is this! And, mark you, we have the assurance of God that not one jot or tittle of His word shall fail, but all of it shall be fulfilled.

Now, mark another prophecy. Behold John banished to the Isle of Patmos, where things past and things future are revealed to him; and among the things that were revealed unto him that were future, he said:

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

"Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come."

What can you make of that? Only this, that in the hour of God's judgment—let that come when it may—this heavenly messenger will be sent forth; not with a new Gospel, not preaching a new Christ, not advocating a new system of religion, but preaching the everlasting Gospel. To whom? To whom shall this message be sounded in the hour of God's judgment? To every nation, to every kindred, to every tongue, to every people. Proof conclusive, by the Word of God, that in the hour of God's judgment every nation, and kindred, and tongue and people would be without the Gospel; hence the necessity for its restoration to the children of men by a new revelation from God, sounding this warning that the hour of God's judgment is at hand. This is the message committed to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and which she is carrying to all the nations of the earth. We call attention to these prophecies concerning the apostasy of the primitive Church and the restoration of the Gospel as evidence of the truth we teach. We have no need to do that particularly. We have better evidence. We may point to the Church herself; to her origin; to her achievements; to the power of God manifested within her; and, better yet, to the power of God which she imparts to those who will receive her message. For this is a part of our message to mankind: Hear this Gospel; seek to obtain a knowledge of it; accept the commandments of God and do them, and God will make known unto you that our message is true. The counsel contained in the words of St. James is for all other men as well as for Joseph Smith. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, and He will give liberally and not upbraid him." This is a message to every son and daughter of God. God is no respecter of persons; and to you, stranger, if you seek for the truth, shall He make known that truth. This is the declaration we make, and therein is our strength. In the possession of that testimony and the outpouring of God's Spirit upon His people—there is their strength, and their witness that this work is of God. We refer to these other matters only in an incidental way, to assist us in presenting the great message that we have to deliver to the world.

I have only referred to one line that we follow, however, in producing evidence to help sustain the position taken by the Church of Christ. Let us now refer to another. Suppose I take you for just a moment to that first occasion where the Apostles began to fill the divine commission that was given to them of the Son of God. After they had waited in Jerusalem, according to His instructions, until they were endowed with power from on high, and