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REMARKS

Made at the Sixty-eighth Annual Conference of the Church, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, Thursday Afternoon, April 7th, 1898, by

ELDER GEORGE TEASDALE

AND

ELDER JOHN HENRY SMITH.

ELDER GEORGE TEASDALE

"There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

"The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto Him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

"Nicodemus saith unto Him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

"That which is born of the flesh, is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit, is spirit.

"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

"Nicodemus answered and said unto Him, How can these things be?

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

It has been demonstrated at this Conference that the principles that prevailed in the primitive Church are in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints today. We have seen that there have been by those who have collected as here all given evidence of the same spirit that we are living in the dispensation of the fulness of times. We are hearing one another in the world that the angel that John saw on the Isle of Patmos, who is ordained that wonderful revelation, yet to be fulfilled, should happen literally, his coming. In that revelation was given a description of the Church of Christ, and we have witnessed the Priesthood being taken from the earth. Rev. XII, the establishment of false principles that would cause all nations to drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Rev. XVII. We also saw a mighty angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach to those that dwell upon the earth, crying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour is come: judgment is come. Rev. XIV. We believe that this angel has come, that the everlasting Gospel has been restored, and that the Gospel, the kingdom is being preached by the Latter-day Saints, and we are called to be a witness. We take unto them the glad tidings of great joy. We said then, in the beginning of our remarks, what their profession may be, to worship the living and true God, who hath revealed Himself in these days, to try unto them repentance, reformation, to cease from their evil ways, and to worship the living and true God, and to obey His Gospel. We entreat them to be baptized by immersion for the remission of sins, that they may receive the blessings resulting therefrom, and that they may be sanctified by the renewing of their minds, that they may enter into the kingdom of God, and be prepared for the reception of the Holy Ghost. We preach to them that if they will obey this form of doctrine, if they will humble themselves before the Lord, and seek wisdom at His hands, if they will give unto the Lord the broken heart and the contrite spirit, they shall know, as we know, that these principles are true.

We are sending our missionaries all to this, and when they return they say that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph Smith was a true prophet and of God. If they did not know it when they started out to preach the Gospel, they obtained this information before they came back, many because our Father in heaven is doing His own work. It does not require an artificial education to prepare a man to declare the word of God and unto the people. It is not by chance it is not by might, it is not by science, it is not by logic; but it is by my Spirit, saith the Lord." Our message then is to the people to the that every individual is interested in. We say what his profession may be, the word of the Lord is to every individual. As the Lord Jesus Christ said to His ancient Apostles, so He said to them last April, He said:

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.

"He that believeth, and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

Yet you say, why this conference? We assemble unto the people. Simply because it is not our necessary. It is the commandment of God Almighty. Whom therefore we receive, we receive Him, and the Father who sent Him.

The Jewish rulers rejected Him. The great prophet before the world M. Wm Joseph Smith sent of God, or they would not have crucified Him, you may ask, why, no matter how much good may be said concerning him. It is a matter of fact that he was sent of God, and we have testimony that we have of it. We have been gathered out of the world. We were Catholics, we were Protestants of various denominations and when the word of the Lord came to us we obeyed it. A great many of our friends rejected it, but that of us who have obeyed it have had the testimony that we know that the Lord lives, we know that Jesus is the Christ, we know that Joseph Smith was a true Prophet of God, and we know that the Church of Christ, which is now organized state upon this earth, is the Church of the Redeemer, and we stand upon the ground, the believers, we are witnesses. As far as we are concerned, we are a people, we are a nation. The wheels and horses are moving together, are they not? The Jews are in their places, the Gentiles are being gathered, are they not? But the Lord's people have not been His commandments. They do not unite Him in tithes and offerings. They are consumed in their tithes, and in their faith. They have lost sight of God and do it. Although some of us have said, as the Jews, our Divine Master said that he was good were dead, still, for the sake of comparison we say Israel is the King's own, those who love Him, and keep His commandments. You may show them when you take them by the hand. They are full of love and thanksgiving and praise to God for the redemption that He has wrought out, and we say with the Prophet of old:

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for His mercy endureth for ever.

"Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

"And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south.

"Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men." Ps. CVII.

We are the redeemed of the Lord. We have accepted of the principles of redemption, and consequently have been crucified to the precious world. We have the testimony of Jesus, we keep His commandments. Represent Him and the Lord Jesus Christ. They love one another, and they are known by their works. Their faith is manifested to their works. Then we believe that we are not so good, that are such as Zeniff: "Behold, I, Zeniff, being well stricken in years, nevertheless, I was chosen by my people to go with my brethren, even fifty souls, to go back into the land of our fathers, to see if we could obtain some of our lands, that our wives and our children might not perish in the wilderness. The Priesthood being taken from the earth, Rev. XII, the establishment of false principles that would cause all nations to drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Rev. XVII. Then also saw a mighty angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach to those that dwell upon the earth, crying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour is come: judgment is come. Rev. XIV. We believe that this angel has come, that the everlasting Gospel has been restored, and that the Gospel, the kingdom is being preached by the Latter-day Saints, and we are called to be a witness. We take unto them the glad tidings of great joy. We said then, in the beginning of our remarks, what their profession may be, to worship the living and true God, who hath revealed Himself in these days, to try unto them repentance, reformation, to cease from their evil ways, and to worship the living and true God, and to obey His Gospel. We entreat them to be baptized by immersion for the remission of sins, that they may receive the blessings resulting therefrom, and that they may be sanctified by the renewing of their minds, that they may enter into the kingdom of God, and be prepared for the reception of the Holy Ghost. We preach to them that if they will obey this form of doctrine, if they will humble themselves before the Lord, and seek wisdom at His hands, if they will give unto the Lord the broken heart and the contrite spirit, they shall know, as we know, that these principles are true.

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