

to us, and how we ought to appreciate it, and how we ought to be humble, how we ought to repent and leave off every wickedness and evil and iniquity, and how straight we should walk to the line, keeping the commandments of God, shunning not only evil but the appearance of evil!

I quite endorse the remarks of Brother Smith in regard to the sacredness of the Sabbath day. That should always be observed. We cannot be too careful in regard to all these things, and everything, in fact, in life; and we want to be prepared, my brethren and sisters, for the coming of the Son of Man, for His coming is near; it approaches, and it will be upon us before we know it, and before we are prepared. Let us then, I say, repent and make our repentance good from this time henceforth, and say nothing that would mortify us, or that would grieve the Spirit of the Lord, or make us ashamed.

I pray that the Lord will sustain us. I pray for President Woodruff, our great leader, the man whom God has honored with long life. How his life has been preserved! And we pray that he may continue to be preserved and stand at our head, and be filled with the power of God. And I pray for my brethren, the Presidency, the Twelve, and for the Elders of Israel, and for all who are in official positions among the people, at home and abroad. I pray for those who are laboring, who have responsibility upon their shoulders, all the brethren and all the sisters, that God will bless us, and enable us to do His will, accomplish His purposes, and be worthy of the trust that He has committed to us, that when we have finished, we shall be selected as His jewels, and that it may be said of us "Well done, good and faithful servants, enter into the joy of thy Lord." Amen.

ELDER BRIGHAM YOUNG.

God's work in other Worlds. What a Christian is—Sabbath observance—Preparation to meet the Savior.

I am gratified to be here in this assembly today. The last Conference, in April, I was unable to attend, and I believe that I am a living monument of the mercy of God, for on two occasions in the month of April—last April

—I thought my time had come. But the brethren who administered to me, under the influence and power of God, raised me up and through His mercies I have this privilege of meeting with the Saints in Conference today. Thank God for it.

I am pleased and edified in the remarks that have been made. I rejoice in the Gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to them that believe, and I see a vast congregation before me, the majority of whom have believed and have identified themselves with the work of the latter days, which God has instituted to save His sons and daughters who have dwelt upon the earth, who do dwell upon the earth, and all who shall come upon the earth. This great work has to do with all the creations of God, and this movement is in harmony with other labors, that are going on in other planets, and we will find that instead of being isolated and strangers to them as we are now, we will mingle with people who are not of us today, people, possibly, of other planets. And while we now consider that it is a great thing to become acquainted with the nations that dwell upon the earth, then it will be the prerogative of the saved to visit other creations and other organizations—planets that have come into existence and are peopled by the Almighty—that we may visit them and become acquainted with them as we now become acquainted with foreign people. This work extends to all the people. This work extends to all the creations of God. It partakes of God, and therefore the attributes that are planted in man are like unto His attributes, and we shall become acquainted and see as we are seen and know as we are known.

I am thankful that the brethren have touched upon our weaknesses. We claim to be Christians. What is a Christian? It is one who does the will of the Father, that lives in obedience to the commandments of Christ. If I do not these things, I am not a Christian. Men have asked me by what power does a certain individual heal the sick? Is it in the name of Jesus? "O, no." Question the individual who is operating, and he may

tell you, "I know not by what power I do this." Then I don't want anything to do with that power. When one who is endowed with the Priesthood and the Spirit of God pronounces a blessing in the name of Jesus Christ, that man is acting as a Christian, in that respect at least. When there is any religious denomination that labor, that worship in any other name, they are not Christians; and I leave it to you and to the world to define who are Christians in this generation. I do not want to malign any one, but, my brethren and sisters, I take this as a key, and no man nor woman need stumble when the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ are taught and they are lived up to,—that man or that woman who so lives is a Christian in the true sense of the word. If a religious denomination claim to have revelation and institute a doctrine and eschew Christ and put Him away, they are simply grafting on to this enlightened age a system of heathenism, and it will not be long before they will erect their heathen gods, as has been done in other ages of the world. However they may look upon it, it is true. If these people are Christians, if these men and these women are Christians, then they will do that which Christ has commanded.

I am a witness that He has commanded us to observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy; and I will say this, that there is not, in some respects, observed in this city anything like the order that I found in Carthage on a visit to that place some years ago; that is the spot where the Prophet Joseph and the Patriarch Hyrum were murdered in cold blood. You could not buy a drop of liquor in that town. You saw no ragged loafers, nor fences down, nor men wandering about the streets, but everybody was busy, everybody seemed to have something to do. I was astonished, because I had always looked upon that town as the worst in the United States. But it was ahead of this city in Zion, in the order that was maintained there. There is nothing in a name. It is said by one of the poets, "What's in a name?" I may bear the name of a Latter-day Saint, but I will tell you that I have not the

flavor nor the odor of a Saint when I do not the will of the Father. It is said that "a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." But when I do not live the religion of Jesus Christ, I have not the confidence to present to the people, nor the Spirit of God in me to be witnessed by the congregations of the Latter-day Saints, and I cannot deceive them, it is impossible. No man can deceive this people. He cannot do it, because they are so strongly entrenched, every man and woman that is living his or her religion. First, we have the Presidency of the Church to give us revelation, to instruct us, and if God our Father has anything for us to do particularly outside of the instructions already given, it comes through that channel. It comes through His mouthpiece, and it is passed from one grade to another in the Priesthood. And it comes to us, "Thus saith the Lord," if need be. Then we have within ourselves that living light and intelligence, that when the word of the Lord comes, it seems like waters coming together, pure and undefiled, waters that blend together and are undistinguishable when they meet and are mingled. That spirit is absorbed by us, and we feel that what is given unto us is for the consolation of our souls.

Now, I ought to receive whatever God sends me. It is a very hard job sometimes. If it doesn't agree with me, it is because I am cross-grained. But we should learn this lesson, that God will hold us responsible, because the means, as has been said, are in our power by which we can walk a straight line without deviation. Although we have weaknesses, yet we can walk the straight line back into the presence of our Father. He has given us this power, and He holds us responsible for its use, just as the ten talents were given, and those who had them were held responsible for their use. God holds you and me responsible for the talents he gives us, or has given us, and if these talents are allowed to lie in the ground unproductive, we may pray to Him but it will be in vain, comparatively, for there will be nothing for us by way

of reward. But when they are improved, we develop until we become like God, for the attributes which He has implanted within us are godlike in every particular. If we do these things, Latter-day Saints, God will approve of us.

Now, why not go to from this time forth and say in our hearts, and put it into active life, that we, as far as we are individually concerned, will observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy, and so far as we have influence over our families, that we will see that this is the case also with them. Why not do this? If this one thing were done it would be a great relief to the Latter-day Saints. We complain of hard times. Why? Because, as it was said this morning by the first speaker, so many of us are laboring for money, not for Christ and his Church. If we had labored and considered "first the kingdom of God and His righteousness," all things would be added. This is true, or else we have been misled. I believe it to be true, to be the revelation of God. Are all things added to us? Well, there are a great many things that I wish had never been added; but I believe "all things" meant all good things, and we have seemed to have a great many very bad things added to us in this community and throughout the State. Then that is positive evidence that we have not obeyed the injunction laid upon us to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all things would be added to us. I do not believe this day that there would be one soul wanting labor, wanting employment, not one soul needing food, shelter or clothing, if we had sought first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. All would have been provided for. I believe that these things have come upon us through our weaknesses. That is my belief. I believe I suffer today through debt, suffer in my feelings today in not being able to meet my obligations promptly, because I have not sought the kingdom of God and His righteousness, first and foremost. Now I believe that the Lord will help us out if we will from this time forth begin to observe the Sab-

bath day, and if we will go to our sacrament meetings and partake of that sacrament worthily; if we will attend to our prayers; if we will know where our children are after dark, and where they are in daylight, our sons and our daughters; if we do not allow them to form into clubs, and go riding horseback, in carriages, wagons and buggies, on bicycles or on foot, wandering up the canyon, wandering into the hills, or off somewhere playing cards, or doing something of this kind. If we will watch them, God will watch us and give us power; if we do not watch them, He will not take much notice of any of us, I am afraid. He has given us these things as duties. It is our place to attend to them. I do not blame the children so much as I blame the older ones, because the child may be led.

We have influences to contend with here that are inimical to the Church of Christ. A lady stopped me on the street the other day, that is she looked like a lady and I think she was. She said, "O, I can't stand your endowments." "Why, what do you know about our endowments?" I said. "O, the wickedness! I see you have been industrious, but O how wicked! O, that endowment house, what a terror it has been to me! I am not very old, but I have heard of it all my life!" She was a lady from the East. Well, I talked with her a little while. She asked me if I was a Mormon. I told her, just as Brother Joseph F. said on one occasion when a boy and a stranger interrogated him, "Yes, I am a Mormon and died in the wool."

Well, now, brethren and sisters, here are our duties. O, I wish I could bring them home to you and to me. I want to be preached to just as much as anybody. I am one with you, as you can see, so far as debt is concerned. O, I am bound to go right along with you. I wish I could tell you how I view my own actions. I haven't language to do it. I would like to tell you how I view those who break the Sabbath day, how I look upon those who go out to pleasure resorts upon the Sabbath day. I do not care how much people ride in a carriage if they are doing the will of the Father, if they are going to their

meetings, if they are going to perform some duty; but when we start out on Sunday and slash and race, I think we are breaking the Sabbath day.

Brethren and sisters, God has commanded us to listen to the voice of inspiration from our brethren that we have heard this day, especially to the voice of our leader. Listen to him. His words are to me like "apples of gold in pictures of silver." Every word that falls from his mouth, the simplest word that he utters, is to me a revelation, although his words may not be quick and powerful; but every word that he utters in conversation is revelation to me, for I look upon him as the vicegerent of God upon the earth. Listen to him. Listen to his counsels and to the counsels of his brethren, and let this Conference mark the epoch of a reformation, mark the beginning of a reformation in the midst of this people. Let us go from this Conference when it is ended with a determination in our hearts that as for us we will serve God with our households as near as possible. This is the resolution that is wanted. This is what is needed in the hearts of the people. And let us be diligent day and night, diligent in keeping the commandments of God, for what was said here I know to be true, that the coming of our Lord and Master is not far away from us. It will surprise us very much, when the cry goes forth, "Lo, the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him." I for one want to live so that when that cry is sounded it will be the most joyous message that ever saluted the ears of a human being. That is the way I want to live, and I would like the people of the whole world—not only the Latter-day Saints, but the people of the whole earth, to live so that when that cry goes forth we may go out to meet Him with our countenances elevated to our Savior, beaming with joy and gladness, to meet the Redeemer, the rewarder of the acts that we have performed. God help us in this; God give us strength, for we are weak, and enable us to lift ourselves above our surroundings, above the world, and to set an example worthy of imitation by all men; which is my prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

PREST. WILFORD WOODRUFF

The Written Word—Joseph and Brigham in Kirtland—Present Inspiration.

There are a few moments I would like to spend in talking upon one particular point that has been spoken about today. Brother Brigham has referred to it, and our brethren this forenoon alluded to it. It is in regard to the written word of God and the living oracles. Perhaps you may think that Brother Woodruff is hardly a suitable man to speak upon this subject, seeing he is President of the Church, but I think you will find I am when I get through. I will refer to a certain meeting I attended in the town of Kirtland in my early days. At that meeting some remarks were made that have been made here today, with regard to the living oracles and with regard to the written word of God. The same principle was presented, although not as extensively as it has been here, when a leading man in the Church got up and talked upon the subject, and said: "You have got the word of God before you here in the Bible, Book of Mormon, and Doctrine and Covenants; you have the written word of God, and you who give revelations should give revelations according to those books, as what is written in those books is the word of God. We should confine ourselves to them." When he concluded, Brother Joseph turned to Brother Brigham Young and said, "Brother Brigham I want you to take the stand and tell us your views with regard to the written oracles and the written word of God." Brother Brigham took the stand, and he took the Bible, and laid it down; he took the Book of Mormon, and laid it down; and he took the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and laid it down before him, and he said: "There is the written word of God to us, concerning the work of God from the beginning of the world, almost, to our day." "And now," said he, "when compared with the living oracles those books are nothing to me; those books do not convey the word of God direct to us now, as do the words of a Prophet or a man bearing the Holy Priesthood in our day and generation. I would rather have the living oracles than all the

writing in the books." That was the course he pursued. When he was through, Brother Joseph said to the congregation: "Brother Brigham has told you the word of the Lord, and he has told you the truth."

And now, I wanted to speak a word Apostle or leading man of the Church upon this subject. Whenever the Lord requires any Prophet, Seer, Revelator, to speak, the Spirit of the Lord is with him to give counsel to the people from time to time as he is moved upon, and such as the people ought to hear. But I want you to understand this one thing; the Holy Priesthood and power of God do not stop there; it does not stop with the Presidency, it does not stop with the Twelve Apostles, it does not stop with our leading men of Israel;—there is not a man on God's footstool that is sent forth into the world to preach the Gospel but ought to have the Spirit of the Lord upon him and the revelation of God to him. And by that power these valleys of the mountains have been filled with the inhabitants of the world today; by that power this Tabernacle has been built; by that power have the Elders, from the organization of this Church until today, performed their work. There is no end to the Holy Ghost and the power of God and the revelations of God to man. This is our position today before the world. Every man should have the Holy Priesthood with him, of some kind or other, when he goes to preach the Gospel; he should occupy some position of that kind. The Holy Ghost should be with that man. The Holy Ghost is with that man, revelation is with that man, if he lives his religion and does his duty before God.

I have before me the Twelve

Apostles who were boys—who were young men when they were thrust into the vineyard—in their boyhood, as it were, when they went forth to the islands of the sea and the nations of the earth, and they have done that work in their young days by the inspiration and the power of God, and He will be with them until the end. We should all understand this. The Bible is all right, the Book of Mormon is all right, the Doctrine and Covenants is all right, and they proclaim the work of God and the word of God in the earth in this day and generation until the coming of the Son of Man; but the Holy Priesthood is not confined particularly to those books, that is, it did not cease when those books were made. It belongs to every man that goes forth into the world, and these are our principles, and these are our rights, and these are our duties, and these are our gifts. The Holy Ghost is not confined to any one man, but every one should have it. As the Lord said to Orson Hyde and the brethren with him, that were going to preach the Gospel: "Go forth and speak as you are moved upon by the Holy Ghost, and when you speak as you are moved upon by the Holy Ghost, that is the word of the Lord, that is the mind of the Lord, that is His Spirit, that is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes."

Well, I felt I wanted to name this in this connection. This subject has been brought up so strongly here today, I felt I wanted to bear my testimony of these things. God bless you. Amen.

The choir sang the anthem,

"We give thanks to Thee, O Lord of the harvest."

Benediction by Elder B. H. Roberts.