

the reforms that the people wanted, and they are progressing in that safe way. So I want to say that although there is so much restlessness, and so many hope that a change will be for the better, it will be well for all people, and especially the Latter-day Saints, to well consider any measure that is proposed to them, and weigh it well before they adopt it, that they may be sure it will be a change for the better.

May the Lord bless you all, I ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The congregation sang the hymn:

Guide us, O Thou great Jehovah,
Lead us to the promised land,
We are weak, but Thou art able—
Hold us with Thy powerful hand.

Benediction was pronounced by
Elder Ben E. Rich.

Conference adjourned until 2
p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference was resumed at 2
p. m.

President Joseph F. Smith called
the meeting to order.

The congregation sang the hymn:

Now let us rejoice in the day of sal-
vation;
No longer as strangers on earth
need we roam;
Good tidings are soundin- to us and
each nation,
And shortly the hour of redemption
will come.

Prayer was offered by Elder
Joseph E. Robinson.

The congregation sang the hymn:

Praise to the man who communed
with Jehovah!
Jesus anointed that Prophet and
Seer—

Blessed to open the last dispensation;
Kings shall extol him and nations
revere.

ELDER CHARLES H. HART.

(Of the First Council of Seventy.)

I feel very much, my brethren and sisters, the need of your sustaining faith and the blessings of the Lord, to the end that our time may be occupied profitably during the time that I may stand before you this afternoon.

I thought, while President Smith was talking, of an expressive remark in the Doctrine and Covenants, a revelation given to the Prophet Joseph Smith: "Remember, the worth of souls is great in the sight of God;" and it occurred to me that this truth is interwoven with the very fabric of "Mormonism," that it is one of the corner stones of the Gospel, that it is a part of the very genius of so-called "Mormonism." For many years the thought was prevalent that man was created for the principal purpose of giving praise to His Maker, that the purpose of the Lord in the creation of man was that he might render praise unto His Maker. While that is a very pleasing and profitable occupation for mankind, yet we are given to understand in modern revelation, through the Prophet Joseph Smith, that praise and prayer are not the chief purposes in the creation of man. We are told, by the Lord: "Behold, this is my work and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man." We learn in modern revelation of the dignity of the human soul, of its immortality; also that intelligence, an attribute of spirit, "was not created, neither indeed can be," to use the language

as recorded in the ninety-third section of the Doctrine and Covenants. We learn that we are the spiritual children of God the Eternal Father. Jesus makes this plain in His answer to Mary, who was first at the sepulchre, when He said, "Touch Me not for I have not yet ascended to My Father, but go to My brethren and say unto them, I ascend unto My Father and your Father, to My God and your God." He proclaims there, the Master does, the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God; that we are the children, the "spiritual children of our Heavenly Father, just as He was the spiritual Son of the Eternal Father. We are told in Psalms that He was the first-born of every creature, meaning, of course, the first-born spiritually, because it would not be true that He was the first-born in the flesh of all the children of our Father, or of all creatures. As He was the spiritual Son of the Eternal Father, so are we the spiritual children of the Eternal Father. We had a birth before coming to this earth-life. Element is now added to spirit, and we are told that "spirit and element inseparably connected receiveth a fulness of joy," and this is one of the purposes of our earth-life, that we might have joy. "Adam fell that man might be, and man is that he might have joy," and that he might eventually have immortality and eternal life. There was no lack of appreciation in the value of human life or in the value of a human soul in that the Savior was permitted, as a part of the divine program, to lay down His life for the redemption of mankind. Some—not of our church and who have not partaken of the light of modern revelation—discuss the question of

whether that divine sacrifice might have been dispensed with, and whether it might not have been so ordered by the Father that the earth life of the Son would not have to be sacrificed. But it was necessary to have the Son lay down His life for the redemption of mankind, to bring about a restoration from the fall that came through Adam. There is significance in the expression of the Savior, "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth will draw all men unto me." It was necessary, no doubt, that He should suffer just as intensely as He did suffer, that His agony should be such that He sweat great drops of blood. That was an unusual occurrence. There are only a few recorded instances in the annals of history of men so suffering that they actually sweat blood; but there are a few such instances in addition to that of the Savior where that phenomenon has occurred—men actually sweating blood. Those who hold that it might have been possible, that it might have been just as well for some other program to have been carried out for the redemption of mankind, fail to recognize the fact that God is a God of law and justice. They think because the Father is all-powerful, having the element of omnipotence, that therefore at His will He could have dispensed with the necessity of an atonement; but we must take into account the fact that the Lord is a Lord of justice, of order and of law, as well as a God of mercy, and that mercy can not rob justice. It is necessary to recognize the harmonies in the attributes of deity. It was by reason of these harmonies existing in the attributes of Deity that it became necessary for the atonement to be made. We realize, as I said a moment ago, how men

were drawn to the Savior by reason of that sacrifice, just as the people have been drawn to the Prophet Joseph Smith, and to the testimony for which his blood was shed. It was through no lack of appreciation of the value of life that the Prophet Joseph laid down his life, but it was a necessary and an important event in the development and growth of this work that he should seal his testimony with his blood. He did it cheerfully, and drew men unto him and unto his testimony by that act. The reason for the introduction of the gospel in this dispensation was because of the love the Father has for His children, the fact that their souls are very precious in His sight. The organization, teachings and doctrines of the Church, are to the end that these precious souls, these sparks of divinity, may be brought up aright and saved.

The auxiliary organizations and the various efforts put forth through them recognize the great worth of souls. Our missionaries realize the truth of the revelation to the Prophet Joseph, that "if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people and bring save it be one soul unto Me, how great shall be your joy with Him in the kingdom of our Father." If such great joy come by bringing one person only unto Christ, how much greater will be the joy where many souls are brought unto Him. Recognizing the truth of that principle, we are spending each year in our foreign missionary work hundreds of thousands of dollars,—I believe it runs into the millions, counting the value of the time of these two thousand or more missionaries who are abroad proclaiming the truth.

Our Church school system and our work in the temples, recognize the great worth of the human soul, the necessity for its growth, and its progress along right lines. When you consider what it has meant in the Church to convert but one single soul, when we consider the life's work of some of these single converts to the Church, and the great stream of posterity that is ever widening as the years come and go, to be traced to one of those single converts, we realize then how very precious to mankind is a human soul, and how important it is for him to be taught the gospel—faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, repentance from evil, turning away from all sin and entering the Church by baptism and the laying on of hands by one who has authority, that his sins may be wiped out, and that he may become a member of God's Church. I feel, my brethren and sisters, that this work of salvation both at home and abroad is a work that is worthy of the best efforts of all of us. Our temple work, I might add, is based upon the same great truth that the soul is of great worth. Although the person has departed this life, this temple work recognizes the glorious truth that there will be a resurrection, a reuniting of the spirit with the body, and an opportunity given for repentance hereafter.

May the Lord bless us, my brethren and sisters, and enable us to be zealous in this work of saving souls; may we realize the truth of the revelation to the Prophet that souls are of great worth in the sight of God, and that the thing which will be of most worth unto us will be to declare repentance unto this generation that we may bring souls unto Christ that we may have rest with

them in the kingdom of our Father. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

ELDER JOSEPH W. M'MURRIN.

(Of the First Council of Seventy.)

My brethren and sisters: I suppose a good many of the people who are in this congregation this afternoon are somewhat surprised that members of the First Council of Seventy have been called upon to occupy this position at so early a stage in the proceedings of this conference. I am satisfied the brethren of that Council were sitting in comparative ease in their feelings—with no thought of being called to speak but expecting to hear from other brethren of the Presidency, and of the Council of the Apostles. Elders of the Church are never sure as to who will be called upon, and are supposed to be ready always to give a reason for the hope they have within them. I trust, my brethren and sisters, that I may be able, under the inspiration of the Spirit of the Lord, to speak such words as shall in a measure give a reason for the hope that I have, as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I certainly feel that it is a very great privilege and honor, as well as a great responsibility, to have the opportunity of bearing testimony concerning the things of God in a general conference of the Church. There are thousands and tens of thousands of men who by the light of the Holy Spirit have been converted to the doctrines of the gospel. Such men have loved those doctrines with all their strength, and have devoted their time and means for the upbuilding of the kingdom of God, have never had an opportunity of this sort.

It has been my privilege, during the months that have passed since our last general conference, to travel quite extensively in the various stakes of Zion. I have appreciated the opportunity of being in the companionship of the members of the Council of the Apostles and in the companionship of the members of the First Council of Seventy in these travels. I feel that I have been very greatly benefited by the counsels of my brethren, and by the example that they have constantly set before me. I have also been benefitted and blessed, in coming in contact with the people, and with the presiding brethren in the various stakes of Zion. My testimony is that there are a host of good and capable men occupying positions of responsibility in the Church of Christ. Whether one goes to the north or to the south, to the east or to the west, he finds men whose hearts are set upon the things of the kingdom of God, and who are bending their energies, and giving the very best there is in them, for the blessing of the people, and for the accomplishment of the work that God has set His hand to perform in this latter dispensation.

It is a very pleasing thing to know that the blessings of the Lord are resting in very rich abundance upon the people in a temporal way. Wherever I have been I have heard expressions of gratitude concerning the blessings that are coming to the people. They seem to be in a most prosperous condition. The earth has been blessed and is yielding of its strength in much abundance, for the sustenance of the people. The parched places, in a manner of speaking, have become in many localities springs of living water. "The desert places have been made