

cannot sin, that there is nothing more to do. That is not true; it is a misunderstanding, as I see it; but we are being saved just as fast as we apply to our lives the glorious principles of the gospel of our Redeemer. We are being saved temporally just as fast as we live the laws pertaining to our temporal salvation; and if we continue therein we shall earn our salvation and exaltation in God's kingdom.

I feel that I ought not to take more time this morning. I am glad I am here, and to bear testimony of these things. My heart is filled with love for you, my brethren and sisters, and for the brethren who are directing the work of the Lord in the latter days. I realize it is an honor to be associated with them. I love them, and I too, sustain them by my faith and prayers and I hope also by my works. Brethren and sisters, let us be free in giving expression of our love in our daily lives. I sometimes think we are too backward in this matter. I would rather have the expressions of your good will now than your bouquets upon my casket when I am gone. Let us be free in facing our fathers and mothers, putting our arms about them and telling them, face to face, that we love them. Let us greet our brothers and sisters cordially and whole-heartedly and tell them we love them and delight to be associated with them. This should bring to their hearts good cheer.

Now, may the Lord bless you, my brethren and sisters. May his peace and blessings be with you in your homes, that you may apply in your lives the wonderful truths that have been spoken in our conference, is my sincere prayer, and I ask it in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### ELDER JOHN WELLS

*(Of the Presiding Bishopric of the Church.)*

I feel a deep sense of responsibility in trying to express my thoughts to this vast congregation of Latter-day Saints. The one thought above all others that has come to my mind is how thankful I am to my heavenly Father that I am permitted to be a Latter-day Saint; that I, as a member of the Church of God, have an opportunity of mingling with you. How thankful I am, too, that the Lord permits me to hold the holy Priesthood, with the privilege of ministering among my brethren and sisters. I feel that a tremendous responsibility rests upon all who hold this Priesthood; that it shall be magnified righteously before our heavenly Father; that we shall labor in the ministry with kindness, sympathy, helpfulness, and with love unfeigned, so that the great work of our heavenly Father may progress in the earth and accomplish its mission among the children of men.

I am thankful for the opportunity of mingling my voice in song and prayer, and to listen to the advice and counsel of my brethren. I hope we shall all go home determined to follow the splendid in-

structions to which we have listened, all of which are for our spiritual and temporal welfare.

I am particularly impressed by President Grant's advice that we get out of debt. Indebtedness is one of the great problems of the day facing the Latter-day Saints. We are today living under a commercial system of competition which has come from the world, and has replaced the conditions which prevailed in the early settlement of the valleys.

Our present financial situation should set us all to serious thinking. Is not the time coming when it will be necessary for the Latter-day Saints to return to those earlier methods of living—the old rules of co-operation and mutual helpfulness—each doing his share in the community? It was this system of co-operation that built the roads, canals, bridges, cleared away the brush, organized towns and villages, and laid the foundation for the great communities of Latter-day Saints who now occupy these mountain valleys. Co-operation results from the great truth that human beings must depend upon one another. Now we finance all undertakings with money in the form of bonds. These bonds and certificates of indebtedness are usually sold outside the state, and must be paid by our labor, whether we are engaged in the office, on the farm, or on the range. Are we not overreaching ourselves and becoming the "hewers of wood and drawers of water"?

We cooperate wonderfully in spiritual things. Our system of organization, and the operation of the stakes, wards and missions, are the admiration of all unbiased investigators. In all the affairs of the wards and stakes, cooperation is the basic idea. But when it comes to business, we are actuated purely by the spirit of competition. That competition is for the profit of individuals or groups of individuals, and not in the interest of the community. Under our present competitive system of living, you will find in the small communities a number of people in commercial pursuits, supplying our needs for the purpose of making profit for themselves. Why not develop the spirit by which the community owns these institutions? Why not develop cooperative purchasing as we are now developing cooperative selling? This cooperative spirit could be developed in the cultivation of large tracts of land, in flocks and herds, merchandising, banking, canals and water problems, and in many other ways, some of which have already been developed in the older states and in the countries of Europe.

I just want to leave this thought to set us thinking more about this great problem of living, to see if, in the near future, we can put into operation some of the earlier methods in vogue among the Pioneers and early-comers to these valleys; when there was no money, when labor was wealth, and the ability to work and apply labor intelligently created wealth for the community.

I again testify to you, my brethren and sisters, of my thankfulness and appreciation for the gospel. I know this to be the work of God, for the Lord has manifested it to me in many ways, and I thank

him with all my heart, and with all my mind and with all my soul that I am a Latter-day Saint.

May he bless us with the disposition to understand the gospel, to manifest it in our daily lives, so that we may grow spiritually day by day stronger in the faith and more willing to keep his commandments, I ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### ELDER REY L. PRATT

*(President of the Mexican Mission.)*

I esteem it a very great privilege, my brethren and sisters, to stand before you this morning and bear my testimony because I know that the gospel is true. I know that it has been restored to us in this day and age in which we live, with all the gifts and blessings and the powers and privileges that have ever pertained to it in any age of the world. I am very grateful to the Lord that I am a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day Saints. I am thankful to the Lord for the holy Priesthood that I bear and for the calling that has come to me to minister in the world as a missionary. The happiest time of my life and I think the most profitable to me, has been spent in missionary labors among the children of men who have not been acquainted with these glorious principles of the gospel that we as a people enjoy. I feel that if the Lord requires it at my hands, I can feel happy in spending the rest of my life, or as much of it as he requires of me, in ministering the gospel to the people of the world who are not acquainted with these glorious and saving principles. I am very grateful that at this conference the president of the Church, whom we sustain as prophet, seer and revelator, has spoken to Israel concerning the missionary work that is expected of us. I think that there is no work or responsibility resting so heavily upon the membership of this Church today as that of disseminating the gospel among the children of men. As I travel up and down the country and see the millions of people who are in spiritual darkness but who are honest in heart, who are desirous of doing right, and who, if they err, err in ignorance, I feel greatly resting upon me, my brethren and sisters, the responsibility of carrying to them the gospel. We are grateful to have your sons and daughters laboring with us in the mission field and I trust that the admonitions that have come from the president of the Church at this conference, will be followed by the fathers, mothers and brothers and sisters, and by the bishops of this Church, in that they will encourage their sons and daughters and the members of the wards to remain in the mission, rather than to suggest to them that they discontinue their labors at an early date. When we are cultivating the fruits of the field, my brothers and sisters, we do not pick the peach or apple, or garner the wheat before it is ripe.