

rejected him. No man can spend, as you men have done, years of your life in the missionary field—I was privileged to labor thirteen years,—and carry this gospel message to the children of men without a love for mankind. I have preached this gospel in sunshine, in dust, through the mud, I have wandered in the cold of winter, as well as the heat of summer, and have sought men. No man can do that who does not have in his heart a love for the souls of men. I love them. I would stay these dreadful days, but I cannot. All I can do is to warn them, that they may repent and find the salvation which we offer them. The wedding is prepared. We are bearers of the invitation calling men to come to the wedding feast. Let us not be slack in continuing to give ourselves freely, as our fathers have done, not only to send our sons, but give ourselves, and discharge this great obligation, which yet rests upon this Church. For I bear witness to you that fast and swift moving events are happening and transpiring, and unless we shall be alert and awake we shall be behind in the Lord's great program. God help us to be fully up to all his expectations of us, and find ourselves fully justified in the efforts that we put forth, though men may reject us, in seeking to bring men unto Christ, is my prayer, and I ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER HYRUM G. SMITH

Patriarch of the Church

It is indeed a wonderful and glorious opportunity to bear the holy Priesthood which has been restored to the earth, and to be a servant of the Lord, to be a bearer of the message of life and salvation. In the brief service which I have been able to render, in the name of the Lord, I have learned that he is very kind and merciful to his children, that he has placed in the Church, officers to take care of every department and phase of his work. In his great Sermon on the Mount the Lord himself comforted the hearts of those in the different walks of life, for he realized that there were men and women in the world who needed comfort and guidance and consolation.

I desire to express my appreciation of the strength the Lord has given to me in his service while officiating for him in further comforting his children in the different walks of life. Day after day, week after week, month after month, individuals, members of the Church from the different walks of life, have been strengthened and encouraged and comforted through a humble ministry which the Lord has placed in the Church. I regret, however, to express the thought that while many seek advice and council and comfort, they do not always follow it. We are very much like other people—we are mortal, we have our weaknesses, and our faults. We are like a good many people in the world, we know much better than we do. We believe in the gospel, but we do not practice it quite as well as we

believe it. There are many people in the world who believe the gospel, but they are afraid of the water, or something else; and there are many people who believe in the religion of the Latter-day Saints who are afraid to so express themselves. There are good men and wmen in the world who believe and obey the gospel and receive its comforting and consoling blessings. The Lord inspired the Prophet Joseph Smith to declare these words.

“There is a law, irrevocably decreed in the heaven before the foundations of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated—And when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated.”

Therefore, we must learn the law upon which our blessings are predicated and when we render obedience to that law, our blessings will be forthcoming.

In conversation with one of our good sisters who had raised a large family, and had made many sacrifices, for she was the mother of eleven children, I learned that she had never been to the House of the Lord, and so I persuaded her, or attempted to persuade her, to go and encourage her husband to go with her and receive these important blessings. She advised me that she thought she had already done all that was necessary. She had reared her family, and through her faithful labors and sacrifices she had fulfilled what she thought was a good mission, and now she wanted to have some blessings of her own. But I tried to teach her, and did teach her, that her sacrifices and all of her many blessings that she had enjoyed in the past would come to an end at her death, unless she went and had her blessings sealed upon her by the authorized servants of the Lord, at a place which the Lord has prepared, and that we call his house. I encouraged her to do the right thing that her blessings might be received, and her comfort come in due time; for the Lord has declared that unless we obey his law, which is his word, all vows and contracts have an end at death. Therefore, if this good woman does not seal her vows and contracts, of course, in company with her companion, according to the law of the Lord, which is his word, the blessings which she craves will in time come to an end, and she will not have a claim upon those blessings which her heart desires. Therefore the law which the Lord has established for the comfort, salvation and union of homes, with mothers and fathers and children must be complied with before we can receive these eternal blessings.

I have heard a good many people say: “Well, what is the use of having blessings pronounced? We get our blessings any way, if we live for them.” That is very true, because we must live for our blessings if we get them, but there comes great comfort and consolation from having our blessings both pronounced and sealed upon us by authorized servants of the Lord in obedience to his word and his law. For the Lord has placed in his Church authorized agents to bear his power and his authority not only to pronounce, but to seal these bless-

ings, that the Lord may have an anchor upon the souls of men and women forever, for neither death nor the destroyer will end these precious blessings, but the receiver will possess and enjoy them forever and ever.

And so I appreciate the privilege that has come to me as an humble servant of the Lord officiating in his name, not only encouraging, persuading and urging my brethren and sisters, my fellowmen to come unto Christ, and to serve the Lord and to keep his commandments, but to receive blessings, privileges and opportunities that will never come to an end, because they are of an eternal character and rendered in obedience to the word and law of the Lord. They will belong to them forever, just the same as the children of this good mother I referred to, will belong to their parents, provided they go to the house of the Lord together with those children and are sealed at the altar of the Lord forever, thne death will not separate them, nor will any other power, except the power of sin and transgression; for the Lord has declared that his blessings will come when we obey the laws upon which they are predicated. Only today have I ministered in this important calling for the comfort and blessing of those who are distressed in spirit; many seek blessings for comfort because they have been wayward and indifferent, many because they have not lived up to their privileges in keeping the commandments of the Lord. I regret to say that too many of us fail to call upon the Lord or his servants until we are in distress, as the song which has been sung has reminded us that we call upon the Lord in our distress. How much more pleased the Lord would be if we would go to him in our gratitude, when we are showered with blessings, in our health and in our vigor and in our usefulness, rather than go in distress and sorrow, at the eleventh hour of our distress, perhaps!

And so I would like to bear my testimony, my brethren and sisters, to the kindness and mercy of the Lord to his children, to the members of his Church, those who have come into his fold. I know that the Lord does comfort those who seek him, in faith and in true devotion, and that the blessings will come to those who render obedience to the commandments and the laws upon which their blessings are predicated. I have witnessed the joy and the great comfort and satisfaction that have come to the hearts of fathers and mothers when they have received their blessings in the house of the Lord. I have also heard many testimonies of my brethren and sisters who have declared in their humility and in their faith that the Lord has heard their prayers, that he has fulfilled the promises pronounced upon their heads through the servants of the Lord, because they have rendered obedience to the laws which govern their blessings.

Now my brethren and sisters, I exhort you to look upon the gospel in all of its phases in a practical sense; learn the laws upon which your blessings are predicated, for they are simple enough and will be made clear to your understanding if you seek to know them. Let me exhort

you also to hold yourselves in keeping with the commandments of the Lord, concerning the laws of health known to us as the Word of Wisdom. I should like to refer you, both old and young, to the many examples that are written in the old scriptures as well as to the lives of those who are before you today in the ministry as general and local authorities of the Church, these men who are here before me today, the bearers of the Priesthood, the standard bearers in the stakes and wards of the Church, men who are free from the contaminating influences of the world, from habits that would prevent the reception of the precious blessings of God, men whom we believe and know to be clean and upright in their habits through observing the teachings of the gospel, and the laws of God which bring to them the joy, the comfort and the satisfaction of knowing that they are keeping his commandments and receiving his blessings.

Among the examples recorded in ancient times I should like to refer you to the example given us by that Hebrew character who was taken from his home in Jerusalem with three other Hebrew boys at the time of the destruction of the temple and the capture of Jerusalem under the Babylonian chief. Daniel was taken to Babylon as a captive with the intention on the part of the great chief to feed and care for him well that he might grow up and become a wonderful and worthy servant, coming from the best and choicest of all the Hebrew families, but the boy refused the food that was offered him, because he had learned that it would defile his body and make it unfit for the blessings of the Lord. And so if you will read the story of his life to the very end, you will see a complete fulfilment of the promise of the Lord that is made to you and to me and to all Israel who will obey the commandments of the Lord concerning the Word of Wisdom; for Daniel was able to find hidden treasures of knowledge, and he was able to pass by the destroying angels; for when he was placed in the lions' den and the king watched during the night and at the dawn of the morning shouted out to Daniel to know if he was still alive, and Daniel answered back:

"O king, live for ever.

"My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me."

I pray God to bless you, my brethren and sisters, bless all the officers and members of the Church, in all the stakes and wards of Zion, and in the mission fields, and in all the places and capacities which the Lord has placed his work, that his name and work may be honored and glorified, that his children may receive his blessings through learning and obeying the laws upon which the blessings of the Lord are predicated, both spiritual and temporal.

God bless you my brethren and sisters, throughout all the Church, and throughout all the land, that his peace may be in your homes, in your dwelling places and his blessings be upon your fields and flocks, that you may not forget the Lord, for he will not forget

you, so long as you are true and faithful in keeping and observing his commandments, and I bless you my brethren and sisters, by the authority which the Lord has given me to bless all Israel, that peace and health and happiness may be in your homes, until your mortal missions are finished, and I do it humbly, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

“Open the Gates of the Temple,” was sung by William Russel.

ELDER JOSEPH W. McMURRIN

Of the Council of Seventy, and President of the California Mission

I do not suppose, my brethren and sisters, that anyone in attendance at this general conference of the Church has had as trying an experience as I have had during these meetings.

The President, in calling upon the brethren to address the conference, has gone from stand to stand. I know the brethren that occupy the stand that I have the honor to sit in, have felt several times that they were about to be called upon to speak, only to discover that they were mistaken. My companions for the past three days have been taken from either side of me as they in turn have been called to speak, and now at the last moment I am to have the pleasure after speaking for a brief time of sitting without any further anxiety for a few minutes during the closing moments of this general conference. It does create in the minds of men who are called upon to address these great assemblies a very great feeling of anxiety. President Charles W. Penrose upon one occasion made a remark of that character and heaved a sigh of relief when he came into one of the stake conferences, here in the city, and expressed to me personally the pleasure he felt when he thought that he would be under no responsibility to address the people. There were other brethren who had been especially appointed to attend that stake conference and the responsibility of speaking would be upon them. I have heard President George Q. Cannon in his life time more than once make a similar declaration. You are all acquainted with the fact that it is quite a common thing for these brethren who belong to the presiding authorities of the Church to intimate when they stand up before the people that they have a feeling of anxiety, and desire the help and the assistance that can be given by the congregation through their faith and their prayers.

I am very happy, my brethren and sisters, notwithstanding the rather trying experience that I have had during the conference, to say that my spirit is in harmony with the teachings that have been presented during these meetings. I respond in my soul to the testimony and teachings and information imparted by President Heber J. Grant in the opening meeting, and as I have listened to the brethren who have been called upon to speak to the people I have felt in