

comes again. We Latter-day Saints should go to our meeting-places regularly and in the most solemn manner center our thoughts upon the great sacrifice made by our Lord and Savior; and we should not partake of the bread and the water unthinkingly or carelessly. This partaking of the Sacrament should be done on the Lord's day, for on that day the Lord has said we should go to his house and partake of his Sacrament.

May the Lord bless us that we may sense our responsibilities and privileges as Latter-day Saints, I humbly pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

ELDER LEVI EDGAR YOUNG

Of the First Council of Seventy

My brethren and sisters: The great inspiring idea of this conference to me has been the admonition of Christ: "Rise up and be God's child." God created man in his own image, and the divine within man teaches him the truth and value of character and righteousness based upon a supreme faith in the Father of us all. The Latter-day Saints hold sacredly to the fundamental teachings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In all their history they have believed that Christ is the sure guide to the way of life. This was true of the brave souls who crossed the plains in the very early days and made their way to Zion here in the tops of the mountains.

The handcart immigrants mentioned by the previous speaker suffered untold hardships, not for the purpose of obtaining wealth and power, but fundamentally for the glorification of God and bringing to pass his divine purposes. May I just add a thought or two more concerning the handcart pioneers. Like their other brethren and sisters who came to Utah in the days of the old trail by ox-team and on foot, they did a great deed; and the result of their work stands ineffaceable and beyond forgetfulness. They had strong characters and unyielding courage. They came to work out their destiny. Religious freedom was one of their motives, and they possessed a very fine and lofty courage, and are to be reverently admired by all the people of this state. They put above all things the possessions of the mind and the heart. When they achieved their purpose, through much tribulation and suffering, they opened their doors to the honest in heart, and told them to enter. In the law of progress, these pioneers stand forth as exemplars of certain great principles, which never can grow old. They set character first; and revered intellectual and religious achievement.

President Brigham Young saw this wilderness country in radiant vision, and the unconquered soil was a symbol of spiritual regeneration. And what did those pioneers of yesterday, and the Saints of today stand for? It is the gospel of Christ Jesus which speaks to us with so much power that it cannot be mistaken. It is a revelation of the meaning and responsibility of life. It involves great and illuminating ideas and truths

that if mankind will work for them, the security of the race in peace and understanding will be assured. If we take a general view of Christ's teachings we will find that they emphasized the truth of the Kingdom of God and its coming; that he taught the Fatherhood of God and the infinite value of the human soul, and that out of his teachings grow the higher righteousness and the commandment of love. Louder and more confident voices proclaim these truths today, because in the infinite goodness and mercy of God his divine Priesthood has been restored, and man has again been made free to find eternal life.

It is religion, the love of God and neighbor, which gives life radiancy; and in this divine feeling we realize better the meaning and aim of life. The knowledge of the meaning of God's Kingdom grows steadily and silently in the heart of the man who grows in faith and allows his soul to be illumined by the spirit of Christ our Lord. This Kingdom of the Master can be understood only from within. While the Kingdom of heaven is to come to us, it will be understood only by our spiritual natures. Every doctrine that he taught was a message of the Kingdom.

God placed a value on the human soul, and taught that it is capable of endless spiritual and intellectual development. The Glory of God is intelligence; so intelligence is the glory of man. This glory is the Spirit of truth, which "leads man into all truth." The soul is man perfected, and a man perfected is one who knows not only truth, but is "a man of the truth."

What a divine duty the gospel of Christ imposes upon you and me; the duty to develop our spirits and intellects to the highest degree and to their infinite possibilities. Then there is the higher righteousness and the commandment of love. When Jesus was asked what the great commandment is, he replied: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind * * * and thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." This is a sphere of ethical thought that is peculiarly expressive of the gospel of Christ. It is in this sense that Jesus combined religion and morality. The higher morality depends upon the conception of Christ's teachings, and the developing of the simple faith in God. No system of ethics has ever bettered this system of the Master, and the pure Christian virtues are the most secure force today to heal the sins and ills of the world. The world cannot be far from religious feeling. Religion is a natural outgrowth in man. When man began to think and feel and wonder, he had longings to find out the infinite. So he naturally came to God, and God blessed him with divine power. "Wherever there is man, there is religion." My friends, we cannot be much until we have touched the infinite religion of spirits. Step by step we must rise to the demand of religion, and set before us the aesthetic ideals of Christ, our Lord, and abide by his thought that the love of God is the abhorrence of evil. Jesus had a great loving world purpose. There

cannot be true victory in life until every activity of man—economic, political, social, ethical, and intellectual—be influenced by the divine purpose of Christ, our Lord. That is victory.

I must not speak longer. May God help us to see the greater laws of righteousness; may he strengthen our testimonies from day to day. May we lift up our thoughts to him, and know that life and light come as we approach God. It was a mighty sage who wrote: "God ever works with him who works with God." The religion of Christ has a personal appeal to us all. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy on him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Amen.

The choir sang, "God is our refuge and strength."

The benediction was pronounced by Elder Orson Allen of the Ensign stake.