

## THE WORD OF WISDOM

"A Word of Wisdom for the benefit of the council of high priests, assembled in Kirtland, and the Church, and also the Saints in Zion.

"To be sent greeting; not by commandment or constraint, but by revelation and the word of wisdom, showing forth the order and will of God in the temporal salvation of all Saints in the last days.

"Given for a principle with promise, adapted to the capacity of the weak and the weakest of all Saints, who are or can be called Saints."

And every Latter-day Saint knows that tea, that coffee, that tobacco, that liquor, are the things that this Word of Wisdom says it is not pleasing unto God that we should partake of. There are many Saints who say: "Oh, that is not by way of commandment;" but it is "the order and the will of God." And what does the Lord promise to you and to me and to every Latter-day Saint who observes this Word of Wisdom?

"And all Saints who remember to keep and do these sayings, walking in obedience to the commandments, shall receive health in their navel and marrow to their bones;

"And shall find wisdom and great treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures;

"And shall run and not be weary, and shall walk and not faint.

"And I, the Lord, give unto them a promise, that the destroying angel shall pass by them, as the children of Israel, and not slay them."

## A CALL FOR HELP TO DO RIGHT

May God help you and me and every Latter-day Saint to observe the Word of Wisdom, that we may have health and hidden treasures of knowledge, and that God will allow us to live here upon the earth until we have filled out the measure of our creation; and may God help you and me to uphold the laws of our land in every way within our power, is my prayer, and I ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, Amen.

## PRESIDENT ANTHONY W. IVINS

I would be very happy, my brethren and sisters, if I were able to impress upon this congregation of Latter-day Saints and upon those who may be present who are not identified with the Church, the vital importance of that part of the remarks just made by the President of the Church which refers to our obligation to magnify, uphold and sustain the civil law by which we are governed in our temporal affairs.

## UPHOLD AND SUSTAIN THE CIVIL LAW

I have made, while sitting here upon my seat and listening to the President, some notes which I desire very briefly to call to your attention. To me the establishment of the government of the United States, and the development of this nation of which we are citizens, did not come by chance, but was a thing of destiny, just one of the incidents connected with the development of the purposes of the Lord in the

consummation of his great plan, looking to the redemption of his covenant people, coming in the time in which it was to come, developing, as he decreed it should develop, and accomplishing, notwithstanding all of the weaknesses and shortcomings of its people, the purposes for which it was intended.

#### WE OCCUPY SIMILAR POSITION TO ISRAEL OF OLD

It had its inception more than four thousand years ago, when the Lord called Abraham from his home in Chaldea, and entered into covenant with him, a covenant which was to be everlasting, that he would make of him and his descendants a great people, and that through them all of the nations of the earth should be blessed. It is a long time to go back four thousand years, and the time which is allotted to me would not justify an effort upon my part to do so. It is sufficient for me to state to you, and this can be definitely and fully demonstrated, that the history of the Israelitish people from that time until the present, brings us, step by step, to the condition which we occupy today. The way is clearly marked. The path in which they have traveled in the past, as well as the road which will lead to the consummation of this covenant which God entered into with them, are all plainly outlined in the scriptures which we have before us.

#### A GOVERNMENT DESIGNED FOR ALL MANKIND

The coming of Columbus to this continent was not a thing of chance. It had been foreseen and foretold by the prophets of God. The coming of the Pilgrim fathers to New England, of the Dutch to New York, and the cavaliers of the Old World to Virginia, was not a thing of chance, it was just the chosen combination of men and women who were calculated to make up the composite government which was established at the time of the adoption of the Constitution of the United States. They were prayerful people, they were people who had faith in God, they prayed to him and their prayers were answered; and, as stated in the scripture which the President has read, it was under the Lord's inspiration that these men were moved upon to give us this government under which we have so rapidly and wonderfully developed. It was not to be a government of Englishmen, nor of Dutchmen, nor of royalty represented in the cavaliers, nor of French people who were in Louisiana, and to the north of us, in Canada, but a government designed for the benefit of all mankind, a government which was to make all people equal under the law.

#### CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LAWS ARE SEPARATE

The beginnings of it in this dispensation were had when Martin Luther struck from the people of the Old World the shackles which bound them to a policy by which the church sought to dominate the state and government in civil, as well as religious affairs—a thing which the Lord has told us is not his will, that we are responsible to him for our

faith, for the morality and the righteousness of our lives. He has told us just as definitely that we are responsible to the civil law, so far as the control of our temporal affairs is concerned. What could be accomplished without the proper administration of civil law? There would be no protection for society, the weak would be subject to the power of the strong, to prevent all of which fundamental laws of our country have been enacted by wise men. How wisely the Constitutional law of our country has been framed! It provides for a legislative body to carefully study and enact the laws of our country. These men are not to execute the laws that they themselves make—it would be a dangerous thing—but an administrative department of government is provided, which is to execute and administer the law enacted by the legislative body. They are just laws. It may be that laws have been enacted which were in a sense undesirable. A way is provided by which they may be abrogated or amended, and that is the proper mode of procedure.

#### GLADSTONE ON THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

I desire to quote what William Gladstone, one of the greatest of our modern statesmen, says in regard to the Constitution of the United States:

“The Constitution of the United States is the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of men.” And he speaks truly. It was the work of God, his wisdom manifested in the men who created it and brought it forth. Gladstone is right.

#### THE NEED OF EMPHASIZING LAW OBSERVANCE

Now what is the necessity of calling attention to this matter at this particular time? I believe that we who are present know that the necessity does exist. You only need to read the reports that come to us from the various parts of the United States, and from our own state and county. There is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that lawlessness is running riot. Men go, boldly and unmasked, and shoot their way into the treasure-houses of this country, killing, if law-abiding men stand in the way, in order that they may carry away that which does not belong to them. Men violate, unblushingly, the laws of chastity and virtue, which are the very foundations upon which all good governments may stand. Men holding public office violate that trust which has been reposed in them by the people, and themselves stand out violators of the very law that they are appointed to magnify and uphold. Only this morning you who read the papers saw an account of one of the most atrocious crimes that could be named, said to have been perpetrated by an official who has been appointed to administer the law, not to violate it, in which at a threat of life he takes a woman into an automobile, carries her away to a secluded place, and there keeps her during the entire night. I have passed a good part of my life among uncivilized people. I have been with Indian tribes from the Canadian border to the interior of Mexico, and I have never in my experience encountered a

tribe of Indians who would tolerate lawlessness of this character in the indifferent manner that we do. Men are arrested, prosecution is sought, the best legal talent available is called in for their defense, and there is scarcely one chance in ten that they will be convicted. Witnesses unblushingly perjure themselves, while attorneys who pose as respectable members of society, with full knowledge of the fact, encourage them in it.

#### OFFICIALS BESET WITH VEXATIOUS LAW SUITS

Officials who conscientiously endeavor to execute the law are beset with vexatious law suits, the money for which is furnished by lawless people, until they are driven from office.

I do not refer to local conditions alone. Is there need to call the attention of the people of the United States, of our own state, of this entire inter-mountain country, to the necessity of following the admonition of the Lord, in the scripture which has been read to us, that in the selection of the men who are to administer the law, we should choose men of integrity? and there are plenty of such men, many of whom are now in public service. Do not understand me to infer that there is not integrity in the administration of our public affairs, but by some means rogues slip in, under the shadow of good men, before their character becomes known.

#### CALLING OF THE CHURCH TO UPHOLD RIGHT AND OPPOSE CRIME

I speak plainly upon this subject, my brethren and sisters, because it appears to me to be vital to our welfare. I do not direct my remarks to Latter-day Saints alone, but to the people of all creeds, professions of faith, or of no faith at all. I know that politics has been held up to us as a thing so sacred that the Church has nothing to do with it, and should not refer to it. I ask you, in heaven's name, what is the calling of the Church, if it is not to oppose lawlessness and crime, and seek to establish righteousness; if it is not to stand firmly for the proper administration of the law, and to oppose violation of it that peace and prosperity may abide with the people of our country, which can be had under no other conditions?

#### DESTINY OF NATION FORETOLD

I wish that the people of the world could be made familiar with the contents of the Book of Mormon, this American scripture which has been before the world during a century of time. It outlines the destiny of this nation, tells it as plainly as history will tell it after its destiny is accomplished. It makes very plain this fact: That if the government is to be perpetuated, as it may, if it is to endure as God has decreed that it may, it can only be by service to the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Master. That is definitely decreed.

#### AN APPEAL TO CITIZENS TO UPHOLD THE LAW

I appeal to good people everywhere, not to any political party, not

to any particular church, but to all people, to use their influence to bring to pass righteousness in the administration of the civil affairs of our country, and I make this appeal to both the church and the state, for both need it. Do men preach righteousness who themselves violate the civil law? Ask the preachers of today for the answer. Do men standing in high places in governmental affairs violate the law? Go back to Washington and investigate. How can we expect, as this statesman from whom the president has quoted, asks, that the common people, one of whom I am, who look to their leaders for example, shall honor and obey the law when they see it constantly violated in higher callings of life? Violation of the law is an evil under any circumstance, but when the law is violated by people who are chosen to maintain and administer it, it becomes a double offense in the sight of God and man, because a man not only becomes a violator of the law, but he breaks the trust placed in him, the trust which his fellow citizens have reposed in him and which he has sworn to discharge. He thus becomes doubly guilty.

#### NATION'S SALVATION RESTS WITH ITS CITIZENS

My brethren and sisters, I shall not prolong my remarks. We leave this question with you. We want you to understand that the salvation of this nation rests in the hands of its citizens, not in the hands of those who control its civil affairs at present, but those who hold the franchise, and are to exercise it in the future. It appears to me that if the importance of this were understood, greater care would be exercised in the selection of men for public office.

There are enough of such men, and to spare, to administer our public affairs. There are good men, honest men, in all political parties, and associated with all churches, and many who are allied with neither party or church. I do not appeal to any particular group of people, but to Christian people the world over.

#### TEACH AND PRACTICE PURITY OF LIFE

I appeal to you to teach and practice righteousness and purity of life.

Do you know what those Indians to whom I have referred would do with a woman who violated the law of chastity? They would split her ears, and cut her hair in a manner that she would be recognized for what she is, wherever she went. They would never allow her to marry in the tribe again, and the man who would be guilty of offences such as are almost daily committed in our communities, would be put to death. It may have been a barbarous law, but it kept those people free from the sin of immorality, until they were corrupted by the white man who came among them and introduced his more civilized mode of life.

God bless you, my brethren and sisters. May his spirit be with us during the meetings of this conference.

## PROGRESS OF THE CHURCH—WHAT IT STANDS FOR

The report made by the President indicates to you that the Church is developing; it is progressing. Word comes to us from one of the missions of the United States that more than fourteen thousand copies of the Book of Mormon have been distributed by the Elders of the Church in that mission during the present year. It is a wonderful thing. It is a wonderful achievement, indicating that the people of the United States are becoming interested. They are beginning to understand the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, what it stands for, what it lives for, and what it is willing to die for to the last man if necessary. The constitutional law which God has given us for our guidance, has made us, through observance of it, the dominant nation of the world today. I pray for God's blessings upon the government, its president, its legislators, upon the state government, its governor and its officers who have been chosen; those who seek to administer the law in righteousness. May God bless and give them success, I pray, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

A solo, "The Lord is mindful of his own," was sung by Mrs. Jesse Morley.

## ELDER DAVID O. MCKAY

"And they were all young men, and they were exceedingly valiant for courage, and also for strength and activity; but behold, this was not all—they were men who were true at all times in whatsoever thing they were entrusted.

"Yea, they were men of truth and soberness, for they had been taught to keep the commandments of God and to walk uprightly before him."—Alma 53:20, 21.

## THE MISSION OF THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS

The mission of the Latter-day Saints may be considered in two great aspects; one, the proclamation to the world of the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ—the declaration to all mankind that God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ appeared in this dispensation to the Prophet Joseph Smith. That in itself is a wonderful message.

There are in this audience sixty-two missionaries who are preparing to go abroad to give this proclamation. They are but representatives of two thousand others who, paying their own expenses, are abroad in the world declaring in all sincerity that God, as a loving Father, ever mindful of the children of men, has revealed the means whereby mankind can return to his presence. That is one important phase or mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The other great purpose of the Church is to translate truth into a better social order, or in other words, to make our religion effective in the individual lives of men, and in improving social conditions. It is the second aspect to which I wish to call attention this morning.

I have read from the fifty-third chapter of Alma, which gives an