

a brief period. You know, if you take a man along that period, ever so well, for two or three years, and leave him there without support and without foundation, without anything to help him to carry on, you have not done him any more service than if you started to carry a man across the country, to a town beyond, and lost him in the prairie or in the woods, or marooned him on a desert island. That is not helping a man to attain his destiny.

But what has the church? The church has a program that ministers for the boyhood under its mother arm, that carries on through his growing period of life to manhood and maturity and old age and down to the grave. The church has a program that ministers all the way along. Scouting is brief in its period with the boy. If we can tie up Scouting with a boy, we will tie up the boy with his church and with his God, and then this program will carry on in his life, and the church will be there to sustain and bless and support him to the end and out into the life to come.

One last word and I am through. I am happy to bring you word that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is using the Boy Scout program in a larger way than any other church in existence. I am happy to tell you that there are 846 troops among the Latter-day Saints; that you have a larger per capita of Scouts in your membership than any other religious body on record. I am happy also to tell you that, in the State of Utah, you have a larger percentage of Scouts in the boy population than any other state. And I am happy also to tell you that the reason for this is because you have a closer tie-in and community correlation with Scouting in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints than in any other church as a church body. You have absolutely correlated and included Scouting with your program for young boys. I am happy to say also that a large part of that success is due to the fact that you have had a leadership in your Church, in the personality of Mr. Oscar A. Kirkham and Mr. Datus E. Hammond and other executives, sponsored by your able President and members of the Council of Twelve, sponsored also by your local bishops, and carried on by your local wards and stakes throughout this country, that has given a volunteer and a loyal leadership and support that is unequalled by any other religious body in America. And I say that because I know, because I study the records of all of them. I close by saying that I pray God that, through our Lord Jesus Christ, the work of Scouting and youth in this Church may be carried on and live forever.

ELDER STEPHEN L. RICHARDS

I am sure that we all rejoice in the encouragement and satisfaction which we have just received. We could well say to the eminent gentleman who has just addressed us that nothing could be said to give us greater and more lasting satisfaction than that our youth are learning principles of righteous conduct and are being trained in the Gospel of Christ, preparatory for duties as citizens of the country, and for their service to fellowmen and God.

A MESSAGE OF JOY

I do not know that I can adequately convey to you a message that is in my heart today. I have felt that we have a duty, a paramount duty to all the world and to the Church to interpret the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a manner which shall appeal; to reveal the joy of it.

Today is Good Friday, a day which is set apart in Christendom in memory of the crucifixion of the Savior of the world. I have seen several representations of the personality of Christ portrayed on the stage, and more recently portrayed on the moving picture screen. I cannot remember that in all these representations I have ever seen the Christ made to appear happy. I have seldom if ever seen him appear to smile. All of the representations have brought a message of gloom, sadness and final death. It may be that certain good is accomplished by such representations. I take it that it is desirable that we should remember the sufferings of our Lord and Savior. We are called upon by the Lord himself to commemorate his broken flesh and his spilled blood. His remarkable, incomparable sacrifice should never leave our minds, for it is by and through that sacrifice that he did become our Savior and our Redeemer. Yet at the same time I do not look upon the Savior of the world as a man of gloom, nor do I regard the Gospel he gave to the world as one of despair, or one which is intended to kill the joy in humanity.

All the natural world bids us have joy. The flowers that bloom, the sweet perfumes that greet our senses, the colors that enliven our environment, are all calculated to bring to us joy, to enliven us with a sense of beauty, richness and fulness of life.

Christ did not come to take the color out of life, and I attribute the large measure of indifference to his word, indeed the resistance which is set up against it, in no small part to the erroneous interpretation of his cause, of his life and his service under which the world has suffered for centuries of time.

"Men are that they may have joy." It is as natural to long for joy as it is to live, and it would be a perversion of the fundamental philosophy of things if religion were to be interpreted as an imposition upon life, to take out its joy and its gladness.

PRINCIPLES OF GOSPEL A STABILIZING FORCE

I am thinking of the host of young, of these armies of Boy Scouts of whom we have just learned. I am thinking of their attitude and I am delighted that the Doctor reminded us that the program which the Boy Scouts' organization provides for these young men is of temporary and partial character only. These young men, a million strong, need something to stabilize their lives. They need a force to guide and direct them. They need to realize the richness and the beauty of life, not only during their youth but all through their maturity, and we hold out to the world blessed, beautiful, cheerful life-giving principles of the Gospel of Christ to supply that vital need. It is incumbent

upon those who teach the youth to interpret the Gospel for them in such terms that they may see its joys, its encouragements.

PROVISION FOR IMPROVEMENT AND PROGRESSION

Every man loves to improve. Progression is the very law of life itself. The Gospel of Jesus Christ, as interpreted by the Prophet Joseph Smith, is the embodiment of eternal progression. Improvement is constantly advocated and provision for it is made. Men seek today to improve their temporal condition. It is a day when men have been able to harness the forces of nature, and by the inventions which have been devised more liberally enjoy the resources of nature than ever before.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is in no sense incompatible with such important improvements. It recognizes the intelligence in man. It seeks through education to develop that intelligence, to expound the principles of life, to investigate and understand the secrets which nature and the universe hold.

MATERIAL PROSPERITY NOT CONDEMNED

Material prosperity is not repugnant to the spirit of the Gospel. Indeed it is regarded as being an accomplishment worth while to be able to so accumulate or organize an industry or enterprise as to improve the conditions under which people live. It is selfishness and personal aggrandizement at which the Gospel directs its injunctions. But when one who has the true spirit of the gospel at heart, one who has consecrated himself to the service of God and his fellowmen, has been able to acquire property or to organize materials or forces for the improvement of conditions, he in no sense comes under condemnation. The spirit of consecration, devotion to the cause, to altruistic interests, is of the very genius of the Gospel.

JOY THROUGH SACRIFICE AND SERVICE

When Christ said to his disciples that they should take up the cross and follow him, I have never interpreted that to mean that they were to load upon themselves gloom and despair. He said, "I am come that ye may have life, and have it more abundantly." He engaged his disciples to disseminate the glad tidings of great joy which he taught. It is true that he made sacrifice, it is true that his life was filled with many wrongs to him, and that he suffered inexplicably, and yet I cannot but think that in all his sufferings, indeed even in the giving of his life he experienced a joy that transcends the comprehension of the finite mind. He knew of the vitality of the work which he did. He knew he was the Savior of mankind. He knew of the beneficent results that would follow his supreme sacrifice, and that knowledge could not have failed to transport him with a joy that no one can fully appreciate and realize. The joy of service, the joy of spreading his great work, is the only comparable joy that we may have.

I want the youth of Zion, as well as the youth of all people, to

know that to believe in Christ and to live his gospel is to bring the supreme joy and happiness into their lives. There is no other royal road to the happiness of mankind excepting the path which Jesus set.

OUR OBLIGATION

And so, my brethren and sisters of the Church, having these wonderful interpretations of the life of Christ and of the purpose of his ministry given to us by the Prophet of the latter days, it becomes incumbent upon us to so live and so teach that the world will long for the gospel of Christ as it longs today for pleasure and the gratification of appetite.

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of them that bring glad tidings of great joy!" These glad tidings are entrusted to us to give to the world, and to give to our youth. I pray God that we may have the vision, the strength, and the love to give them faithfully, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER GEORGE F. RICHARDS

There has been, this afternoon, a very great and deserving compliment paid to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for its work with the boys of the Church as they have become associated with the Boy Scout movement.

PRACTICAL VALUE OF SCOUTING

I believe in Boy Scouting. It has come into my home. The past few days my seventeen-year-old boy has been attending a Scout powwow that has been conducted at the University of Utah. This afternoon, as I was about to leave for meeting, my boy sat at the table working with his papers. I suggested that I should be pleased if he felt like coming to conference with me. He said, "Father, I am working on these merit badges. I do not see how I can very well leave them." And realizing that this was a consummation of what he had been working on during the past three days, I felt to excuse him. This boy has earned and obtained seventy merit badges. He is not satisfied yet.

One evening as we sat in our home, one of my sons-in-law, who has had much experience in the handling of cattle and horses said he would like to know what my son had to learn in order to obtain a merit badge for horsemanship. So the boy proceeded to tell him, and, when he was through, my son-in-law remarked that he had been with horses and cattle all his life, but that he had just heard things about horsemanship that he had never known before.

I have thought that what is required to obtain the merit badges presented by the Boy Scout organization, would make a splendid junior-college course, and I know that the influence of the organization is wholesome and good. I believe that if our boys were to become good Scouts, they would be better deacons, teachers, and priests and better