

to settle the question as to who has the right to rule and reign; and he shall be defeated, no matter how great his forces.

GOD'S POWER TO BE MANIFESTED

I bear witness to you that God is speaking through the elements in the midst of the nations of the earth. He will manifest his power as never before. This Church will have the opportunity to demonstrate its power and its influence in the world. If only we will adhere to these principles, we shall rise and shine, and no power on earth or in hell shall stop the progress and growth and development of this work. The power to make it succeed is in our hands. God give us the vision to see clearly our glorious destiny, to recognize the principles by which we may, through adhering to them, reach that destiny, and come off victorious, to rejoice in the day of the triumph of God's work in the earth, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRESIDENT ANTHONY W. IVINS

My brethren and sisters, this conference is drawing to a close. Before we separate I desire to make a few remarks, and as a preface to what I wish to say I will read a few lines from the Book of Mormon. These are the words of Christ our Lord:

"He that believeth these things which I have spoken, him will I visit with the manifestations of my Spirit, and he shall know and bear record. For because of my Spirit he shall know that these things are true; for it persuadeth men to do good.

"And whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do good is of me; for good cometh of none save it be of me."

My brethren and sisters, during the sessions of this conference a great variety of topics have been touched upon. The doctrines of the gospel, the moral obligations which are upon us all, to be observers and exemplars of righteousness, the foundation upon which the Church is builded, and the circumstances under which it came into existence in this dispensation have all been referred to by the speakers.

THE GOSPEL NOT SOMETHING NEW

The one thing which I wish to impress upon your minds is this: The opening of this gospel dispensation, the restoration of the gospel of Christ in the day in which we live, did not come as an incident connected wholly with our day and time. It is not something new that has come into the world in conflict with other truths that exist in it, but it is a restoration of that which was commenced with the very beginning of the human race, and is intimately connected with that which shall continue unto the end.

It is true, as has been stated, that the priesthood of God our Father has come to us through the ministry of angels whom he has sent to the earth. It is true that there was no other church, as has

been stated, where this authority existed. But that does not mean and I would not have you understand that other men in times past, and other men at present, may not be inspired of God our Father to perform the work which they are doing. The Church has no conflict with men who are thus discharging their mission.

GOD'S PROMISES TO BE FULFILLED

The covenants entered into by God our Father with his people appear to have been almost lost, and absolutely so, for the mission of Christ himself at the time of his death appeared to have been a failure. The promises made to the house of Israel had not been fulfilled. They were scattered, their whereabouts unknown to the people at large. And yet the Lord had said that those promises were eternal. That means that they should live forever. After the dispersal of Israel there came a period, centuries of time, in which we have little authentic history. When we emerged from it we found ourselves in a world that was dominated by kingcraft and priestcraft. We found a people uneducated, untaught, untutored, without knowledge of the word of the Lord as contained in Holy Writ, for that was a book which had been sealed to them.

THE WORK OF THE REFORMERS

Then there came such men as John Wycliffe. Do you think that God called him? Yes, just as definitely as he called Joseph Smith, not to perform the same work; but this great personage, amid a time of confusion and ignorance, declared that the word of God should be published to the people, and the church said, "It shall not be published. We have the Pope, and we had better be without the law of God than without him." That is a historical fact. But Wycliffe went on. He did publish a Bible, and he was hounded and persecuted to his death for having done it, and after he died a petition was presented asking that his remains be buried in a dunghill because of this great sin that he had committed. He had actually published the scriptures. Finally, after a rather decent burial, his body was disinterred, burned, and the ashes scattered in the river Swift, and carried by that into the Severn, and thence into the ocean, in order that his work might be obliterated.

One hundred years later came William Tyndale with the same message, meeting with the same opposition. The church would not permit that the word of God be published. Tyndale said, "I will make every ploughboy in England to understand the scripture better than the Pope himself." Do you think that the Lord called that man? Yes, as definitely as he has ever called a man to do His work.

Then came Martin Luther, that great soul, who had the courage to stand against priestcraft and kingcraft, and declare that his conscience was a captive to God's word. That was his declaration when he stood before the Diet at Worms. "There I take my

stand; I can do no otherwise. So help me God." That was his answer to his accusers.

Tyndale was strangled by order of the church because he assumed to publish the Word of God. It was at a time when the Duke of Alva went into the Netherlands, authorized by the church to put to death all who were not orthodox, and he himself was the judge of their orthodoxy, who afterwards boasted that he had executed eighteen thousand men, and women were not spared. Any person who had the effrontery or the courage to say that the Eucharist was not actually converted into the body and blood of Christ, when he ate that piece of bread, and drank a swallow of wine, was put to death.

Those were the conditions which existed. The Lord raised these men up and associations were formed protesting against such abuses. Thank the Lord for them, paving the way for the opening of this gospel dispensation, when righteousness might prevail.

THE ATTITUDE OF THE CHURCH

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the friend of every man or woman, every association of men or women which is formed that has for its purpose the accomplishment of good. The words of Christ are true: That which is good comes from God, and that which is evil and tends to lead men away from the truth comes from that evil one.

But when it comes to associations of men and women, whether they be ecclesiastical or whether they be civil, that are bound together either secretly or openly for the accomplishment of a selfish purpose, or for the accomplishment of a purpose that is contrary to the word of the Lord as it is contained in the scriptures, against all such the Church is opposed.

I thought I would like to make that plain. Thank the Lord for good men and women whether they are in the Church or out of it. Thank the Lord for the efforts which are put forth to incline men to faith in Christ and to bring them to him. But we are irrevocably opposed to any association, whether it be religious, political, or social, which denies these eternal truths, which binds men in the bonds of ignorance, which shackles them as the people of the world were shackled in the middle ages, which slays men because they do not accept their point of view. It is anti-Christ, and not the doctrine of Christ our Lord. Those millions of people in Mexico who are fighting today for personal liberty will no longer be held in bondage, kept in ignorance of the word of God, and denied those privileges of progression which everyone is entitled to.

This is the attitude of the Church. We do not want to be at enmity with any good man or woman, or with any good institution. But we are against that which leads men and women into evil.

God bless you, my brethren and sisters, and send us away from here with a renewed determination to establish righteousness, to

give our sympathy to everything that leads to the intellectual and spiritual development of mankind. Amen.

PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

Before closing this conference, although the time has expired, I desire to say a few more words. I realize that there are people here from all our stakes from Canada to Mexico, and I feel assured in my heart that they will be perfectly willing to stay a few minutes beyond the allotted time.

GRATITUDE FOR SPIRIT OF THE LORD

I desire to express my gratitude for the rich outpouring of the Spirit of the Lord during our three days of conference, for the splendid music, for the inspirational prayers, expressive of the heartfelt devotion of those who have prayed for us, for the gospel of Jesus Christ, and for the Lord's many blessings unto us.

TIME INSUFFICIENT TO HEAR ALL AUTHORITIES

I am truly grateful for the inspiration of the Lord to each and all of those who have spoken. It would have been a source of pleasure to me to have heard from all of the General Authorities of the Church; also from some of the stake presidents and others that I had in mind to call upon; but time forbids. As I have remarked upon several occasions, I think we ought to have at least one more meeting of two hours in addition to the six meetings we now have in our conferences; there are so many that we should like to hear; but, to date, we have been contented with twelve hours of general conference meetings. Twelve hours once in six months is not a very long period for the people to stay together, and yet we notice considerable restlessness in a meeting the moment the two hours are up. But, even at the risk of wearying you, there are a few things more I desire to say.

A BLESSING FOR AUTHORITIES AND MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

I wish to endorse the remarks that have been made at this conference from start to finish. I wish to say to the Latter-day Saints that I believe God is blessing every one of us who is keeping his commandments, beyond even that of which we are worthy. I know he has blessed me beyond all that I could have asked or expected in my ministry, from the day that I was made the President of the Tooele stake of Zion to this moment. And I, as the President of the Church, standing at the head of the Church, pray God our heavenly Father to bless each and every one of the general, stake, ward, auxiliary, temple, school and mission authorities, all over the world, all men and women who are striving honestly and conscientiously to fulfil the duties and the obligations that rest upon them. I pray that all men and all women who hold any place of responsibility, no matter how high or how low, may magnify their callings and preach the gospel by their