

announce the time and place for the annual tithing settlement. All Latter-day Saints who have some income are invited to meet in privacy with the bishopric of the ward as common judges in Israel, so that they may examine their tithing record and declare to the bishopric whether it is a full tithing or not. Thousands will accept this invitation and will go gladly because they have observed this law. Many others will go with excuses and regrets and promises to do better in the future.

May we at this season of the year, as officers and members of the Church, observe the payment of our tithes and offerings, teach it in the quorums and classes of the priesthood, so that all the blessings which the Lord has promised his people through the observance of this law may be ours and this goodly land become sanctified and be in very deed a land of Zion to his people.

I want to bear my testimony that Mormonism as it is known, is the work of God, that the Lord has given me a testimony that Joseph Smith is his prophet, that he came in the dispensation of the fulness of times, bringing the gospel with power and authority to establish it. Ministering angels and glorious beings came with authority and power. Oh, his was a wonderful life! As a lad of fourteen years of age he saw the Father and the Son; at seventeen years of age a holy messenger came and told him what was expected of him; and each year thereafter until he was twenty-two the same messenger saw him and admonished and encouraged him. Then he received the plates, and by the gift and power of God they were translated. When he was twenty-four years of age the Book of Mormon was ready for publication. The same year he received the visit of John the Baptist and of Peter, James, and John, and of others, who gave him power and authority to establish the work of God upon the earth. At twenty-four years of age, or a little more, he had by that same power and authority organized the Church of which we are members. At thirty years of age he dedicated the first temple in this last dispensation. At thirty-nine years of age he had paid the penalty that the world had been hungering for for years, paid for his testimony with his blood. As President Brigham Young said at one time, "Forty-six times was he arrested, forty-six times was he acquitted. It cost his brethren thousands of dollars to keep him alive until his work was done." Yes, he died poor. Great leaders of religious movements usually become rich, but he died poor, too busy, as President Young said, in establishing the kingdom of God, to accumulate wealth. He is the man whom I testify was a servant of God, and I do it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### ELDER DAVID O. MCKAY

"But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

So wrote Paul the Apostle to Timothy, his "son in the faith." Tim-

othy was then at Ephesus, presiding over that branch of the Church. Paul was a prisoner in Rome, possibly facing the death to which he refers when he writes, "I am now ready to be offered." Paul seems to have cherished a warm affection for this young man whom he baptized early in his ministry, possibly at the same time as when he baptized Timothy's mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois.

#### KEEP THE FAITH

The part that I wish to emphasize of this last message to this fellow servant whom he loved may be put in three words: "Keep the faith."

Once before in a letter Paul had urged Timothy to do this very thing—to hold the faith:

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." \* \* \*

"Continue in the doctrine: for in doing this thou shalt save thyself and them that hear thee."

As I have listened to the inspirational addresses that have been delivered during the sessions of this conference I have wondered what message I might give to those who have assembled and to those unto whom you will carry the message. It is an important responsibility, this speaking to a conference of the Church. The time for each speaker is limited, but his responsibility to give an important message is not lessened thereby. Just what this message should be has given me prayerful concern.

I am impressed to give this last message of Paul to Timothy: "Keep the faith." To some of you such an admonition might seem trite, as having very little weight, or as carrying with it but little importance, but as I stand before you today I can think of no better message to give to the people of the Latter-day Saints. "Hold the faith." Keep it. When I say this, I am thinking of young men and young women who are perplexed in their minds about the problems of the day, who are striving to harmonize the teachings of the Latter-day Saint Church with some of the teachings which they are receiving in schools and with some of the condemnatory remarks which are made by their associates. These young men and young women are sincere in their desire to do right and I believe they want the truth, but they are perplexed, they wonder sometimes with Pilate, "What is truth?"

In all these perplexities, in all these wonderings, I would have them anchor their souls with this thought: "I am going to keep the faith, I am going to be true to the faith of my fathers until I have proved beyond a doubt that that faith is not in harmony with truth." And I know the day will never come when a sincere soul can prove that this faith is not in harmony with truth. A sincere soul will find it in harmony with truth, for it is truth.

#### WHAT IT MEANS TO KEEP THE FAITH

What does it mean to keep the faith? It means first, that we

accept Jesus Christ, not merely as a great teacher, a powerful leader, but as the Savior, the Redeemer of the world. Now, there is much associated with that, for I know that many students are reading comments from reputedly great educators who say that in order to be a christian it is not necessary to accept Christ as the literal Son of God, it is not necessary to believe in the immaculate conception, it is not necessary to believe in the literal resurrection from the grave. But he who keeps the faith will accept Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world. I would have all men keep that faith. I think it is fundamental to man's happiness, fundamental to his peace of mind. I think it is the cardinal principle of the Church of Jesus Christ. A young man who keeps that faith may not in his heart know that all things which Jesus said are true, but if he holds to the truth of Christ's divinity he will keep in harmony with the Savior's teachings by the spirit of faith. And we walk by faith in this world. We are as the little boy who holds his father's hand in the midst of a great city: the little boy is confused by the din and bustle of the crowd, and realizes that if he breaks away he will be lost and may not be able to get back to his father. While he holds that father's hand, however, he is safe. He has an assurance that his father will lead him back to his home. So it is with the young man who keeps his faith in this latter-day work. There may be confusion around him, his thoughts may be distracted, but he has his hand in that of his Redeemer, and with faith in that spiritual inspiration he will be led into truth, his conscience will be awakened to that great spiritual reality which is around us.

#### MAN'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE INFINITE

Man is a spiritual being, a soul, and at some period of his life everyone is possessed with an irresistible desire to know his relationship to the infinite. He realizes that he is not just a physical object that is to be tossed for a short time from bank to bank, only to be submerged finally in the everflowing stream of life. There is something within him which urges him to rise above himself, to control his environment, to master the body and all things physical and live in a higher and more beautiful world.

It was James Russell Lowell who wrote in his description of that beautiful day in June:

"Every clod feels a stir of might,  
An instinct within it that reaches and towers,  
And, groping blindly above it for light,  
Climbs to a soul in grass and flowers."

So there is in man a spiritual longing, a desire for spiritual communion which attends and which may at all times lift him from that which is physical and sensual to the realm of spirituality.

#### SAFE ANCHORAGE

I believe that in this day we are coming more to a realization of that

great truth. President Nibley referred to it this morning. Young man, keep your faith. Know that the greatest of all teachers, the Perfection of Humanity, the Redeemer of the world, is the only safe guide to all hungering souls. That is what Mormonism teaches. It is not dogma, it is a reality.

Millikan, the great scientist, so wrote when he penned these words:

"The most important thing in all the world is a belief in the reality of moral and spiritual values."

These thoughts I associate with that one safe anchor, keeping the faith; the knowledge that Jesus Christ is the Redeemer of the world. Let neither sophistry nor golden-tongued oratory delivered by men who have lost their anchorage in Christ, lead you away from that truth.

To keep the faith means also to accept the fact that the Savior, a resurrected personal being, has appeared in this dispensation and restored the authority to men to preach in his name, and to officiate in things pertaining to God. That too is a great anchor. Some of the young men say, "We do not know that"; but they believe it, and that belief, with confidence in their parents, with confidence in their own experience, their own feelings, should be sufficient to hold them in anchorage until the real knowledge takes possession of them, as it will. No sincere youth can hold to that truth and live in obedience to what it inspires without receiving an assurance from that spiritual reality that Jesus Christ has appeared in this dispensation. Oh, what that means to an unbelieving world! Who can grasp its full significance? What a revelation to man regarding the Godhead! What it means regarding life after death—the reality and personal relationships after death! What it means regarding God's fatherhood to man and the brotherhood of the human family! All these great questions are involved in that great declaration that Joseph Smith received a personal visitation from the Father and the Son.

#### IDEALS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Again, to keep the faith means that young men will strive to keep themselves as Paul asked Timothy to keep himself, "exemplary in action, exemplary in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." Such, also, is Mormonism; and our young men believe in it. Just within the last month, I have read approximately one hundred papers written by as many young men and young women on the subject, "What it means to be a missionary." We asked them to write their own honest thoughts. Parents, I want to congratulate you on the part you have contributed toward the excellency of those papers which revealed a training on the part of these young people that is most commendable. The papers were neatly written. The percentage of misspelled words was small, there was not a page which was blotted, every one was a credit to the writer. But the best part of it all was their statements regarding the ideals of the Church, their desire to live in purity and to reflect credit upon the people whom they are

representing. You cannot tell me that our boys and girls are not desirous of doing that which is right. Some of them gave expression to thoughts which perhaps are a little surprising, but they were honest expressions. The important thing is that these young people are going out into the world anchored, I believe, in the thought that they want to be true to the faith of their fathers, and if they do, they will keep themselves pure and unspotted from the world. Keeping the faith means just that. I know that I am speaking to fathers and mothers who would rather have their boys and girls do this than to have them accomplish anything else in all the world.

#### KEEP CLEAN

In confirmation of this, I am reminded of a message that was sent by a mother to her son in Holland. It was written on a little package containing, I think, a present to her boy. The mother sent it over with one of the missionaries, and it was handed to me in Liverpool to be forwarded to the boy in Holland. On the outside of that package, written in the mother's hand, was this message: "Quinn, keep clean."

In those three words was expressed a mother's most sincere hope and prayer for the boy she loved better than her own life. "Keep clean." To keep the faith of our fathers we must be clean from the sins of the world, young men as well as young women. Is there anything which will contribute more to the peace and happiness of mankind than chaste living? The perpetuity of our government depends upon the stability of our homes, and the stability of our homes depends upon the purity of the parentage in those homes, the fathers as well as the mothers.

Youth of the land, when we say, keep the faith, we are but asking you to be patriots as well as to be true men, to be strong in your youth, that you may be worthy of fatherhood; young women, that you may possess the beauty of honorable and worthy motherhood. Thus you will contribute to the strength of your community, to the strength and perpetuity of the nation you love.

#### TRUE MANHOOD AND TRUE WOMANHOOD

Oh, I love the Church that stands for these high ideals, not in theory only but in practice; and I love the boys and girls who are inclined to protect themselves from the evils with which they are surrounded, who are anchored in the faith of their fathers. We are not outgrowing it, we cannot outgrow it. Our point of view may be somewhat different, and the application of the teaching may vary from the application made by our parents, as President Ivins pointed out this morning, but the faith is sound, it is eternal. Gospel principles are truly the "power of God unto salvation."

This summer, ninety-six young men and young women went out for a party. They belonged to an organization in one of our Church schools. They were properly chaperoned and stayed over night. When

they returned home next day one of the anxious fathers very wisely questioned his boy as to the actions of the crowd, and among other things asked: "Son, how many boys were tipsy?" "Why, what do you mean, father?" "I mean how many of the boys drank whisky?" "Not one." "How many of them smoked?" The son hesitated a moment, then said: "I cannot recall one." Then, turning to his brother he asked, "Did you know of any boys or girls who used cigarettes?" "No," said his brother, "there was not one. If there had been he would be expelled from the society."

I think those ninety-six boys and girls are cherishing the ideals of true manhood and true womanhood, and they are keeping the faith. God bless them in doing it.

#### OBSERVANCE OF LAW REQUIRED

Finally, to keep the faith means to keep the laws of our country. No man who keeps the faith will participate in the making or in the distributing of "bootleg" whisky. He who indulges in such illegality is disloyal to his country and to his Church. For nearly a hundred years the Church has preached and plead with men and women to keep themselves free from intoxicants and the excessive use of stimulants. Today we heard that plea repeated by President Grant when he urged all to keep the Word of Wisdom.

To accept Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the Savior of the world; to believe in the resurrection and in the immortality of man; to be tolerant, charitable, benevolent, chaste; to defend the purity of the home; to be loyal to our country, and true to our God—these are some of the virtues connoted by Paul's admonition to keep the faith.

God help us as young men and women, as members of the Church, to do this, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### ELDER CHARLES H. HART

*Of the First Council of Seventy and President of the Canadian Mission*

I have been thrilled, my brethren and sisters, not only by the songs that have been sung in our hearing today, but by the testimonies of the brethren. I recognize the wise statesmanship involved in the speeches delivered by the First Presidency of the Church this morning.

May I paraphrase the declaration of Apostle Paul to the Romans, when he said: "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ," and say, "For I am not ashamed of the restored Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."

There was a time when the name "Mormon" was used as a term of derision. Indeed an early decision by one of the appellate courts of New York went so far as to decide that the Court would take "judicial notice" that it was libelous *per se* for one to falsely publish of another that he was a member of the Mormon Church. Of course that decision was erroneous. At most it would be a question of fact. It might in