

but he was born of honest parents, and he was reared in a religious home, where love and faith prevailed. They believed their Bible, and so when Joseph read: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not . . . but let him ask in faith," Joseph believed. With what result? With the result that he went into the woods to pray, in the same spirit and for the same purpose that we ought to pray, in humility, desiring the help of heaven. And he got it, so he claimed. Well, what was the claim? The most glorious vision that has ever yet been given to mortal man, in which he beheld the very God of Heaven, the Father of all, and Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, gloriously revealed to him. He heard their voices. He received their instruction. Did he or did he not? Was he mistaken? Explain, if he was mistaken, how he got his wonderful knowledge of the whole field of the Bible, and its inspiration, and how he was able to teach the glorious things he taught. But he received the visitation of other heavenly messengers. Were these things true?

ADVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE

As I say to young people, I say to you, my brethren and sisters, how can you explain Joseph Smith? I have only indicated an outline of the study that might be made, but I think it is the most important study that any young person, or any unconvinced older person might make. And if we will make it in honesty, in sincerity, with a desire to know the truth, asking God to help us—following the instructions given in Moroni 10:4—we shall certainly not be left in doubt as a result of a careful, thorough study; we must come to the conclusion that we have a sure and a solid basis for our faith.

My brethren and sisters, let us get that faith. If we have it how can we be slackers in this Church? How could any holder of the holy Priesthood be a slacker? Why not respond to the teachings that are given to us by the Presidency of this Church and the inspired leaders of this Church, and those that we may read in the standard works of the Church? Why not respond and act, knowing of a surety that God lives, and that this is his work—a knowledge that all of us can acquire if we only will put ourselves in a condition to receive that knowledge.

God help us to do so, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER ANTOINE R. IVINS

Of the First Council of the Seventy

I am pleased, my brethren and sisters, to stand before you in this capacity this afternoon, and bear my testimony, along with the brethren who have already addressed you, to the efficacy and the truthfulness of this wonderful work in which we are engaged.

There are many things that might be said here this afternoon, many lines of thought that might be followed, and one wonders just what he may say that may be of worth and value to the congregation. It is no mean responsibility to stand here and occupy

the time of eight or ten thousand people. You have come for a purpose, and if we fail to meet that purpose perhaps we shall fall under condemnation.

The other day, some little time ago, I was talking with a banker who knew my father, and he wanted to express a word of appreciation for him, and he said: "He comes the nearest to combining religion and business of any man I know." He said: "For me, they don't mix. I am a banker." I wonder whether they ought not to.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is a gospel of love. When Jesus was asked what is the greatest commandment, he said that the first and greatest commandment is to love the Lord thy God with all thy might, mind and strength. "And the second is like unto it; thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

Now, we are here to hear about the Gospel, and perhaps to get some stimulus from the discussion, and if I could say anything that would make a single person go out of this Conference feeling more friendly toward his brother and his neighbor than when he came here, I would feel amply repaid.

I believe that the Gospel of Jesus Christ has in it every element that is essential and necessary for the conduct of all the affairs of human activity. In other words, I believe that there is nothing that men do in honor before God, and essential to their development and well-being, in which that fundamental principle of love should not enter.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the plan that was given in the beginning, when the foundation of the world was laid, for the maximum and greatest development of mankind. Christ came to emphasize that thing, and to emphasize it by laying down his life, in love, for the redemption of mankind. And I firmly believe that if we would, that principle could characterize every worthy activity of life.

I quite agree with my banker friend that if the purpose of banking is to squeeze out of the populace the last ounce of its life-blood, so to speak, in interest, that they are inimical. But I believe that that is not the purpose of an institution of that kind. It should not be. It is here for the service of mankind, and when it fails to serve it fails in its purpose; and when it fails to appreciate man and its responsibility to him, it fails in its purpose. I believe that even such a cold-blooded institution as that could be and should be governed and administered according to the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I believe that if men, the rulers of nations, could so eradicate from their hearts the greed and avarice that are likely to accumulate in administering business affairs, that even nations could live in peace and harmony and trust each other; that even nations could allow a weaker nation to subsist and exist in peace and lend it a friendly hand.

I believe that all of the trouble that the world is going through

now, and all of the headlines that we read in such hideous black type in the newspapers, come about because men fail to appreciate that one principle. If we could only bring that to bear upon the activities of our lives, we would be happy and we would be prosperous, and would be courageous and fearless in facing the future.

I think the greatest fear that men have, perhaps, is the fear that this avaricious spirit will cause somebody to come in upon them in their old age, and deprive them of the means of self-maintenance and the respect that goes with it. If every man knew that he could live to the end of his days with an opportunity to serve the Lord and his fellows, and eat and wear what was essential to his happiness, this would be a wonderful and an Utopian world. But it will never be until we introduce into our daily activities that principle of love.

Sitting before me is a vast body of the Priesthood of God. Every one of you who has accepted that responsibility has allowed a servant of God to lay his hands upon your head and commission you to function in the orders of the Priesthood, and when you do so you either expressly or tacitly agree to serve God to the best of your ability.

Now, if we, all of us who hold the Priesthood, could consciously constitute ourselves, as a body, to apply in our daily activities the principle of love, we could dominate the society in which we live until that spirit would be characteristic of it.

I am sure that there is efficacy in that principle. I have seen it applied in instances. I have seen it in combat with the principle of greed and avarice, and I have seen it come off victorious. I have seen the man who allowed it to actuate his life, grow from one position of responsibility to another, until he commanded the respect of all his fellows. I know, because of observations, that it is a virile principle in human activity.

I have had the experience of living in a—pueblo, I was going to say—in a population where the members of the Church so dominated the activities of that people that the spirit of love was paramount, and I have seen that people grow to independence, isolated by an imaginary boundary line in a foreign country. I have seen them develop along those principles to wonderful accomplishments, and I have seen the spirit of peace and love settle down upon that community, and watched its growth and development.

I bear you my testimony that it is a principle of life and activity, a principle that can dominate our lives and enter into them, and I testify that when it does, peace and joy and harmony come into the lives of those who practice it.

We have been told this afternoon that one of the needs of our youth—or yesterday, rather, we were told that one of the crying needs of our youth is more faith in the leaders of this Church. I want to bear my testimony this afternoon to that fact, and then I want to add that the leaders of the Church are worthy of that faith.

I have been blessed, perhaps, greater than the average member of the Church, in the privilege of associating with the leaders of the Church during the time of my life, and I have associated rather intimately with the man who now directs the destinies, under the inspiration of God, of this body of worshipers we call the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I have known his associates in the presiding quorums of the Church. And then I have had almost six years of contact with one of the bodies of the General Authorities of this Church, the First Council of the Seventy. I have met them all in solemn assembly in the Temple of God, and I have yet to hear fall from their lips an expression of an ulterior purpose. I have never heard, in their councils, any advice given but under the inspiration of God, if I could interpret that spirit.

I know that they have your welfare at heart, and I believe that any man or woman who has no "axe to grind," who will come and investigate their lives and their conduct, cannot help but admit it. They try to exemplify in their lives the cardinal principles of the Gospel of Christ.

Now, they do not pretend to be perfect, any more than I do. I do not pretend to come near perfection. But I do want to tell you that they serve you to the best of their ability, and if any man in the congregation, or outside of it, under the sound of my voice, which goes out over the radio, were asked to step into their shoes, the only thing he could do would be to serve according to his light and that which God might give him, and they do it in your interest and in mine. And God has blessed them, and he has carried this Church onward in that spirit of love and unselfishness and sacrifice.

I doubt whether there is a man in those councils who sought the appointment, either personally or through his friends. It comes unbidden. It always comes as a shock to the man who receives it, and usually it requires the giving up of ideals and ambitions that he has had; to accomplish things in a field of labor to which he is attached; and every man surrenders that in a spirit of humility and service, and I think, as a people, we ought to honor and respect them, to trust them and to love them.

If we will clean house and put our hearts in attune with the Spirit of God, go daily about our business, under the influence of that Spirit, God will bless us with contentment and a peace and a freedom from worry that we can get no other way.

The Spirit of God is in the Church. The spirit of love is in the Church. While we may have some sordid experiences at times, they but try us, and if we will meet them in that spirit of love God will carry us through. While we may sometimes suffer loss and sacrifice, there is a development even in that which should make us love our God and our fellows more.

I pray that God may be with us, that he may give us an appreciation of the Gospel that we have within our midst, the tool that is given to us, if we will, by which we are to carve out from the

granite of our existence a niche and a place in which to live. If we will try it we will find it effective.

Benjamin Franklin once said that he learned as a boy, that if he ever wanted a man to take an interest in him, the thing he had to do was to let that man serve him some way. God stands ready to serve us through the instrumentality of this organization that we have. We stand as your servants, ready to serve you. We love you. If you will serve the Gospel that has been given to us, in that spirit, you will learn to love that Gospel just the same way. If you will give it your time and your talent, you will love it in proportion to the service that you give unto it.

That is my prayer in your behalf, that you and I and all of us may freely give unto this great body and unto our God the service that we owe it and him, that in giving we may gain greater power to give, and greater love and greater satisfaction. God bless you. Amen.

ELDER SAMUEL O. BENNION

Of the First Council of the Seventy

I sincerely trust that I may be led to say this afternoon that which will be best for me and best for all who are here. The Spirit of the Lord is in this great congregation, gathered together for the purpose of paying tribute to our Eternal Father, and to receive from him information and knowledge that will help us on the journey of life.

Yesterday morning, during the sermon of President Grant, when he called attention to the fact that the Word of Wisdom was given by revelation for the well being of the people, I thought of how, from the beginning, the Lord has had a personal interest in his children and has directed them in both temporal and spiritual affairs. His first commandment to our father Adam, when he sent him out of the Garden of Eden into the world that was to bring forth thorns, thistles and noxious weeds, was concerning his daily labor:

In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground, for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return.

Later he called upon Adam by his own voice and revealed the foundation principles of the Gospel, particularly the saving ordinance of baptism.

The Lord visited him and said unto him:

I am God. I made the world and men before they were in the flesh.

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If thou wilt turn unto me, and hearken unto my voice, and believe, and repent of all thy transgressions, and be baptized, even in water, in the name of mine only Begotten Son, who is full of grace and truth, which is Jesus Christ, the only name which shall be given under heaven, whereby salvation shall come unto the children of men, ye shall receive the gift of the