

May we be humble as we live upon the earth. May we repent of our sins. May we take this message seriously as

it comes to us today, and live better and finer than we have ever lived before, I humbly pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ELDER SAMUEL O. BENNION

Of the First Council of the Seventy

ONE of the most important documents that I have read is the message which was delivered by the First Presidency last spring. Today we have had another equally important message. These brethren are inspired of the Lord. I don't know where we could find such writing outside of Holy Writ itself, and to me it is Holy Writ. We have been called to keep the commandments of God and to walk uprightly before Him. If this great body of Priesthood will yield to the persuasion of these brethren and set the proper example, there will certainly be an influence for good in this great land that never has been felt before, for here is the strength of God, the strength of the Holy Priesthood, vested in this Church.

I often think of the words of the great Solomon who said, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." Men who have it in their hearts to keep the commandments of God, will keep them. They will not commit adultery who say and feel that it is a sin akin to murder, a thing the Lord has said we shall not do. Such men will not steal, they will not lie, they will not bear false witness, or violate the Sabbath day. Men will not leave the work of God undone if they feel in their hearts that it is the thing for them to do.

Brethren, there never was a time that was more opportune for us than right now. There will never be another time when we will be enjoying this earthly existence. This is your day and mine. We will never go through this world again as we are now. We are here writing our history. We write it every day and there can be no change. As we write it, that is the way it will be. We write it by our lives. No matter what our vocation is, no matter where we are, there is nothing that will build us more surely and make us

stronger than an assurance that we have the truth. As we work in our fields or in our homes, in our shops or in our offices, let us keep in mind this thought: This is the work of God that I am engaged in.

I know that the Lord, our Eternal Father, appeared to Joseph Smith and introduced to him the Savior of the world and said unto him, "This is my beloved Son—hear Him." If we will keep in our minds all the time that the Priesthood of the Son of God is in the earth and that the same leadership that was introduced to the Prophet Joseph Smith is here; if we will reflect constantly upon the high standard of living and teachings that have been ours from the days of Joseph until now; and if we will remember that there has never been a wavering in any way in the leadership of this Church, we cannot help feeling in our hearts and souls that this is the work of God. If we do that we will be strong and we will be able to carry on as the Lord would have us do. We will not be weak, and we will not be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine, but we will feel in our hearts to know the truth. We will understand the course we should take and the opinion that we should express; we will know that we are the Lord's chosen people.

I am thankful for the testimony that I have, for the privilege of laboring in a small way in this great Church of Christ on this earth in this dispensation; I rejoice that I have been permitted to take a part in building this western commonwealth. I know that is the feeling of every true Latter-day Saint. I pray the Lord to bless the leadership of this Church, for this Church is led by a prophet of the living God who was raised up for this very purpose. He stands as a monument in faith and ex-

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First Day

pression of that code of living which, I want to say to you brethren, commands the respect of all honorable men and women everywhere when they become acquainted with the facts and know us as we are. These are the things we

should keep in our minds, and if we do, we will not be weak and we will not fail, but we will die worthy men, Latter-day Saints in full fellowship. To this end I pray, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The congregation arose and joined in singing, "Go Ye Messengers Of Glory." (Words by John Taylor).

ELDER GEORGE ALBERT SMITH

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

WE certainly have had a glorious time today. From the first prayer that was offered, the first hymn sung, this house has been the abiding place of the Spirit of the Lord. Those of us who have assembled have undoubtedly been enriched by the experiences through which we have passed.

Reference has been made to the fact that recently one of the brethren had visited some of our shrines, if we may call them shrines, and that reminds me that within the last year I have been at the birthplace of the Prophet Joseph Smith. It is just about the same size village as it was when he was born. I have been at Kirtland, Ohio, where the Latter-day Saints built a temple. It is the largest building in that section of the country now, and Kirtland is a village shrunk to the point that it no longer has a post office. I also have been at Far West where there were three thousand of our people, when they were driven out, and there are only three buildings on the tract of land that we referred to as Far West—only three, and very poor buildings at that. I have been thinking also of other places where our people lived, where they have developed lands and built houses, and then were compelled to leave their homes and go away. Independence, Missouri, is no larger in point of population, or little larger, than it was a hundred years ago. The section of country around Nauvoo is just a village. Nauvoo, when the Saints were driven out, was a city of more than twenty thousand people, and today it has neither a streetcar nor a railroad train, and its population does not exceed one thousand people. Our

people came out of the world because they were compelled to come. It was a choice between the world and the wilderness, but see what the Lord wrought and see how He has fulfilled His promise.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all things will be added unto you."

You will find no place even today, in all America, no house of worship, equal to the house you are sitting in now, in point of convenience and the ability to hear the voices of those who speak. I know of no city more beautifully laid out, in all America, than this with its one hundred forty thousand population, and we have other fine cities. The Lord brought us here when it was a wilderness, and He has made it delightful to dwell in. Surely we are grateful for our heritage.

This morning the patriarch to the Church was introduced to you. His remarkable lineage is worth tracing. He is a son of one of the mighty apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He is the grandson of one of the great presidents of the Church. He is a great-grandson of Hyrum Smith, the martyr, who was the brother of the Prophet Joseph Smith, who gave his life with his brother that this gospel might be kept in the world. He is a great-great-grandson of Joseph Smith, Senior, the first patriarch in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to be so designated, and the first man to receive the testimony of Joseph Smith the Prophet that he had beheld a heavenly vision and had listened to the voice of an angel.