

The wisdom of the ages to which he refers is the holy Bible. History has proved that humanity needs guidance and enlightenment. Without guidance man is a law unto himself. He falters and fails. There are signposts everywhere, but men, in their eagerness to pursue their own course, pass them by. God knows His children. He has made provision for their safety and their security. Christ's gospel is the beacon light to guide humanity. It points the way of salvation. It has come to earth in its fulness to lead the children of men back to God. The true end and felicity of man lies in the enjoyment of God's favor, and His saving power.

Joseph Smith brought to light a great revelation given to Abraham of old. "We will prove them herewith," said God to Abraham, "to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them; and they who keep their first estate shall be added upon; * * * and they who keep their second estate shall have glory added upon their heads forever and forever."

Divine guidance for a wise and holy purpose is thus assured to Abraham and his children to the latest generation. One of the most powerful sermons ever delivered by man was preached by Peter to the Jews on the day of Pentecost. It was persuasive and convincing and touched deeply the hearts of the listeners. They were pricked in their hearts and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" It was a cry of despair and remorse, an appeal for enlightenment. Said Peter:

... Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. (Acts 2: 38-39.)

May we heed the counsel and the guidance which we receive as members of Christ's Church, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER HAROLD B. LEE

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

PIONEER LABORS

When our Pioneer fathers came to this semi-arid country they settled on the mountain streams without the benefits of which they could not have made their homes or established communities. They organized themselves into irrigation companies in order that the water so vital to their welfare might be properly distributed, each man receiving shares according to his need. They builded ditches and canals; they constructed reservoirs to hold back the spring run-off for late summer use. They gave special attention to the securing of culinary water that they might have from the mountain springs the purest of the water for human use. They were aware of the fact that if they carried this water long distances in open ditches there was danger of pollution; that disease and epidemic

might result, unless there be a special care given. With that in mind they safe-guarded the channels, and later constructed pipe-lines that were placed below the level of the ground to protect from heat and frost. To enjoy the benefits of this system, it was necessary that they work together, each man receiving an assessment which he was expected to pay either in labor or in money, and for the maintenance of such a system each was required to pay his annual dues. Those who refused to accept such obligations were penalized by the company's refusing to deliver the water that they were therefore not entitled to.

GOSPEL ESSENTIAL TO SPIRITUAL LIFE

Just as water was and is today essential to the physical life of those who settle in this country, just so is the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ essential to the spiritual life of God's children. That analogy is suggested by the words of the Savior to the woman at the well in Samaria, when He said: "... whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." (John 4:14.)

Great reservoirs of spiritual water, called scriptures, have been provided in this day and have been safeguarded that all might partake and be spiritually fed, and that they thirst not. That these scriptures have been considered of great importance, is indicated by the words of the Savior, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39); and the experience of the Nephites being sent back to procure the brass plates which contained the scriptures so vital to the welfare of the people. The use of those scriptures was suggested in the statement of Nephi when he said, "... for I did liken all scriptures unto us, that it might be for our profit and learning." (1 Nephi 19:23.) And again, when Laban forbade their use of these scriptures, the angel declared it were better that one man should perish than a whole nation dwindle and perish in unbelief. Through these generations the messages from our Father have been safeguarded and carefully protected, and mark you likewise that in this day the scriptures are the purest at their source, just as the waters were purest at the mountain source; the purest word of God, and that least apt to be polluted, is that which comes from the lips of the living prophets who are set up to guide Israel in our own day and time.

The distribution system which our Heavenly Father has provided is known as the Church and kingdom of God to give aid to His great a divine purpose in bringing to pass the immortality and the eternal life of man, whereby eternal joy might come. But because of the free agency which our Father in His wisdom has vouchsafed to us, His children, the dangers of pollution are great, for ever beckoning with tinsel show and with gaudily wrapped packages, with neon signs beckoning on every hand, the devil has tried to entrap, and under the label of "pleasures" he has sought to dissuade mankind from a straight course which would lead to eternal happiness. Pleasure-mad crowds surge at the bargain counters of him who would thus destroy.

PRIESTHOOD QUORUMS CHANNELS OF TRUTH

The Priesthood quorums and the auxiliary organizations are the carefully guarded channels provided within the Church through which precious truths are to be disseminated. Some have speculated that the strength of this Church lies in the tithing system; some have thought in the missionary system; but those who understand rightly the word of the Lord understand full well that the strength of the Church is, fundamentally, in neither of these. The strength of the Church is not in a large membership, but the real strength of this Church lies in the power and authority of the holy Priesthood which our Heavenly Father has given to us in this day. If we exercise properly that power and magnify our callings in the Priesthood, we will see to it that the missionary work shall go forward, that the tithing shall be paid, that the Welfare plan prospers, that our homes shall be safe, and that morality among the youth of Israel shall be safeguarded.

Just as in the illustration of the water system, however, we have certain obligations which we must assume if we are to be blessed. The price we pay for these eternal blessings and the right to use of this eternal stream of water is first, to yield obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel, second, to render willing and unselfish sacrifice, and third, to assume responsibility and our obligation to serve our fellow men whereby we might gain rights and titles to blessings that our Heavenly Father has in store for us. Every faithful Church member can bear witness to the joy and extreme happiness that comes to one who has kept the law; but, perhaps all of us can likewise bear witness to the anguish and the disappointment that come through lack of obedience and through our own negligence.

EXPERIENCES OF AN ARMY DOCTOR

Last June I was in an army camp, up near Corvallis, Oregon, I listened to a young Latter-day Saint army doctor tell of an experience he had down in one of the islands just off the raging battle of Guadalcanal. He said they had established a hospital base back away from the front line where they were receiving the wounded that were now coming from that area. Because of their limited facilities and the great need of medical attention by so many wounded, it was necessary that someone look carefully over the men who were brought in, that those who were most seriously wounded might be attended to first, and his was the task of making the initial examination as the boys came ashore. As he leaned over to these boys who were conscious, he would whisper to them, ask them how they were feeling, and would ask each one, "What church do you belong to?"

On one occasion as he leaned close to the ear of one boy, pretty badly wounded, and asked him what church he belonged to, the boy whispered back, "I am a Mormon." The doctor said, "Well, I'm a Mormon, too. I'm an elder in the Church. Is there anything you would like me to do for you?" The boy, as he clenched his teeth, with resolute white

face, replied, "I'd like you to administer to me." The doctor said, "I took out my little bottle of consecrated oil, and there before the gaze of all, because there was no chance for privacy, I anointed his head with oil, by the authority of the holy Priesthood. I blessed him that he might be made well. I took him into the hospital tent for the care that he so much needed, and returned back to the other wounded men. By a strange coincidence I found the next boy that I approached was likewise one of our own Latter-day Saint boys, and I asked him the same question, "What would you like me to do?" and he replied, "I'd like a cigaret." I said, "I think I could get you a cigaret," and as the boy started to smoke the cigaret I said to him, "Son, are you sure there is nothing else you would like me to do for you now?" Tears filled the boy's eyes. He said, "Yes, there is, doctor, but I'm afraid I am not entitled to ask for what's in my heart. I wonder if the Lord would have a blessing for me. Would you administer to me?" I said, "We'll leave that for our Heavenly Father to judge. If you want a blessing, I shall be his servant in asking the Lord to give you that blessing."

WORK OF THE CHURCH AMONG SOLDIERS

I ask you, my brethren, what condition are our boys in? What part have you played in preparing them to partake deeply of the streams of eternal life? A great missionary work is going forward under the guidance of the Church today among these forty thousand Mormon boys out in armed service. In this missionary work, under the authority of the Priesthood, they have been organized into M.I.A. groups and have been prepared to partake of these things which our Lord has for them. On my desk I have a picture of a group over in New Guinea who are holding a sacrament service. Their rifles are across their knees, which evidences the fact that they are on alert and expecting attack any moment. I read in a letter how down on the Midway Island our boys likewise gathered around to hold sacrament services. Said the boy writing this letter, "... because we felt if the Church could come that close to us we would feel better and our minds would be relieved." And when I read the story of the boy who, with five companions flew over in a plane, by permission of their commanding officers in Sicily, to administer to one of their sick comrades who had been severely wounded, when I read of a boy getting the names of our boys who had been killed in this last campaign down in Italy, securing the places where they were to be buried or had been buried that he might go there and dedicate their graves; when I read of the stories of their holding Sunday services out in the olive groves of that place, their songs rending the Sabbath air, I remember the words that have come from our Father:

And that thou mayest more fully keep thyself unspotted from the world, thou shalt go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments upon my holy day. (D. & C. 59:9)

I can't think of the work being done among these boys, and the results therefrom, without remembering that if there be thirty-two thousand

Latter-day Saints in the war-torn countries of Europe as has been stated in this conference, approximately fifty percent of these live in the nations we now call the Axis powers. If the same percentage of boys have been called from among the Saints there as have been called here, there are probably no fewer than seven or eight hundred of our Latter-day Saint boys who hold the Priesthood bearing the arms in those nations we call our enemies. Oh, I pray that the channel of communication will be opened to those boys whom we can't reach with M.I.A. organizations, to whom we cannot send books, to whom we cannot give the ministrations of the Priesthood. I pray God that He will save our boys in those countries who perhaps are no more guilty of wrongdoing than our own loved boys in this country, and yet are suffering the pangs of a terrible war.

FAITHFULNESS SHOWN BY A YOUNG GIRL

I met a young girl over at the Lion House last summer where I had been speaking to a group of a hundred and fifty or two hundred girls who had come to Salt Lake City from outside of the city for work here. After the meeting, this young girl came up to me, with a sparkle in her eyes, and showed me a picture of a handsome soldier boy down in Australia. From behind his picture she took out and unfolded a paper that proved to be his baptismal certificate. She said, as she filled with emotion, "I left that boy six months ago—I thought, never to see him again, because I told him that I could not be married, except it was in the temple of our God, for time and eternity. He was not a member of the Church, but after he left he began to think, and he began to study. Six months have gone past, and on my birthday he sent me this and says in his letter, 'I am now preparing myself, so that when I return I can be sealed to you, my sweetheart, in the house of the living God.'"

There was a girl who had drunk deeply from the fountain of spiritual waters, and hers will be a well of living water, springing up into everlasting life. And so we might go on.

PLEA FOR GUARDIANSHIP BY LEADERS

Latter-day Saints, you bearers of the Priesthood, and leaders in Israel, may we see to it that the streams that guard youth, that guard our homes, are kept un polluted, because of ever-watchful care that we shall exercise in this trying day. May we be not unmindful of the counsel of our Father in these fatherly words:

... provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. (Luke 12:33-36.)

And then, again in our day:

Wherefore, fear not even unto death; for in this world your joy is not full, but in me your joy is full. Therefore, care not for the body

neither for the life of the body; but care for the soul and for the life of the soul. And seek the face of the Lord always, that in patience ye may possess your souls, and ye shall have eternal life. (D. & C. 101:36-38.)

God bless us to seek always the face of our Heavenly Father. May we without fear, even unto death, protect the fountains of truth, and if it need be in this day that our lives be given for the protection of that truth, may we do so willingly and with the seal of approval of our Heavenly Father upon us, I pray humbly, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Tabernacle Choir sang the anthem "Great and Marvelous,"—(Gaul).

PRESIDENT DAVID O. McKAY

Second Counselor in the First Presidency

Perhaps it is because this is the only session at which we shall be favored with the presence of the Choir that our appreciation is heightened. Be that as it may, I am sure I am expressing the feelings of everyone present when I say, Brother Cornwall, the organists, and members of the Choir, thank you and God bless you!

Elder Peter E. Johnson, President of the Nampa Stake, offered the benediction.

Conference adjourned until 2 p.m.

THIRD DAY
AFTERNOON MEETING

The final session of the Conference convened at 2 o'clock p.m., Sunday.

PRESIDENT DAVID O. McKAY

Second Counselor in the First Presidency

This is the final session of the 114th Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Those who are present will note that President Grant is not in the usual place. He is at home, however, and through the courtesy of KSL will be in touch with everything that is going on in this session. We are happy to feel his presence even though he is physically absent.

The proceedings of this conference will be broadcast, as those that have preceded it.

There are present on the stand this afternoon all the General