

There is an opposition in all things. You have your free agency. Are you using that free agency to strengthen or to weaken the cause of God? And if you are weakening the cause of God, I say to you with Joshua of old, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve."

I earnestly pray, also in the words of Joshua, that each one of us will say, "... as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15), and this I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ELDER CHARLES A. CALLIS

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

One of our poets put into song form this sublime thought:

The works of God continue,
And worlds and lives abound;
Improvement and progression
Have one eternal round.

COMFORT IN THE SCRIPTURES

In this dark and cloudy day, when, like the leaves of the forest, many sad tears are falling, we can go to the holy scriptures, those wells of salvation, and draw from them peace and comfort which only Jesus Christ and his prophets can give.

The Apostle Paul eloquently declared:

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2.)

How wonderful it is to have a finisher of our faith. There are many beginners in this world, but there are few finishers.

The Lord Jesus Christ, centuries before he came into mortality, uttered these words. They are found in that treasure house of knowledge, the Book of Mormon, and are as follows:

... for my work is not yet finished; neither shall it be until the end of man, neither from that time henceforth and forever. (II Nephi 29:9.)

The work of God must be noble and grand. The Redeemer said:

For this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man. (Moses 1:39.)

I think that a Mormon elder who expects to pass away his time in the hereafter singing and amusing himself or resting is not worth his salt. God Almighty is ever engaged in the glorious work of bringing to pass the salvation of man.

FAITH IN THE PROMISES OF THE LORD

I have faith that those heroes who sink in death, paying the supreme sacrifice on the field of battle—the faithful young men, trust-

ing in God, shall have everything made up to them. They are heirs of the promises; they shall inherit the promises. I do not know in what way God will provide the means by which these splendid men shall reach the celestial kingdom and experience all the promises fulfilled in their lives, but I have firm faith in the Lord, for his words are true; and sometime, somewhere, the power and the glory of God shall rest upon them; for the Creator will finish what he has begun.

The Prophet Joseph told a weeping mother, who had lost her baby in death, that in the resurrection she would have the privilege of rearing that baby up to its full stature, and have more joy in doing that than she could have had in mortality.

An eminent divine, nationally known, said the other day:

But my friends, I could not stand in this radio pulpit, if I did not believe that the good God takes these unfinished lives, with their unfinished work, and somewhere, somehow, in his house of many mansions, gives them the glory of going on. A just and loving Heavenly Father will keep faith with those who keep faith with him.

Thus the glorious light of heaven is spreading. Heaven's morning, with the joy and knowledge of hope and progression beyond the grave, is breaking in upon the lives of men. The notion that in this life only we have hope in Christ, we do not accept, for "if in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."

Our grief, by the power of God, the Author and the Finisher of our faith, is lifted from earth to heaven, and the tears are wiped away by a loving God. Glory, majesty, and power be unto Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, the Author and the Finisher of our faith, forever and forever. Amen.

The congregation sang the hymn, "I Need Thee Every Hour," L.D.S. Hymns No. 387, Hymn Book No. 378.

ELDER JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

As I stand here before you, I seek the guidance of the Spirit of the Lord and your help in what I may say. First of all, I wish to express my appreciation for the timely message that came this morning from President Heber J. Grant. May the Lord continue to bless him; I am likewise grateful for the fine testimonies that we have heard so far, and I hope the powerful words spoken by Elder Mark E. Petersen will sink deeply into our hearts.

COMMANDMENTS GIVEN FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CHURCH

On the second day of January, in the year 1831, the Lord gave a revelation to the Church and in that revelation commanded them to move from the headquarters then established in New York to the Ohio. He gives the reason for it: