

Remember faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, godliness, charity, humility, diligence. (D. & C. 4:2, 5-6.)

Herein is the Prophet conveying the charm of his teachings and an heroic conception of the good in life. His concept of the Christian virtues and graces is noble and comprehensive. He exalted and glorified the principles of morals as given by the Savior of the world, and aroused the adoration of men for the gospel which is the only road to peace. It is the mission of the Seventies and all who hold the priesthood to stimulate healthy and majestic ideals through self-discipline and the knowledge that in "pure religion and undefiled," is life eternal.

A testimony, my brethren, of the truthfulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ is a sacred trust. It can come only to one who has opened his heart and mind to hallowed living with earnest prayer and deep faith in the Living God. It is the most divine gift of all. "For it is faith and not wisdom which carrieth the key to the kingdom of heaven," says Sholem Asch.

Sir Francis Drake in admonishing his men, said:

Men pass away, but people abide. See that ye hold fast the heritage we leave you, yea, and teach your children its value, that never in the coming centuries their hearts may fail them, or their hands grow weak. Hitherto we have been too much afraid. Henceforth, we will fear only God.

ELDER RICHARD L. EVANS

Of the First Council of the Seventy

As President McKay indicated in his opening remarks, at times these conferences seem to come rather close together, and this is one of those times. I earnestly hope and pray to be given utterance on this occasion. I feel at home within these walls, but the impact of this congregation is something for which I am never quite prepared. It has been my privilege for many years to frequent this building and these grounds, and I have a growing love of them and a growing feeling of peace and appreciation here. They speak of great things of the past and of great things of the future—and I have great faith in the future. I have great faith in the ultimate accomplishment of the purposes of Providence, in spite of the foolishness of men. It is a glorious world in spite of many man-made troubles.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

One of the things that happens in this world every day of which I think we are not too well aware is the going and coming of tens of thousands of people—the arrivals of newcomers and the departures of those who have finished their sojourn here, for a time at least. It is an ever-startling fact to me that about one hundred fifty thousand

people arrive in this world every day, and that more than eighty thousand leave this world every day, leaving a total increase in world population every day of some seventy thousand.*

President Smith has spoken this morning of the number of people we have in the southern California area. There are more than that who are added (increase in population, that is), to this scene every day, and more than three times that, maybe four times that, who are newcomers. Think what that means in terms of reaching and teaching some hundred and fifty thousand new arrivals every day!

I am reminded of another physical fact to which I invited the attention of some of my brethren a few weeks ago: Hendrick Van Loon has dramatized the fact that physically, in bulk at least, men don't amount to much. Mr. Van Loon invites our attention to the fact that if someone were to make a crate measuring one-half mile in all dimensions, in other words, a one-half mile hollow cube, all the human family now living could be put into it, and it could be dropped into the Grand Canyon and wouldn't be noticed very much.

If someone had actually done that, this world would have been saved a good deal of trouble; but we also would have been deprived of much glorious living and accomplishment and achievement in accordance with the plans and purposes of our Father in heaven. It is his declared purpose to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man, and he has been patient with our imperfections, and long-suffering, and has given us the ever-present possibility of repentance. I hope we shall all be as patient and understanding with the imperfections of one another as our Father has been with us.

TIME IS THE ESSENCE

There is another physical fact that comes to mind, and that is that time is the essence of all our opportunities. It is the dimension in which we live. We can't speed it up, and we can't slow it down. We can't save it, and we can't hoard it. It is, in a sense, like manna from heaven. The Lord allots us a day's supply at a time; and in the ordinary course of life, allowing man his traditional scriptural three score and ten, we may calculate that each of us might expect on an average about twenty-five thousand days. I think when we reduce our life-span and our opportunities here to twenty-five thousand days, we may think more seriously of some of the things to which we give our time. We can spend it doing one thing or doing another, reading some things or reading other things, with some people or with other people, and I earnestly hope that we may give the time test to all we do and to all we think and to all our goings and comings.

*Some authorities put these figures higher and some lower. These are estimated by Claron E. Nelson, University of Utah, from the United Nations *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, April 1949, and from other sources.

THE USE OF TRUTH

Another fact that I should like to speak of in passing is that there is no assurance of superiority so far as I know, to any person or to any people, except on the basis of a superior performance. I know of no assured blessings except on conditions of obedience, and I hope we shan't take undue pride in the mere possession of truth. Our pride should come, if indeed it should come at all, and our gratitude likewise, in the use of truth, and not merely in its possession.

I am reminded of a story that President Grant frequently told, quoting from old Bishop Hunter: "Don't get the bighead. The bighead has ruined more people in this Church than any one thing—except sin." There is no more virtue in the mere possession of truth than there is in the mere possession of food. Neither will save a man unless he uses it, and uses it wisely, and I earnestly pray that we may, as a people, with the knowledge that we have, demonstrate that we know what to do with it by living a superior way of life, individually and as a group.

I earnestly hope, in closing, that our young people may be encouraged as they go forth to live their lives. I repeat that I have great faith in the future and in the ultimate purposes of our Father in heaven and in the future accomplishments of our young people. As Thomas Carlyle wrote one time: "The crash of the whole solar and stellar systems could only kill you once"—but we certainly don't want to sit around waiting for it to happen!

I hope that our young people will go forth and prepare and plan and live their lives and make their homes and rear their families with faith in God and with faith in the future. No doubt men will make more trouble (to paraphrase an old saying, "People are more trouble than anyone"), but no doubt also, we will gain much always by living our lives, by building on a solid basis, and keeping our houses in order and preparing solidly for all future events; and whatever the eventualities are, we can accept them with faith and confidence in the promises and purposes of our Father in heaven.

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

ELDER JOSEPH F. MERRILL

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

Brethren, sisters, and radio listeners: It is unlikely that any of you listening to addresses made in this conference expect to hear any new doctrine announced at this time; yet we do teach that God "will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God" (Ninth Article of Faith) when it suits his purpose. We already have doctrines, principles, and policies enough to challenge the best and ablest among us to learn and live in harmony with them.