

utter destruction: and they will step forth and do it. (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, 2:182, Feb. 18, 1855.)

This is recorded in the *Journal of Discourses* and I presume it is accurate, but however it may be, is it not a possibility, that this Church, in its great leadership and in the power that will come to it in advocating the things that are divine and are right and true as for example the great welfare program, is not possible that when we as a nation shall have exhausted our resources—and we can well do that if we do not turn about—when we have reached that point is it not possible that to us will those who are not of us look for guidance and we will be held up as a people who are pointing an economic way that will mean for the economic and spiritual salvation and blessing of our people.

I see in this great program, my brethren and sisters, as I see in all of the programs of this Church, the way of life and the way of salvation and these things are open to you and me and they are for our blessing and for our benefit and God has given them to us. They have not come from man. May we not question the source and when the counsel is given to us from time to time may we at least recognize not only the motives back of the counsel and advice but also the spirit and the revelation that prompt the advice and counsel. May God so bless us, I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

ELDER ANTOINE R. IVINS

Of the First Council of the Seventy

I will need your faith and prayers, my brethren and sisters, if I am able to say anything that will be helpful to any of us today. I realize, I believe, the responsibility under which I labor at present in taking your time as you have come here, so many of you, to give of your spirit and to receive of ours.

A DAILY PROGRAM

We all belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints I presume. We all hold dear the gospel of Jesus Christ. Some of us apply it rather narrowly in our lives but it is a broad, general plan for the development of mankind in the earth. The thing I like about it most is that I am able to, or should be able to apply its principles in every activity of my life. It is not a thing to be practiced once a week, but it is a daily program for the development and upbuilding of men. It is a positive thing in its actions and in its results. There are some prohibitions and some negations to it, it is true, but every prohibition has come about because men have not seen fit to follow its positive admonitions.

There has been reference made to the fact that there is good and evil in the world, and that is true. It is much like it is with this

body of ours. Every muscle in the body has an opposing one, but I call to your attention the fact that every bit of work that the body does is the result of a positively acting muscle, and no work whatever is ever done by a relaxing one. We should be that way in our lives. We should interpret the gospel into daily activities. I believe I have told you before of a remark that was made by a friend of mine and a friend of my father's, who was a very wonderful man, not of our faith, however, and who was a banker. He said, "You know, Antoine, your father came as nearly applying his religion in his business, combining the two, as anybody I have known." He said, "You know, I can't do that, because I am a banker and I have to be hard-boiled."

Now, if my religion doesn't come to my aid and tell me how to be a banker, then I don't want to be one.

POSITIVE TEACHINGS

I believe that there are in the positive teachings of the gospel of Jesus Christ all the principles that are necessary for the proper conduct of a banking business, and likewise I believe that there are those things, positive instructions for the proper guidance of my relationship as a landlord with my tenants. I believe, furthermore, that there are in the gospel those things which should govern me as a police officer in enforcing the laws of the land and the city in which I live. In other words, I believe that there are positive instructions in the gospel of Jesus Christ which will enable us, if we look for them and find them, and apply them in our lives, to meet every daily emergency that may present itself to us. I believe that those of us who have the responsibility to teach will have better success if we emphasize the advantages of the positive side of the gospel over the negative side. It is my belief also that when we come to teach the various principles of the gospel as we understand them, if we search, we will find sufficient and valid reasons for every principle that we advocate.

PRODUCTIVE SERVICE

We come here, as President Hunter has said, to gain experience, and in order to gain experience we must work. The Lord said when he cast Adam out of the Garden of Eden, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread," and that is a positive command, that man shall work. God knew what he meant and what he said when he gave that commandment, for I think that no man ever grew in power and strength, virtue and leadership in absolute idleness. We should work every day of our lives at some productive effort in order to make the maximum progress that we are entitled to.

It is true that out of every day we have to sleep a certain time to recover, but nonetheless our waking hours should be productive

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hours. We should never allow ourselves, if we can help it, to become a burden on society. I grant you that there are conditions which develop in the lives of some people which prevent their using their faculties with which they were originally endowed for their own sustenance, and when people fall into that unhappy situation it is the burden and obligation of the rest of society to take care of them, but I feel that it is my duty as long as I am able to, in order that I may gain the maximum from my experience in life, that I should be busily and actively engaged in some productive service.

The Church is an active, vigorous Church. The Prophet said the first great principle of the Church is faith in God our Eternal Father. Let us not limit that principle of faith as some might think they should in that statement, for faith is an active, vigorous, productive power. Faith without works is dead. The reason that was said is that there is no faith where there is no action. Faith is the underlying principle of all our activities. It is the thing that makes life go. Of course in its sublimest and highest sense, it is faith in God our Heavenly Father, but we must also have faith in ourselves and faith in each other or we can do nothing of value.

ETERNAL PROGRESS

Then we believe in the principle of progress, eternal progress, if you will, and that means that as I find better ways of doing the things my faith teaches me to do, that I will give up the poor ways and use the better, and that again presents positive reaction to the exigencies of life. If we are going to get the most out of our experience here we will be constantly looking for improved and better ways of doing the things that we have to do in our daily conduct of life. We will try to find better ways of meeting our fellows in our business transactions, ways which will better recognize their rights as well as ours. We will strive for better ways of handling the boys and girls that God gives into our care, so that we may bring them closer to him and make them better servants of him. Think what a grave responsibility it is to father a son or a daughter, for that son may be the head of a family eventually, if he is fortunate and then from him there may stem forth a progeny that will fan out in a period of time until it includes thousands and thousands of people. Think what a responsibility it is for you, the father, to start that son out on an evil path, for he may pass that on to his progeny, and it may go on indefinitely; and it affects so many people. And think what a wonderful beneficiary you may be to future generations of people if you start that son out with a full faith in God, our Heavenly Father, with an active understanding of the positive side of his duty, if you have trained him in the good things that he should do, steered him away from the bad ones so that he will pass those good traits on to his posterity. What a blessing you will have been to those unborn generations that are yet to come.

POSITIVE VALUES

I believe that every waiting spirit has the right to expect those opportunities, has the right to expect a body when he comes into the world that will be free from disturbing elements that would prevent his full realization and development. I believe that in teaching the law of chastity to our boys and girls, we should teach them the positive values of it, for they are there, and it is our duty to search them out and understand them so that we can pass them on to our boys and girls and they in turn to theirs. Those values are there.

That law of chastity is not a negative proposition, but it is a positive one, because in its observance there are spiritual values that far outweigh the physical dangers that we often emphasize to the neglect of the others. I believe the chances are that our children will respond to the positive attitude quicker and more thoroughly than they do to the negative. Let's show them the values that there are in that law. Let's show them the values there are in the law of the Word of Wisdom. Let's show them the values there are in the law of tithing and all those laws which we hold up as standards of the Church. They have their positive side. They are not negative in their nature, and neither is the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a thing that today and tomorrow and the next day, this week and next week and next month, the months of April, May, and June and on through the years, we should apply in our lives constantly and daily, not sit idly by and choose to do the things we ought not to do, but to be active, not in those forbidden things, but active and vigorous in building up the kingdom of God; in blessing and benefiting our fellow men.

"... inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matt. 25-40.) That is a positive command, and we must be constantly and busily engaged in an effort to serve our fellows and teach them the positive side of the gospel of Jesus Christ to be most effective, I believe, as teachers in Israel. There are many men under my voice today who have that responsibility either in schools or in wards or in stakes or in quorums, and it is our duty to be positive in our teachings. I call to your attention the fact that our teaching will have far greater effect if we are positive in applying those teachings in our lives so that men who listen to us can see the effect of those principles when they are lived by a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or any other, for that matter. Let us, as teachers, let us as leaders, be positive, militantly positive, in teaching these things and living them, and God will bless our efforts, and may he bless you and me and those who are near and dear to us who are not here today, I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.