

darkness as to the things, some of them, that we should not do. We add these to the Ten Commandments.

Now, my brethren and sisters, salvation is ours, if we will but live for it. We shall forfeit it if we do the things which his prophets have declared unto us should not be done. Read, I repeat, sections 76 and 88 and see what the Lord has laid up for us when we live the principles of the gospel.

My brethren and sisters, he who will read needs have no doubt of the great future that lies ahead of us, he will have no doubt of the place to which we go, of the associations which will be his; he will have no doubt but that the eternities that are to come are worth in happiness and joy, all of the giving up of the pleasures, so-called, of this life, from which we are asked to refrain.

I am sure the prize is worth the restraint. And after all, all the things that we are asked to refrain from are things which lower our standards of joy, lower our standards of life, lower our respect for humanity and humanity's respect for us, and leave us debtors to the whole list of Christian virtues.

May the Lord help us to keep his commandments, help us to earn that which he has provided for us.

And I bear my testimony to you at this time that God lives, that he hears and answers prayers, for he has heard and answered mine. I bear you my testimony that Jesus is the Christ, that he is the Son of God, the Redeemer of the World, the First Fruits of the Resurrection, that through his redeeming blood all mankind shall be saved, that is, shall be resurrected, and that

those who keep the commandments and live the life which he gave and lived will have an eternal glory in the celestial kingdom.

I bear you my witness that Joseph Smith did have a vision, that the Father and Son did visit him, that holy angels came to him; that the priesthood, the Holy Priesthood of God which had been lost to the earth for centuries was restored through him to this earth; that those who have followed him in his high and great calling of President of the Church, the Presiding High Priest of the Church, have the same rights, the same privileges, the same authority which he held, even from Joseph's time down to President McKay, who holds those rights, exercises those functions, possesses all of the spiritual powers of the priesthood which Joseph had; and that this Church will continue to go forward, that those who follow President McKay will enjoy the like privileges, the like authority, and exercise the like functions.

There is no doubt about this, my brothers and sisters, and if we could just take this into our hearts and understand it, make it part of ourselves, not a mere expression, not lip-service but service by act, the power of this people would be unlimited.

God grant that to all of us and to each of us may come this testimony, to the end that we shall continue to spread the gospel in the world, continue to build up our own Church, and for ourselves individually, and as an incident to all that, gain eternal salvation in his celestial kingdom, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER JOHN LONGDEN

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles

I REALIZE more than anyone else, excepting my Heavenly Father and his Son Jesus Christ, my utter weakness in and of myself to occupy this position this morning. I am sure with an interest in your faith and prayers ascending to our Heavenly Father that I may be

blessed with his Spirit and we may be recipients of his blessings.

I haven't words to express adequately my appreciation and gratitude for the rich blessings which have been mine during the past six months in visiting the stakes and the wards throughout the

Church. It has been an inspiration and makes me humble as I endeavor to teach the restored work of God. I would like publicly to mention here this morning that I am grateful for the words of kindness and felicitations that have been extended to me in receiving this call six months ago, by members of the Church and by many who are not members of this Church.

I am sure we have been deeply impressed, I know I have, with the dignity with which these meetings have been presided over and conducted by President McKay and those in authority. I am sure we have felt of their power and strength, as we have listened to the words of salvation. Jesus Christ, as he faced a group of Pharisees on one occasion, questioned them when he said, "What think ye of Christ?" That is a question that might be asked of us today. We can answer it in our own minds. We do not have to answer it orally or in writing. "What think ye of Christ?"

These men, our leaders, have exemplified to me their love of God and their love for their fellow men, their neighbors, and I shall always be appreciative of the rich experience which was mine in having one assignment with Elder Joseph F. Merrill the first week following the last general conference, and partaking of his spirit. I could not help realizing that here was a man scholastically trained, educated in the sciences and in the engineering field, and yet, young people, he was not swerved from the path of truth and righteousness. He was not ashamed to bear witness that Jesus was the Christ and that the Prophet Joseph Smith was and is in very deed a prophet of God. You young people can take heed of this fine example from such noble leaders, as all these men are who are guiding and directing the work of the Church and kingdom here in the earth.

I should like to have you review with me for a moment or two an incident which took place just eight years ago. A young man of this Church who had put on the uniform of his country to

defend freedom and liberty and the rights of the individual found himself from his home town in Boise, Idaho, on a beachhead in Normandy, about a month before D Day. As if he had a premonition of what was going to happen, he sat there and wrote a message to a friend of his in Boise. And he said, concluding that letter,

"I should like to give you the formula, or the requisite for peace, if you please. It is nothing new, but I ask you that we rediscover the things which we already have, and that were given to us by the Master some two thousand years ago in a single sentence, when he said. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." (Matt. 22:37-39.)

This boy made the supreme sacrifice a few days after writing this letter.

These are truths that we might well reflect upon this morning, my brethren and sisters, as we also review an incident in the New Testament. The Savior had been teaching his doctrine, the saving principles of salvation and exaltation. He was queried by a lawyer who said to him, "What good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?"

He was endeavoring no doubt to trap him, because the Master counter-questioned him and said, "What is written in the law? How readest thou?"

The lawyer answered, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself."

And the Savior said, "If you will do these things, thou shalt live."

Then trying to justify himself, the lawyer said, "And who is my neighbour?"

The Master then gave that glorious example of the Good Samaritan, where a certain man going from Jerusalem to Jericho had been set upon by thieves and stripped of his clothing and his material things. (And we, my brethren and sisters, can be stripped of those

things which are material. They are insignificant.) And so he was left half-dead in the roadway. A priest came along, and seeing this man, even though he professed Christianity, crossed to the other side, and left him. Then a certain Levite came down the street and likewise saw this man, and he also crossed to the other side. But there was the Samaritan who beheld the condition of the man and administered to him by anointing his wounds with oil, putting him upon his own beast, and taking him to an inn, where he might receive assistance. He left funds that he might be taken care of, and advised the innkeeper that he would be back, and if it took additional funds, he would gladly see that those expenses were defrayed. Then the Master said, "Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?"

And the answer was, "He that sheweth mercy on him." And there followed the great command of the Savior, which is significant to me, "Go, and do thou likewise." (See Luke 10:25-37.)

Yes, my brethren and sisters, if we truly exemplify this teaching of the Master to love our Heavenly Father sincerely and deeply, then we will love by natural consequence our neighbor. Thus many of the conditions in the

world today which are contrary to the gospel of Jesus Christ will be overcome. There would not only be peace in the world, but also we would have peace in our hearts and in our souls. And I humbly pray as I bear witness to you, my brothers and sisters, that this is true, that Jesus Christ gave us this commandment for a purpose. May we have the energy and the desire within our own hearts, and the fortitude within our souls from this moment on to put it into practice more fully in our daily lives, that we may reap the rich blessings which are predicated upon these truths. I bear witness to you that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ, that the Prophet Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and those who have succeeded him as President of this Church down through the years to our present President David O. McKay have been men divinely inspired and called of our Heavenly Father. May we uphold and sustain them, and the revealed truths of the Lord, which are given to us by them from time to time, that we may be doers of the words, and not only listeners, I humbly pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Choir and congregation sang the hymn, "We Thank Thee, O God For A Prophet."

ELDER OSCAR A. KIRKHAM

Of the First Council of the Seventy

I PRAY that I may enjoy the blessings of our Heavenly Father. I have been deeply impressed, as you no doubt have, with the words we have heard. And I have been deeply impressed by something I have seen this morning. It has impressed me so sincerely that I want to give you the benefit of it. In the crowded condition of this Tabernacle, there came at the beginning of the service a mother with four children. The usher provided a blanket for the children to sit upon, and then the

mother took a seat quite a way up the aisle. These children behaved themselves in splendid fashion. I thought how lovely it was for a parent to have such confidence and faith. And then I was thrilled when we all stood to sing "We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet" to see these children, as if they stood in the Sunday School or Primary, sing with enthusiasm. So deeply was I impressed, and so near is it to what is now in my heart to say, that I have taken the liberty to bring this il-