

Sunday, April 3

Second Day

then struggling Church, small in numbers, inflicted with persecutions;

For Zion must increase in beauty, and in holiness; her borders must be enlarged; her stakes must be strengthened; yea, verily I say unto you, Zion must arise and put on her beautiful garments. (*Ibid.*, 82:14.)

What are those garments? Those garments are the garments of righteousness, the garments of devotion to the truth—the gospel in action.

Our message is a world message, my brethren and sisters and friends. In that glorious first section in the Doctrine and Covenants, given as a preface to the Book of Commandments, the Lord had these words to say, which I quote to you in closing:

Hearken, O ye people of my church, saith the voice of him who dwells on high, and whose eyes are upon all men; yea, verily I say: Hearken ye people from afar; and ye that are upon the islands of the sea, listen together.

For verily the voice of the Lord is unto all men, and there is none to escape; and there is no eye that shall not see, neither ear that shall not hear, neither heart that shall not be penetrated. (*Ibid.*, 1:1-2.)

These are sobering words, words from the Master, Jesus the Christ, through

his Prophet, Joseph Smith, to all God's children.

May we not be at ease in Zion. We have a tremendous responsibility. This is God's work, my brethren and sisters and friends, and I give you my testimony today that I know that God lives, that he is a Personal God, that he hears and answers prayers. I know that Jesus is the Christ, the Redeemer of the world, our Elder Brother, the Savior of mankind. I know, too, that Joseph Smith is and was a Prophet of God, an instrument in the hands of the Almighty in ushering in this the last and the greatest of all gospel dispensations. The priesthood has been restored; the truth is here in its fulness. I know it as I know that I live, and I thank God for that testimony, and pray his blessings upon all of us, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### President David O. McKay:

He to whom we have just listened is Elder Ezra Taft Benson, member of the Council of the Twelve, also Secretary of Agriculture in the Cabinet of the President of the United States. We shall now hear from President Joseph Fielding Smith, President of the Council of the Twelve. He will be followed by Elder Oscar A. Kirkham.

### PRESIDENT JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH

#### *Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

**M**Y GOOD brethren and sisters and friends, I realize that this is a very important and responsible position; that our words go out, the extent of which we do not know. It is needful, therefore, that we have the guidance of the Spirit of the Lord, that we may speak his truth. I trust that the few words that I say may find an echo in your hearts and be dictated by the Spirit of the Lord.

Near the close of a discourse by our Lord and Savior, many believed on him. It is written: "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

"And ye shall know the truth, and the

truth shall make you free." (John 8:31-32.)

The only truth that makes us free is the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In fact, all truth belongs to the gospel of Jesus Christ. When our Savior was brought before Pilate, Pilate questioned him and asked him if he were a king. Jesus answered, "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice." (*Ibid.*, 18:37.)

Then Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" Perhaps the Savior had no time given him to answer. Perhaps he was silent, and from that time until now

volumes have been written asking that question. The only true answer that has been given was given by the Lord to the Prophet Joseph Smith.

"And truth is knowledge of things as they are, and as they were, and as they are to come." (D. & C. 93:24.) In other words, truth is that which endures. All else must perish. This being true, it behooves us to search for truth—this truth the Savior spoke of that makes us free.

Not all truth is of the same value or importance. Some truths are greater than others. The greatest truth, or the greatest truths, we find in the fundamentals of the gospel of Jesus Christ. First of all, that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world, who came into this world to die that men might live. That truth we should know. It is far more important to know that Jesus Christ is our Redeemer, that he has given unto us the principles of eternal life, than it is to know all that can be obtained in secular education.

It is far more important to know that baptism is for the remission of sins, and when properly performed by one who has the authority, remission of sins will come, and through the baptism following, of the Holy Ghost, we come back into the presence of God our Father, at last, through the guidance of the Holy Ghost.

To know the way to eternal life is far more important than all the learning that the world can give. We find that in the sacred principles which have been revealed for the last time, and in these ordinances which are being performed

for the last time—that is, in the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times—for the gospel will never be restored again. It has been restored to remain. The Lord has ordained his servants, and has given them authority to execute his laws, to preach his gospel, to cry repentance, to call upon men to humble themselves and receive these fundamental principles of eternal life.

The way of eternal life is here. The covenants that were promised that lead to that great gift are here. All men on the face of the earth have now the privilege not only of repentance, but also of remission of sins through the waters of baptism, and the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands, and to receive the covenants and obligations which were promised anciently that will bring them back into the presence of God, our Father.

These blessings are free. They are the most important truths in all the world. Brethren and sisters, we have received them. Let us be true and faithful, turning neither to the right nor to the left in the keeping of the commandments of the Lord, and by example as well as by precept, serve him, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

President Joseph Fielding Smith, President of the Council of the Twelve, has just spoken to us, and we shall now hear from Elder Oscar A. Kirkham of the First Council of Seventy, who will be our concluding speaker.

## ELDER OSCAR A. KIRKHAM

### *Of the First Council of the Seventy*

**I** TRUST THE Lord will be with me and bless me as I address you. In the Third Epistle of John, the fourth verse, are these words:

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

The greatest gift that can come to a boy, as I review the humble experiences of my own life, is that he may have

good guidance, that he may sense a faith in God, and enjoy the gospel of Jesus Christ, that he may receive the gift of the Holy Ghost and hold worthily the Holy Priesthood.

The other evening a lad came to our home. He was accompanying a high priest. They were our ward teachers. The high priest said as he addressed us, "Brother Kirkham, we have a little