

ry avail themselves of that privilege. All that our Father hath shall be given to him who magnifies that calling, and that means that he shall take his wife to the temple, because we are told also that men who succeed in fully living up to all of the privileges and responsibilities of the Melchizedek Priesthood shall become gods with the power of eternal increase. That is the pearl of great price, brethren and sisters.

Then, why should we not strive, once we have been offered that privilege, to magnify it?

Now it is our duty, the duty of those of us who strive to do it, to help others to realize the importance of it and then give aid and succor where it is necessary to strengthen in their determination these people who have not yet seen fit to qualify for all these blessings. We have many of them, yes, many of them, and who are they? They are our brothers, our cousins, our uncles, and in cases, our fathers. I had an elder in my chair, setting him apart one day, and asked his father if he could help me, it being a Melchizedek Priesthood function, and he said, "No." I said, "Well, brother, you have to be careful, because as soon as this son of yours gets in the mission field he is going to start to work on you to convince you of these things." He said, "Brother Ivins, he is not waiting to get in the mission field; he is starting now."

Well, there we are, brethren and sisters. That is just a typical instance of many men who are willing that their

sons should go out and serve in this cause and are hopeful that their sons will be able to live better lives than they have.

On another occasion, as one of those fathers left my office, I said, "Now, the next time you bring a son in, and you say it is going to be soon, be sure that you can help me." He said, "I will."

Now, brethren and sisters, we all know that these things are important in our lives, but why cannot we develop the courage that it takes to qualify for the Spirit of God through exercising the priesthood that has been given to us to the very fullest of our ability? Why cannot we? That is the great and important problem, it seems to me, brethren and sisters.

I testify to you that priesthood is virile in the lives of men, that it is actual, that it has been restored. Bless your soul, in one direction, there are only two steps between my ordination as an elder and the Prophet Joseph Smith. It is here, brethren and sisters, in its vigor and in its strength and in its purity in unbroken line. Now why cannot we live worthy of it and magnify it?

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

President David O. McKay:

Elder Antoine R. Ivins of the First Council of Seventy has just spoken to us. Elder Alma Sonne, Assistant to the Twelve, will now address us.

ELDER ALMA SONNE

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles

My brethren and sisters, I have been deeply impressed by the stirring and sublime messages which have come to us during this conference, also by the singing of the choirs—for singing, after all, is surely a part of divine worship.

Someone has said that the best evidence of Christ's divinity is Christ himself.

A few years ago I made some notes which I headed, "Jesus Christ—a Reality." I had two reasons for making the notes. One was that I had just read an

article entitled "Jesus Christ—a Myth," and the other was the reading of a summary in a Denver newspaper of some sermons delivered on the previous Sunday. One of the ministers, according to the report, made the following statement: "It matters not to me whether the historical Jesus lived or not so long as I have access to the philosophy of life which is attributed to him."

The protestant minister who made this statement, it appears, is willing to teach Christianity without Christ. By

Saturday, April 5

Second Day

so doing he removes the greatest and strongest incentive to live a Christlike life. But Jesus cannot be disposed of in any such flippant and thoughtless manner. He still lives not only in the hearts of mankind but also on the pages of history, and he is still the most beautiful and attractive personality in human history.

It was Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll who said many years ago: "For the man Jesus, I have the profoundest admiration. I gladly pay to him the homage of my tears; but for Jesus as the Son of God, I will have nothing to do with him."

I submit to you, my brethren and sisters, that the statement made by Mr. Ingersoll is not one whit more unchristian than that made by the minister who occupied a Christian pulpit. It is said that when Ingersoll died many of the preachers in Christendom searched in their vocabularies for words that sting and bite with which to execrate his memory.

It is reported that Napoleon once said, "Is it not amazing that the ambitious dreams of Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, and Napoleon Bonaparte should vanish into thin air and a Jewish peasant should extend a crucified hand across the pages of history and control the destinies of the human family?"

Some of you will recall that a few years ago H. G. Wells, the historian, was asked to write down the names of six characters in world history, who, in his opinion, had wielded the greatest influence for good among the children of men. Without any pause or hesitation he quickly wrote the name Jesus of Nazareth. He then remarked: "But I am not a Christian. I am a writer of history." He then put down four more names, all of which I have forgotten. But he ended the list with the name, Abraham Lincoln, who presided over this nation during the crucial days of the Civil War.

It was Lincoln who said: "I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have. I stand with a man who is right, and I stand with him as long as he is right, but I part company with him

when he is wrong." I have always regarded Abraham Lincoln as our greatest statesman who exemplified Christian ideals in his management of the nation.

As intimidated by these men, Jesus stands alone even among the world's greatest like a tall majestic mountain which lifts its form above the hills and valleys. There is no one with whom he can be compared. We readily classify all leaders who have achieved and won fame in music, in art, in literature, in statesmanship, and even in militarism, but we cannot put Jesus with any group. History has accounted for most men.

The intellectual activity of the sixteenth century, for instance, produced Shakespeare, Milton, and many others. The struggle and desire for freedom in the eighteenth century made men like Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Patrick Henry, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, and others. The wild robber spirit of the east produced Alexander the Great. But who, except the believer, will account for Jesus? He came out of a city noted for ignorance, yet he rose to intellectual and spiritual heights. He lived in a period of hatred and bigotry, yet he personified love and goodwill. His name and fame have been remembered, and yet he wrote no book to keep alive his memory. His gospel of salvation was entrusted to a few humble men whom he trained for three years and sent forth to proclaim his truths. These men, judged by worldly standards, were meek and lowly and without influence in the recognized circles of their day. Discussion of Jesus has filled volumes. His memory is everywhere. He takes a place midmost in history and is the central figure around which events are woven. Strangely enough, he is both loved and hated. There are people on earth today who would crucify him the second time were he to come again.

A determined effort was made to blot him out completely, yet he lives in the hearts of men and women the world over. Many have died for him and there are many who would die for him today if it were necessary. He is slowly but surely conquering the world. His contemporaries, like Pontius Pilate and Herod the Great, would probably have

been forgotten were it not for their association and connection with him during their lives.

What is the position of the Church with respect to this great, outstanding character about whom we have heard so much today? This morning we heard a wonderful and powerful sermon delivered by President J. Reuben Clark, Jr., concerning Christ's resurrection, his last three days on the earth, and the atonement he wrought out on Calvary. There are those who claim to be followers of the Nazarine who deny, ridicule, and endeavor to explain away the great miracles connected with his ministry among men. To them we say, "Christianity is either history or nothing." To deny Christ's divinity is to turn one's back on the integrity and reliability of many scriptural declarations and to question the revelations of God.

Mormonism declares that Jesus Christ lived upon the earth, that he mingled with men, that he preached his powerful Sermon on the Mount to a small group of friends and associates who gathered on a mountainside, that he performed mighty miracles, that he was born of the Virgin Mary, that he was put to death on the cross by his enemies, that he arose from the grave on the third day after his crucifixion, and

finally, that he is the Son of God. Mormonism also declares that he chose twelve apostles, that he commissioned them to preach the gospel of salvation which he had taught them, and that like him they performed many miracles in his name and established his Church upon the earth.

May we always remember him and keep all the commandments which he has given us, I pray in his name. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

We have just listened to Elder Alma Sonne, Assistant to the Twelve. The congregation and chorus will now sing, "Redeemer of Israel," under the direction of Elder James L. Bradley. After the singing we shall hear from Bishop Carl W. Buehner.

The congregation and the Combined Chorus joined in singing the hymn, "Redeemer of Israel," James L. Bradley directing.

President David O. McKay:

Bishop Carl W. Buehner of the Presiding Bishopric of the Church will now address us. Bishop Buehner will be followed by Elder Clifford E. Young.

BISHOP CARL W. BUEHNER

Second Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric

I esteem it a great honor, my brothers and sisters, to be in your presence and to bear you my humble testimony of the divinity of this great work. As I look into the faces of this large audience of leaders gathered from all parts of the Church, fully aware of the tremendous activity going on in the Church, I feel to say, "God bless you every one."

Last Wednesday and Thursday, I enjoyed the honor of attending and participating in a number of sessions of the outstanding Primary conference. I came to a realization, more than ever before, of the marvelous influence of these sisters on the lives of our children. I would like wholeheartedly to commend them for the fine work they are

doing and assure them that they have the love and blessing of each of us.

Among other things, they are teaching the Articles of Faith in language the children can understand. This after all is the very heart of the gospel. They are also conducting departments which are providing a great stimulation in preparing the young boys to receive the Aaronic Priesthood.

I heard a story the other day that could well be the result of the teaching of the Primary organization. This concerned a family who came to the bishop at tithing settlement time. In the group were the father, mother, and a number of children. As they came into the bishop's office, he greeted each of