

that those who are overcome therewith are miserable, while on the other hand the righteous are blessed with peace in the kingdom of God where joy unspeakable surrounds them." (*Comprehensive History*, vol. 1, page 78.)

The Savior came to earth with a mission to perform. He was loyal to the confidence and trust placed in him. This was in spite of his awareness of the magnitude of his mission, including the atonement. As the hour of the betrayal and his great sacrifice drew near, he entered the Garden of Gethsemane, and in anguish prayed to our Heavenly Father, saying: ". . . O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." (Matthew 26:39.)

The Prophet Joseph Smith fully realized the fate that awaited him and could have undoubtedly escaped martyrdom by going West beyond the reach of his enemies. Rather, he chose to return to Nauvoo and Carthage, being loyal to the Saints he loved so dearly, and who returned his love and affection. Many of his associates pleaded for the privilege of accompanying him and his brother Hyrum to the jail, aware that death could easily result. Willard Richards and John Taylor were granted this permission, and when the armed mob stormed the jail, they fought valiantly with all their might and strength to defend the Prophet and Hyrum. John Taylor was seriously wounded in the assault. This display of loyalty and affection could well impress and inspire each of us. These men were ready to give their very lives for those they loved.

ELDER LEVI EDGAR YOUNG

Of the First Council of the Seventy

My brethren and sisters, we are all very glad to assemble in this great conference of the Church, and oh, the wonderful messages we have received, and the testimonies that strengthen our lives.

I wish to say a few words about President Joseph Young. My grandfather was chosen by the Prophet Joseph Smith, and when grandfather met the Prophet for the first time, the Prophet told him

They believed the words of the Savior when he said: "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:12-13.)

As we come into your stakes each week to attend quarterly conferences, we are deeply impressed with the devotion, steadfastness, and firmness of you good people in the wards, stakes, and missions of the Church. We are pleased to observe your love and loyalty for the gospel and for the inspired leaders of the Church and of your desire to sustain them and assist them in building up the kingdom of God here upon the earth.

To President McKay and the other brethren in the First Presidency, I express my love, and pledge them my loyalty and support. I sustain them with all my heart.

May we all be blessed with the ability to discern good from evil and have the courage and desire to be loyal to those principles which are righteous, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

Elder Henry D. Taylor, to whom you have just listened, is one of the Assistants to the Twelve Apostles, and formerly president of the California Mission. We shall now hear from Elder Levi Edgar Young of the First Council of Seventy. He will be followed by Elder S. Dilworth Young of the same Council.

that the Lord had already a place for him in the priesthood.

Grandfather was a Methodist minister. He had become a preacher, going through the different parts of western Ohio, then crossing Lake Erie into Canada, holding meetings, preaching the Methodist beliefs. Then one morning he was holding a meeting, and he saw his brother, Brigham Young in the audience, and he could not understand

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it at first. Grandfather was the elder of the two. After the meeting, Brigham walked up to his brother, Joseph, and said, "Joseph, I have found the gospel. Come with me."

Joseph immediately felt the truth of what his brother said, and taking him by the arm and bidding his congregation good-bye, they made their way back to Kirtland, Ohio, where Grandfather met the Prophet. He was baptized immediately, and within a few days the Seventy organization was made, and Grandfather found himself in the First Council of the Seventy. He was always so proud of it. He became a wonderful teacher and went among the people in a simple childlike manner. He was a great reader of the Bible and the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price. He loved literature, and because of his prayers to God, he was able to grasp the meaning, and he used to say to the people: "That is a simple thought, isn't it?" And the way he said it, the Saints agreed, and it became known that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the greatest in thought of today, and yet so great that it becomes simple and pure—an ideal for the person who goes to God and prays for understanding.

Grandfather Young passed away in 1884, and then his son, Seymour, succeeded him. It is a story that becomes very personal, I realize, but one of the seventies asked if I would say something about Joseph Young in my address. He was a great reader, and he had come to know the story of Israel, and taught it to the people. He was a reader of literature, as I have said, especially English literature, and just after the Prophet Joseph Smith had asked that some of the people learn Greek and Latin, Grandfather was learning those languages.

I must not take too much time, but I will read these few words to you. "To learn is to bring into your being a thought that gives strength and a better understanding of the power of your own mind." That was what Grandfather used to teach. Go to your Bible again and turn to verse or chapter that you have already learned to love, and read it again. Pick out some noble lesson; learn the substance of its thought. Who

wrote the words? Where are they found and why were they written? That is for us all—the words, when were they written and why?

In time, an incentive to learn more and more will be the result of our study. The beauty of it is that you are learning for yourself. You become your own teacher. Try this exercise every day for a few minutes and you will be surprised at the number of noble truths you will learn. The worth of this self-teaching is the habit of thought and attention it stimulates within us. The steadfast pursuit of such an ideal is the truest recreation that we can have, and is the road to a personal understanding of the gospel.

"My brethren and sisters," said Joseph Young one time, "if you can learn how to learn, you have acquired something that will make of you a real teacher. You have acquired a habit that will not only give you much joy every day, but will also strengthen your character and lead you on daily to greater truths and more abundant life."

It is our own study, with faith and prayer to God, that gives us strength, that gives us life and light; and therefore we are ready to become more devoted readers of the great Church works. Remember the words of Jesus: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." (John 5:39.)

To know Christ is life eternal. To become like Christ is happiness everlasting. We know the steps that Jesus trod: obedience, devotion, purity, truthfulness, kindness, resistance of temptation, self-sacrifice. It was John Ruskin who wrote:

"He only is advancing in life whose heart is getting softer, whose blood warmer, whose brain quicker, whose spirit is entering into living peace."

And the men who have this life in them are the true lords and kings of the earth.

God bless us in this holy purpose of learning the gospel in its simplicity, for how true it is that the greatest thoughts become simple to our souls and spirits as we approach God by faith and prayer. I pray that we Seventies may all become wise and good teachers of the gospel. Amen.