

Saturday, April 7

Church," and then he explained our standards of living and what the Church did for its young people, and we have had many such comments as that. Then he talked about our preparation of our young people for marriage.

There isn't time to discuss more of this minister's comments on what he likes about the Mormons. I have only discussed three, and there are seven, so I will skip them. But I come now to the seventh, where he talks about the service in the Church. He took as an illustration a stake president, and he knew all about it. He lived in one of our communities, and he told about the number of meetings he held, the number of miles he traveled, and some of them travel great distances, and then after he discussed that, and he could just as well have discussed the bishops, too, he said, "They care for their members." And then he adds, "Unless the laymen of the church reassume their responsibility, I do not believe the Protestant church has a future."

I would like to read a few statements in closing from recent converts to the Church that I have received during the last few days. I only have time to read one, and that is from a retired minister—he was not retired when we converted him—I think he may be in this audience this morning. I copied this out of a letter less than thirty days old: "My testimony grows and grows.

Where we were once blind, we now see."

Would it not be marvelous if all the world could see and come out of darkness, as Peter said, to his marvelous light, and we have it to offer, and we invite all men everywhere to listen to our message, and I always say that there is not an honest man or an honest woman in this world who really loves the Lord who would not join this Church if he knew what it was.

Then this convert adds, "We never knew of such love as we now have for each other and all others. Some of our former friends say that they have never before witnessed such a change as has come over us."

My time is up. God bless us, brothers and sisters, and help us to carry on in the great assignment that is ours and bear witness of the truth that the world might share with us this marvelous work and a wonder, I pray and leave my blessing with you good people, in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

We have just listened to Elder Le-Grand Richards, a member of the Council of the Twelve. President Joseph Fielding Smith, President of the Quorum, will now address us. He will be followed by Elder Antoine R. Ivins.

## PRESIDENT JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH

*Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

My beloved brethren and sisters, I feel like I had just passed through a tornado. (laughter) I did not say that to make you laugh. But the Lord never blessed me with a voice nor the quality to explode when I get up to deliver a discourse, so I am deficient in those things. I do wish to say, however, that I have a testimony of this truth. I am grateful for it. I do not remember the time when I did not believe in the mission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ nor in the mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith, and I hope you will forgive me if I get a little personal.

I was trained at my mother's knee to

love the Prophet Joseph Smith and to love my Redeemer. I never knew my Grandmother Smith. I have always regretted that, because she was one of the most noble women who ever lived, but I did know her good sister, my Aunt Mercy Thompson, and as a boy I used to go and visit her in her home and sit at her knee, where she told me stories about the Prophet Joseph Smith, and, oh, how grateful I am for that experience.

I know that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is in very deed the kingdom of God, the same kingdom that was seen by a great king long before the birth of Christ in a dream or a

vision that he received that had to be interpreted by a prophet of the Lord, in which the Lord made known to that king, not for his benefit, but to the benefit of the nations of the earth and the peoples who should follow after and more particularly I think for the Latter-day Saints of this dispensation, that the Lord set up a kingdom, or would, for this king was seeing into the future to a time when the Lord would set up a kingdom that would endure forever, would never be destroyed or given to another people.

I have always been very grateful for the testimony coming to me through the Spirit of the Lord that Joseph Smith, the Prophet of God, was called to stand at the head of the Dispensation of the Fullness of Times when this kingdom would be set up, never to be destroyed or given to another people. That ought to be an anchor to our souls.

We have people who go out of the Church from time to time and set up organizations of their own, claiming that the kingdom of God has failed, that they have something better. I am sorry for these people. I cannot believe that any of them are sincere. If they are, then they are to be pitied, but I think that they are malicious deceivers, trying to destroy the kingdom of God.

Every person coming into this Church through the waters of baptism has hands laid upon his or her head by which they are to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost to be a guide to them through time and all eternity. I wonder how many of those who have been baptized and confirmed members of this Church have so lived that they have had that guidance and have had the testimony come to them through the Holy Ghost that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God, that Brigham Young was a successor in the Presidency of the Church, and so have each of the other brethren who have been called to that high and holy calling

down through the years to President David O. McKay?

The Church has not gone astray. The kingdom of God that was set up never to be destroyed or given to another people is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and it is not going to be destroyed, and is not going to be given to any other people. There will be members of this Church because of their lack of faith and obedience to the commandments of the Lord who will go astray, for the Spirit of the Lord will not dwell in unclean tabernacles, and when a person turns from the truth through wickedness, that Spirit does not follow him and departs, and in the stead thereof comes the spirit of error, the spirit of disobedience, the spirit of wickedness, the spirit of eternal destruction.

Brethren and sisters, teach your children from their infancy to believe in Jesus Christ as our redeemer, in Joseph Smith as a Prophet of God, and in his successors in this kingdom, and let them grow up with a knowledge of this truth in their hearts built upon faith and obedience to the commandments the Lord has given to us and through the guidance of that Holy Spirit which will not dwell in unclean tabernacles.

Now my time is up. The Lord bless you, my good brethren and my good sisters here; do not let anything interfere with your faith, and if you will keep the commandments of the Lord and be faithful and do not forget your prayers in humility, you will not go astray; in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**President David O. McKay:**

President Joseph Fielding Smith has just concluded speaking. Elder Antoine R. Ivins of the First Council of Seventy will be our next speaker. He will be followed by Elder Franklin D. Richards.

## ELDER ANTOINE R. IVINS

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

My brethren and sisters, President McKay was not too far wrong when he said that Anthony W. Ivins [his father] was going to talk to you. My

name translated means Anthony. It is a French translation.

I am happy to be with you today, my brethren and sisters, and I am thank-