

Tuesday, April 5, 1965

Third Day

let him know that we love him and that we intend to keep his commandments to the very best of our ability.

### Eternal Truths

Yes, brothers and sisters, there are eternal truths. Two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen is water. It was so when Heavenly Father was creating the earth. It is so today, and it will be so forever. This is an eternal truth of chemistry.  $\pi r^2$  has always been and always will be the formula to find the area of a circle. One hundred and eighty-six thousand miles per second has been and always will be the speed of light. Einstein has given us in our day that E is equal to  $MC^2$ , the theory of relativity.

As we quote these basic truths, they are simple. They are not complicated. All basic truth seems to be simple. It is only when we go beyond the realm of truth that we become complicated, that we become mixed up in our minds and our emotions.

### Intelligence for Family Home Evenings

Brothers and sisters, can we simplify our lives, simplify our living, take time to do the things that need to be done? If there is not time in our lives for the Family Home Evening, there is something wrong, and we are getting away from the way Heavenly Father would have us live. If there is not time in our lives for personal prayer, then we must take stock of ourselves. If there is not enough faith or money to give back to Heavenly Father his one-tenth, then we are mismanaging our affairs, and we are getting away from

those things that would bring us pure and simple happiness.

### The Gospel Is the Way to Peace

So the gospel, brothers and sisters, is peace of mind, and only as rapidly as we get back to the standard works and give heed to his basic principles will we have the peace of mind that Christ himself spoke of when he proclaimed to the world: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27.)

Brothers and sisters, the world giveth differently from the way Christ giveth, and when we partake of the world as the world giveth, we start reaching for our tranquilizers. But as we reach for the gospel of Jesus Christ, and as we reach for the standard works of the Church and the truths revealed therein, then I say we are going to have joy in our lives, and we can promise to all men there will be happiness in their lives. We can further say that theirs will be a peace of mind that will bring a surety to their souls and give them the happiness to which all Heavenly Father's children are entitled.

I so testify and pray that we might so live in the name of his Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

### President Hugh B. Brown

Elder Robert L. Simpson of the Presiding Bishopric has just spoken to us. Elder Richard L. Evans of the Council of the Twelve will now address us.

## ELDER RICHARD L. EVANS

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

President McKay and my beloved brethren and sisters. As we have listened during these days, there is a question by Daniel Webster that has come to mind, "How much is all this worth?" It is a question that everyone might ask himself.

### "How Much Is all this Worth"

How much would it be worth to know the purpose of life?

What would it be worth to have an assurance of everlasting life?

What would it be worth to know that we may have life with our loved ones everlastingly?

How much would it be worth to have peace and quietness of conscience?

How much is it worth to be sustained in sorrow, in sickness, to know that the Lord God is aware of us, that he loves us, that we are his children, that he will not leave us alone?

How much is it worth to have a solid, sustaining faith in the future, despite the grievous problems and contentions that are prevalent among mankind?

### The Lord Is the Source of Truth

Think what it would be worth to students, to young people who are torn between conflicting theories and teachings that change from time to time, with the many disagreements there are even among the experts, to be encouraged to search, to seek for truth, to know that the Lord God, whose infinite intelligence embraces the whole universe, is the source of all truth, and to know that there is no point or purpose in losing faith because of conflicting theories, because time and patience and research and revelation will sometime see them all resolved. After all, eternity is a long time, and there is infinitely much that men do not know. Why be disturbed about the little that we think we know. Many theories once thought to be true have since been set aside, and others will be.

### The Gospel Encompasses This:

What is it worth to be able to look at all things with patient faith, knowing that all the answers will sometime be in evidence?

What is it worth to have standards, commandments, moral laws, rules of life which are God-given, and by which to judge our choices, our conduct, so as not to be left to the perversions and sophistries of men for such decisions?

How much is it worth to those who are discouraged, to those who have been harshly dealt with, to those for whom life has been hard, to those who don't quite seem to have found their place; to those who have been misjudged, to those who have been deprived of opportunity, to know that God is our Father, that he is mindful

of us, that all we cannot understand will sometime be understood; that all injustices will be corrected, that in the ultimate working out of our Father's ways, no one will receive anything he shouldn't, and no one will be deprived of anything he should receive?

As Emerson said in his essay on "Compensation," which ties in to what Bishop Simpson has just been telling us, "The world looks like . . . a mathematical equation, which, turn it how you will, balances itself." It is impossible for a person to cheat anyone but himself. It all adds up.

### God-given Rules of Life

All this and much, much more is encompassed within the gospel of Jesus Christ. And certainly such peace and purpose, such assurance, would be worth the meeting of his requirements, the keeping of his commandments, and should give incentive for living clean and useful and honorable and dedicated lives.

All this should be worth young people's waiting for the proper time and season, waiting for life to unfold, with virtue, with prayerfulness, with respect for principles, with respect for parents, with the keeping of the commandments.

All this should be worth overcoming appetites, refraining from what the Lord has said is not good for man, heeding the simple counsel God has given, which will help us to have health and wisdom and knowledge and physical and spiritual blessings.

Often we rush. We sometimes aspire. We sometimes seek to acquire and accumulate. We live with many problems, with much unrest; we do much running around and take time for lesser things, looking elsewhere for answers, failing to find them.

### Go to the Commandments of God for Answers

And with all the many things that men are finding, it would seem that bed-rock answers should not be so elusive. Indeed, they are not, but the answers go back to the commandments of God, to the principles given by our Savior, to what has been revealed through the

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prophets, to that which gives peace and high purpose, and the assurance of everlasting life. And it is worth much to know that there are answers, that to all of the problems and all of the contentions of the world, there are answers. We heard Brother Romney speak of them. We heard Brother Kimball speak of them. We heard Brother Petersen and Brother Hunter speak of the commandments which have not been repealed. God has not changed his mind, as Brother Petersen indicated to us.

I should like to recall to your mind just a few sentences from these brethren:

From Brother Petersen: "To leave the path of virtue as set forth by Christ is an apostasy from Christ. . . .

"I ask you—is God, who the scriptures say is the same yesterday, today, and forever, now changing his mind?

"Does Jesus no longer believe what he taught when he was on earth?

"For any man to attempt to change the moral law is like trying to change the Deity himself."

May I cite a few phrases from Brother Kimball, when he reminded us that if the problem "could be solved with money, people would tax themselves to curb it. If penal or correctional institutions would suffice, a great building program would be initiated. If additional social workers could prevail, universities would add courses in these subjects. If judges and courts and attorneys, policemen and prisons and penitentiaries would solve the problem, the onrush of delinquency, such institutions would be dotted over all the land. But such are not the cures for the malady; but the Lord has given us a plan, so simple, so costless. It requires a change of attitudes and transformation of our lives."

It requires that self-control of which Brother Brockbank has been speaking. And any man who can't control his thoughts can't control his actions, and any man who can't control his actions isn't safe in society.

May I share with you one sentence from Carlyle. He said, "Over the times thou hast no power. . . . Solely over one man . . . thou hast a quite abso-

lute . . . power.—Him redeem and make honest."

There are two pertinent lines from the closing of a beautiful song which the Tabernacle Choir sings, "America, the Beautiful": "Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law."

### Commandments Are Self-enforcing

Sooner or later we learn that the commandments are self-enforcing. In all things there are causes and consequences. In all things there are standards, and all that we haven't yet reached or realized we must arrive at by repentance and improvement. There is no way except the Lord's way. As Dr. James W. Clarke expressed it many years ago in a radio sermon quoted by William H. Danforth:

"Christ is the greatest need of the world. Many of us profess to be Christians, yet we must confess that we do not take Him seriously. Our surrender is but in part. We salute Him, but we don't obey Him. We respect Him, but we don't follow Him. We admire Him, but we don't worship Him. We quote His sayings, but we don't live by them. . . . There is only one way out for the world—the way of the man of Galilee."

### Eternal Life Gained by Keeping the Commandments

Jesus asked this of the Nephites, and then answered his own question: "Therefore, what manner of men ought ye to be? Verily I say unto you, even as I am." (3 Nephi 27:27.)

"And, if you keep my commandments," he said elsewhere, "and endure to the end you shall have eternal life, which gift is the greatest of all the gifts of God." (D&C 14:7.)

How much is all this worth? It cannot be calculated.

"We have nothing to lose—except everything." And nothing to gain except everything—eternal life with our Father and his Son, and with our loved ones with us everlastingly, and peace and purpose and assurance here and now.

Leaving you my witness as to the truth of this work and as to how much all of this is worth, in closing there comes to mind these words from President McKay: "Go home and live your

religion. . . Radiate what you are and all who come under its influence will benefit from it."

May our Father's blessings be with you always, I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

### PRESIDENT DAVID O. McKAY

(After the Brethren had assisted President McKay to the pulpit, he chuckled as he said:)

"I am not as weak as seems."

We have had a great Conference and my heart is full. I should like to express appreciation, especially to the brethren and sisters who came down here this morning before daylight in order to get a seat. This audience is blessed by the presence of those men and women who have traveled many miles, some of them getting up in the middle of the night, to come down here and stay all day. I think their having done so preaches a sermon to all of us to devotion to the work, willingness to accept any assignment, and eagerness to get the guidance of truths as proclaimed by the members of the General Authorities.

I have dictated a few lines expressive of my feelings for fear I should not be able to say impressively what I want to say to you brethren and sisters, and give a blessing to all of you, so I am going to ask one of my sons to read what I handed him this afternoon and let that be the message I want to give.

He then evoked laughter from the audience as he said:

"I wish I had freer use of this old tongue that wants to wrap itself around my teeth."

God bless you, brethren and sisters, you stake presidencies, you bishoprics of wards, you officers, stake and local, you mothers and fathers, you young people who are doing so much to build up the kingdom. Much of what you brethren and sisters do we never hear about, and it seems as though you are working without visible results, but no good deed can be performed, no kind word can be spoken without its effects being felt for the good of the

whole. Sometimes the good may be infinitesimal, but as a rock that is thrown into a pool starts a wave from the center which continues to enlarge until every part of the shore is touched, so your deeds, silent, many of them unknown, unspoken, and unheralded, continue to radiate and touch many hearts.

We are not unappreciative of what you are doing. Nobody can go out to a dedicatory service of one of our church edifices, hear incidents, details, illustrations, of what seems to be sacrifices of hours and hours of work freely given, without being deeply impressed with the integrity and sincerity of the members of this Church.

Why do we hold these conference meetings and all other meetings in the Church? They are held for the good of the individual—for your son and my son, your daughter and mine. The Lord has said, ". . . if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father!

"And now, if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me into the kingdom of my Father, how great will be your joy if you should bring many souls unto me!" (D&C 18:15-16.)

The whole purpose of the organization of this great Church, so complete, so perfect, is to bless the individual. How that stands out in striking contrast, in opposition, to the claim of the communist who says that the individual is but a spoke in the wheel of the state, that the state is all in all, the individual being but a contributing factor to the perpetuation and strength of the state.

That idea is diametrically opposed to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus sought