

"And all they who have mourned shall be comforted.

"And all they who have given their lives for my name shall be crowned.

"Therefore, let your hearts be comforted . . . ; for all flesh is in mine hands; be still and know that I am God." (D&C 101:14-16.)

Prepare for His coming

Under such conditions, all of us will desire to live with him and with our loved ones upon the earth. And we can do this if we, like the five wise among the ten virgins spoken of by the Lord in the parable, will not only *desire* to meet and be with him but also make the preparation necessary to do so. We are not without direction in our preparation for his coming. He has given in the restored gospel the pattern to be followed.

Through the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Lord made this known to the Church, saying:

"And even so I have sent mine everlasting covenant into the world, to be a light to the world, and to be a *standard for my people*, and for the Gentiles to seek it, and to be a messenger before my face to prepare the way before me." (D&C 45:9. Italics added.)

". . . at that day, when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the ten virgins.

"For they that are wise and have . . . taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived—verily I say unto you, they shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire, but shall abide the day." (D&C 45:56-57.)

"And it shall come to pass that the righteous shall be gathered out from among all nations, and shall come to Zion, singing with songs of everlasting joy." (D&C 45:71.)

"Come, Let Us Anew"

The words of a lovely song come to mind: "If Christ should come tomorrow, what would he do? what would he say?" What would *we* do? What would *we* say?

"O that each in the day of his coming may say,

'I have fought my way through.

I have finished the work thou didst give me to do.'

Oh, that each from the Lord may receive this glad word:

'Well and faithfully done;

Enter into my joy and sit down on my throne,

Enter into my joy and sit down on my throne.'

("Come, Let Us Anew," *Hymns*, 17.)

It is then that will be seen a fulfillment of the Lord's own prayer, which has been sung so beautifully today: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." (Matt. 6:10.)

May it so be, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Master. Amen.

President Joseph Fielding Smith:

We shall now hear from Elder John Longden, Assistant to the Twelve. After the remarks by Elder Longden, the congregation and choir will join in singing, "How Firm a Foundation," conducted by John R. Halliday.

ELDER JOHN LONGDEN

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles

On September 23, 1909, I walked with my father, holding his hand, down a street called Edge Lane in Liverpool, England, into the office of the then British Mission and had the privilege of shaking the hand of President Charles W. Penrose just before

we boarded ship to come to this great country of America.

Dedication of Oldham Chapel

In March of that same year, President Penrose dedicated a little corrugated, galvanized meetinghouse in

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Oldham, Lancashire, where I was born. Through the graciousness and kindness of President David O. McKay of the First Presidency, I had the privilege of returning to the land of my birth after fifty-six years to dedicate a beautiful structure in the town of Oldham. President McKay, we shall always be grateful to you for this assignment and the opportunity of holding conferences in London, in Leicester, and in Holland. It was a rich experience to associate with the members in Oldham. My, what a contrast from the little galvanized building in which I used to go to Sunday School and sacrament meeting and all the other services that were held at that time. Almost four hundred people assembled that Sunday night of February 27 with the Manchester Stake Mormon Choir, which they informed me they had permission to so be called by the First Presidency of the Church.

Fifty-six years ago! It seems like yesterday! How time flies!

Value of time

We have heard much about time during this conference thus far, and I should like to spend a few moments on this subject of *time*.

How many times have you heard the statement, "I haven't time"—yet all individuals are blessed with the same amount of this precious commodity.

"Guard well your spare moments," Ralph Waldo Emerson advised. "They are like uncut diamonds. Discard them and their value will never be known. Improve them and they will become the brightest gems in a useful life."

Most of us waste an inexcusable amount of time. We go along using time thoughtlessly and failing to get out of it either enjoyment of life or the satisfaction of accomplishments.

Time passes quickly, we cannot save it, we cannot buy it. There is nothing we can do about it except to see as far as possible that it passes fruitfully.

Robert R. Updegraff once said, "To get all there is out of living, we must employ our time wisely, never being in too much of a hurry to stop and sip life, but never losing our sense of the enormous value of a minute."

Mere "busyness" is not necessarily evidence of the wise use of time. There should be time for mental and spiritual development as well as relaxation: time for worship and time to express our thankfulness for our ability to work, and think, and pray, and read, and help, and dream, and laugh, and plan, and learn.

"Dost thou love life, then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of," said Benjamin Franklin.

Modern conditions have and are creating more leisure, adding to our woes unless this precious time is used wisely.

I was interested in the word "leisure" because we hear so much about it, so referring to the dictionary, I found this description: "Spare time; unoccupied by work; as, leisure hours."

"The end of labor is to gain leisure." (Aristotle.)

Time well employed

"Employ thy time well, if thou meanest to gain leisure; and, since thou art not sure of a minute, throw not away an hour." "Leisure is time for doing something useful; this leisure the diligent man will obtain; but the lazy man, never." "A life of leisure and a life of laziness are two things." (Franklin.)

"Leisure is a beautiful garment, but it will not do for constant wearing." (Anonymous.)

"Leisure is pain; takes off our chariot wheels; how heavily we drag the load of life. Blessed leisure is our curse." (Edward Young, *Night Thoughts*, 1742.)

"Leisure for men of business, and business for men of leisure, would cure many complaints." (Mrs. Thrale.)

Spare minutes are the gold-dust of time; the portions of life most fruitful in good or evil; the gaps through which temptations enter.

Yes, temptations.

"Time well employed is Satan's deadliest foe; it leaves no opening for the lurking fiend," said Wilcox.

I think of another of my mother's teachings: "An idle brain is the devil's workshop." (English proverb.) We

know it is not when we are busy that we get into trouble.

Herndon said: "Satan selects his disciples when they are idle; Jesus selected his when they were busy at their work either mending their nets or casting them into the sea."

Then Hans Christian Andersen said, "Time is so fleeting that if we do not remember God in our youth, age may find us incapable of thinking about Him."

The Prophet Alma said: ". . . learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God." (Al. 37:35.)

"Remember now thy Creator, in the days of thy youth"

I thrilled this morning with this beautiful Primary chorus and to hear their melodious, sweet, young voices singing these glorious hymns: "I am a child of God. . . . Lead me, guide me, walk beside me, Help me find the way." Yes, in their youth they are learning these precious teachings.

The Apostle Paul gave excellent counsel—Ephesians 6:10-11:

". . . be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

The time we spend learning of our Father in heaven will bring untold blessings to us all the days of our lives and enable us to avoid or overcome the temptations of Satan.

Some can see the greatness of the past, some can sense the potential of the future, but few are able to recognize the greatness of the present. Those of us who have the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ and a knowledge of the purpose of life and the reason for being here have an advantage over those who do not have this blessing.

Therefore, we need to place the true value upon this precious commodity *time*.

There are 60 seconds in a minute, 60 minutes in an hour, 24 hours in a day, 168 hours in a week, 8,736 hours in a year. The average span of life at

present is 70 years. In that many years there would be well in excess of 600,000 hours.

Let us not worry about the span of life (70 years) or the total accumulated hours in those years, but take each day as it comes, living every minute, every hour.

May I read something very appropriate on this thought titled "Today." I do not know the author's name.

Today

Today is here. I will start with a smile, and resolve to be agreeable. I will not criticize. I refuse to waste my valuable time.

Today has one thing in which I know I am equal with others—Time. All of us draw the same salary in seconds, minutes, hours—24 *Golden Hours each day*.

Today I will not waste my time, because the minutes I wasted yesterday are as lost as a vanished thought.

Today I refuse to spend time worrying about what might happen. I am going to spend my time making things happen.

Today I am determined to study to improve myself, for tomorrow I may be wanted, and I must not be found lacking.

Today I am determined to do things I should do. I firmly resolve to stop doing the things I should *not* do.

Today I begin by doing and not wasting my time. In one week I will be miles beyond the person I am today.

Today I will not imagine what I would do if things were different. They are not different. I will make a success with what material I have.

Today I will stop saying, "If I had time," for I never will "find time" for anything—if I want time I must take it.

Today I will act toward other people as though this might be my last day on earth. I will not wait for tomorrow. Tomorrow never comes.

Yes, we have time to be honest, time to be gentlemen and ladies; time to be polite; time to be virtuous, to be clean; time to study, to pray, to think; time to act wisely; time to be happy; time

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to worship, to develop self-control; time to have faith, to repent, to be baptized by immersion by one having the authority; and time to receive a witness of the Holy Ghost, that power which will guide us into further light and truth and knowledge, this great boon or favor from our Heavenly Father and his divine Son Jesus Christ. Then we are conforming with the formalities that permit us entrance into the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. I bear this witness and testimony that we can take advantage of our time and accomplish great deeds in rendering service to our fellowmen, and I ask that this will be our lot, in the name

of Jesus Christ, our divine Savior. Amen.

President Joseph Fielding Smith:

The congregation and chorus will now join in singing, "How Firm a Foundation," conducted by John R. Halliday.

After the singing, Elder Eldred G. Smith, Patriarch to the Church, will address us.

Singing, the Combined Chorus and congregation, "How Firm a Foundation."

ELDER ELDRED G. SMITH

Patriarch to the Church

The scriptures are replete with the admonition to endure to the end with a promise of eternal life as a reward. To the Nephites the Lord said, "Look unto me, and endure to the end, and ye shall live; for unto him that endureth unto the end will I give eternal life." (3 Ne. 15:9.) In the Doctrine and Covenants the Lord says, "... whosoever is of my church, and endureth of my church to the end, him will I establish upon my rock, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them." (D&C 10:69.)

"Endure to the end"

What does it mean to endure? One definition is: "to have duration; to continue." This would be to outlast time; this is important too. But here is another definition: "to withstand or bear, as pain, sorrow, destructive force, without yielding; to suffer patiently; to remain firm, as under trial or suffering; to bear up under adversity." One of the main purposes of this life is to overcome obstacles, to gain strength, to grow to the point where we can endure many things. For instance, can you endure others and their differences of opinion? Can you accept the gospel of Jesus Christ in the face of adversity? Can you live as

Christ taught, that you might be worthy of eternal life? To endure means more than just a good start alone; we must finish with zeal.

Life is much like a basketball game. You don't win if you don't start well and then slow down; but if you get off to a bad start, it is possible to catch up and even win. The finish is of most importance. Remember the parable Jesus gave of the laborers. He said, "For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard.

"And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

"And he went out" repeatedly during the day and hired other laborers even unto the eleventh hour, telling each that he would pay them that which was right. Then at the end of the day, paying the last laborer hired first, he paid each a penny, giving the same reward for the day's labor to each person. (Matt. 20:1-15.) The Lord not only said to endure but to endure to the end—to the end of life, your life. How long is your life? Time is relevant. Brother Longden has just told us quite a bit about time, which should stir up our interest in how we use it.