

bow in baptism. The Holy Ghost is the testifier. It is he who teaches all things and brings to our remembrance all things the Lord has taught.

Nicodemus asked:

"How can these things be?"

"Jesus answered . . . , Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?"

" . . . I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness." (John 3:9-11.)

In one of his prayers Jesus said: "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because *thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.*" (Matt. 11:25. Italics added.)

### The mysteries of the kingdom

Again, the Lord said: "Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom, but to them it is not given." (Matt. 13:11.) Such must be earned.

And then Paul speaks of hidden wisdom:

"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

"Which none of the princes of this world knew." (1 Cor. 2:7-8.)

"For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God." (1 Cor. 2:11.)

### Secular and spiritual knowledge

To have both the secular and spiritual is the ideal. To have only the secular is like Jude said: ". . . clouds they are without water, carried about

of winds; trees whose fruit withereth." (Jude 12.)

Desirable as is secular knowledge, one is not truly educated unless he has the spiritual with the secular. The secular knowledge is to be desired; the spiritual knowledge is an absolute necessity. We shall need all of the accumulated secular knowledge in order to create worlds and to furnish them, but only through the "mysteries of God" and these hidden treasures of knowledge may we arrive at the place and condition where we may use that knowledge in creation and exaltation.

It is my prayer that we learn to master ourselves by obedience to the Lord's commandments by the control of our physical appetites, and by placing first in our lives service to God and our fellowmen, so that the hidden things of the spirit may come to us and that we may attain perfection with the Father and the Son. Many have seen God in the course of history. All of us may do so eventually through our righteousness.

I add my witness to the numerous ones already spoken and written and talked of through this conference of the divinity of Jesus Christ and his work, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### President Alvin R. Dyer

He to whom we have just listened is Elder Spencer W. Kimball of the Council of the Twelve.

Elder Alma Sonne, Assistant to the Twelve, will be our next speaker.

He will be followed by Elder Bruce R. McConkie of the First Council of Seventy.

## Elder Alma Sonne

### Assistant to the Council of the Twelve

My brethren and sisters: I appreciate the privilege of saying a word this afternoon.

### Wentworth letter

More than a century ago, the excitement about religion in the United

States probably reached its highest point. It was during these days of agitation and conflict that the editor of the *Chicago Democrat*, John Wentworth, asked Joseph Smith, the Prophet, for a statement of his religious beliefs. The Prophet's reply on March

Sunday, October 6

Third Day

1, 1842, included the now famous Articles of Faith. There are 13, each one expressing a belief of the newly organized Church. They have now become the official expression of Mormon doctrine.

We know little about the immediate influence of the Wentworth letter, but we do know that today thousands have read and pondered these declarations of faith. Many have examined and believed them, for they are in harmony with the Holy Bible. They reach into the heart of sectarianism; they deny the creeds of the mother church; and they strike hard at all established creeds. When the Prophet summarized the claims of the Church, he carefully avoided a dogmatic style. All in all, it is a magnificent and friendly appeal to an honest and conscientious seeker after truth.

### First Article of Faith

In the first article Joseph Smith resurrects the true concept of the Godhead. It was a challenge in his day. It is still a challenge. He left no room for dispute over this important and fundamental doctrine. "We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost."

This definition of God is understandable without prolonged and tedious discussion. It reaffirms the teachings of Genesis that man is created in the image of his Maker. The vague and confused notions of Deity during the past centuries have robbed people of God's reality. A new revelation of the Godhead, such as Joseph Smith gave the world, is the only solution to the religious misunderstanding that exists throughout Christendom.

Jesus made this clear when he said: "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3.)

### Second article

In the second article, the Prophet states "that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression." It was a revolutionary thought when it was given 126 years

ago. Man is not "born in sin," as is taught by many churches in Christendom. Man is a child of God and had an existence before his sojourn in mortality. He came to the earth pure and sinless. To claim otherwise is to attribute the capacity for sin to one who does not know right from wrong.

Man is precious in the sight of God. I quote from Psalms 8:4-5: "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour."

"Man and God are of the same race," said President Bruce R. McConkie. (*Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 465-66.) Man's destiny is godlike, for he has the opportunity to reach the heights of a glorious exaltation. The restored Church is the most important thing in the universe, for it points the way to eternal salvation and exaltation in God's kingdom.

### A great document

I have always regarded the Articles of Faith submitted by the Prophet Joseph Smith as a great document. They cover in a brief way the fundamental beliefs of the Church. They do not antagonize. The style and wording are full of appeal, especially to those who are familiar with Bible teaching. The language is simple and direct and is readily understood by the ordinary reader. The reader is not confused in his investigation, nor led away from the doctrinal teachings of the apostles in the meridian of time. The Articles of Faith bring to light the doctrines and standards set forth so plainly in the holy scriptures. There is a tone of authority and certainty in each one that is most impressive.

### Article 6

I quote article 6: "We believe in the same organization that existed in the Primitive Church, viz., apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc." Who can read that declaration without calling to mind the twelve apostles commissioned and sent forth by the Savior? There are no apostles today in any Christian church except those who

are serving in the restored Church. It would be exceedingly difficult to present a better introduction to the gospel message than those presented by the Prophet in the Wentworth letter.

### Salvation defined

The Articles of Faith define salvation and introduce a plan by which mankind may be saved and brought back into God's presence. The problem of salvation, as you know, has split Christianity into many sects. Salvation means continuous progress and growth. The third Article of Faith is a concise explanation of its meaning: "We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel." There is nothing shallow or narrow in universal salvation, through the grace of Christ. Man must progress according to law. He must be obedient under the law and strive step by step to obtain the reward. In this striving, free agency is paramount, and all necessary ordinances must be complied with.

### Revelation

I read article 9: "We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God." Revelation is the rock upon which the true Church is founded. It is the source of Christ's gospel. It is the rock referred to by Jesus Christ when he said to Peter, "Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell

shall not prevail against it." (Matt. 16:17-18.)

The prophets, ancient and modern, drank deeply from the fountainhead. By doing so they were refreshed and satisfied. Ralph Waldo Emerson is reported to have said, "We ought to have a religion of revelation to use, and not the history of one."

### True index to beliefs

In summary may I say: For more than a century the Church has strictly followed the Articles of Faith. There has never been a revision of, an amendment to, or a deviation from these declarations of belief. They are true and will stand forever. It is well to remember that the Church has forged ahead for more than 138 years. Regardless of persecution, mobbings, drivings, and the hostility from many sources, the work has moved forward. It has never faced a setback. The gospel of Jesus Christ is consistent and reasonable. Its aim and mission is to give every individual a chance to accept or reject it. The gospel message will be heard by all of God's children, whether living or dead.

I testify, brethren and sisters, that the 13 Articles of Faith are true and that they are an index to the beliefs of the Latter-day Saints. May we believe them, and may we introduce into our lives the saving principles of life and salvation, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### President Alvin R. Dyer

Elder Alma Sonne, Assistant to the Twelve, has just spoken to us.

Elder Bruce R. McConkie of the First Council of Seventy will now address us.

### Elder Bruce R. McConkie

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

For a text I take these words, written by Paul, inspired by the Holy Ghost: ". . . our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance. . . ." (1 Thess. 1:5.)

### The word and the power

Thus, the gospel had by the Saints of old included, first, the word, that is, the doctrines, principles, and laws, the statutes and judgments of the Lord,