

are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." (John 20:31.) This is John's witness, and this apostolic testimony has been preserved and comes down to us as a record of what the first witnesses saw with their own eyes and heard with their own ears.

As John infers, this record sets forth the historic facts, but merely accepting the facts will not produce belief. There is a bigger faith than one which comes from seeing and hearing, a faith that can dispense with tangible proof and visible evidence. It is the faith that comes from reliance upon the word of the Lord. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe. (See John 20:29.)

Evidences in this day

These are the attestations to the divinity of Jesus Christ by God the Father, by the prophets of the Old Testament, by those who were with him in his ministry, by those who, after a study of the facts, are touched by the Spirit and have faith. In addition, there are many other evidences of his divinity in this day. I refer to the marvelous first vision in which the Father and the Son appeared to the boy Prophet, the revelations to the Prophet for the benefit of the Saints, the organization of this Church in these

latter-days, the missionary work, the temple work for the living and the dead, the testimony of a present living prophet.

If, after all of the cumulative evidence and all of these testimonies, Christ should be eliminated from our belief, what would be the result? This would not be his Church; the Bible would fall as the word of God; there would be no hope of a literal resurrection; there would be no assurance of eternal life. But Christ is not eliminated from our belief. His divinity is a reality, and to all of the testimonies that have been borne of him, we add our witness.

I have intended these statements to represent my belief, my conviction, my witness that God lives; that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God; that this is his Church; that there is a prophet of the Lord on the earth today who speaks the will of the Lord to his children. This is a restatement of our belief, our testimony, and the teachings of this conference by those whom we sustain as our leaders. I pray the Lord to bless us with this abiding faith, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Alvin R. Dyer

President David O. McKay has asked his son, Elder Robert R. McKay, to read you his closing message for this conference.

President David O. McKay

(Read by his son Robert R. McKay)

And now, my brethren and sisters, just a word in parting. This truly has been a glorious and memorable conference. May our Heavenly Father sanctify the instructions, admonitions, and testimonies that we have heard throughout the various sessions. May he fill our hearts with love for one another in the true brotherhood of Christ.

Unity of the brethren

At this time I should like to express gratitude for the support, blessings, and assistance of my counselors and members of the Council of the Twelve;

also, for the help of the Patriarch to the Church, the Assistants to the Twelve, the members of the First Council of the Seventy, and the Presiding Bishopric. You can feel radiating from these men that for which Christ prayed when he offered that great intercessory prayer in which he said, among other things, "And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are." (John 17:11.)

These brethren prove daily, as was

particularly evidenced in a sacred pre-conference meeting of all the General Authorities held in the Salt Lake Temple on Thursday, September 26, 1968, that they have that spirit of oneness, and we are united in praying that you presidencies of stakes, bishoprics of wards, presidencies of temples, presidencies of quorums, presidencies and superintendencies of auxiliaries may be so blessed that you too may say, "We strive to be one, as the Father and Son are one." God bless you that this may be true.

Gratitude for workers

I am also most grateful for those unsung workers behind the scenes who give of themselves in rendering service beyond the call of duty to assist in the preparation of the hundreds of details and important matters that are necessary in order that these conferences may be carried on efficiently and smoothly.

You know, I am afraid too many of us are like that Scotsman of whom I have told you before who had lost his wife by death. His neighbor called on him to give comfort to him, saying what a good neighbor his wife had been, how thoughtful of others she had been, and what a good wife she had been to Jock, who was mourning her death. Jock answered: "Aye, Tammas, Janet was a guid woman, a guid neighbor, as you say. She was a' you say an' mair. She was, aye, a guid true wifey tae me, and I cam' near tellin' her sae aince or twice."

There come to mind some others to whom I wish to express gratitude. We have not heard from them. They are the men and women throughout the entire Church who are contributing of their time and means to the advancement of the truth—not just in teaching, but in genuine service in many ways. Some of these are struggling to make their own living. Some of them are wealthy men and women who have retired and who count their wealth in millions. It means something when a man of means will give to the Church a contribution of a million dollars, and then, in addition, say, "All my time is yours, to serve the Church." It means something to have a man leave his

vocation, have his life's work interrupted, and receive a call to go away from the state, sometimes across the ocean to faraway places, to render service to the Church, not knowing for sure when he will return. God bless those who are rendering such service, and bless you all, for I think we can say for the Church, "We are striving to be one, Father, as thou and thy Son are one."

Divine character of Jesus

Now a word to you officers and leaders in the stakes and wards, in missions, and in temples. It was the divine character of Jesus that drew the women of Palestine to him, that drew as a magnet the little children to him. It was that divine personality which attracted men, honest men, pure men. It was also that divine personality which antagonized the impure, the evil men and women.

In the realm of personality, and in the kingdom of character, Christ was supreme. By personality, I mean all that may be included in individuality. Personality is a gift from God; it is indeed a "pearl of great price," an eternal blessing.

Fellow workers, you and I cannot hope to exert even to a small degree the personality of our great teacher, Jesus Christ. Each one's personality may be compared to the Savior's personality only as one little sunbeam to the mighty sun itself; and yet, though infinitely less in degree, each leader's, each teacher's personality should be the same in kind. In the realm of character, each leader and teacher may be superior, and such a magnet as to draw around him or her, in an indescribable way, those whom he or she would lead or teach. It is the radiation of the light that attracts.

Teach love of truth

However, no matter how attractive the personality may be, that leader or teacher fails in the work assigned if the leader or teacher directs the love of the member only to the personality of the leader or teacher. It is the leader's duty, or the teacher's duty, to teach the member to love—not the

leader or teacher, but the truth of the gospel. Always, everywhere, we find Christ losing himself for his Father's will; and so also should our leaders and teachers, so far as their personalities are concerned, lose themselves for the truth he desires to have them teach.

When the people came to Jesus and asked for bread, or the truth, he never turned them away with a stone. He always had truth to give. He understood it. It radiated from his being. He understood how to use illustrations, the natural things around him, to impress that truth upon his hearers. In other words, he was filled with his subject and then was enabled to give that subject to his hearers. It is not always what you say, but what you *are* that influences children, the young, or that influences your associates. "What you are," said the alleged wisest of Americans, "thunders so loud in my ears I cannot hear what you say."

Characteristics of successful leader

Let me give you briefly five things, among many others, that may characterize the successful leader or teacher in the Church:

First: Implicit faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ as the light of the world, and a sincere desire to serve him. This condition of the soul will make for companionship and guidance of the Holy Ghost.

Second: Unfeigned love for the child, or member. Unfeigned—remember how the word is used by the Prophet Joseph Smith in that great revelation in the Doctrine and Covenants: "by love unfeigned." Unfeigned love for the children or members, guided by determination to deal justly and impartially with every member of the Church. Honor the child or member, and the child or member will honor you.

Third: Thorough preparation. The successful leader knows his duties and responsibilities and also the members under his direction. The teacher knows his children, as well as the lessons.

Fourth: Cheerfulness—not forced but natural cheerfulness, springing spontaneously from a hopeful soul.

Fifth: Power to act nobly.

"If you want to be a teacher or leader just watch your acts and walk; If you want to be a teacher or leader, just be careful how you talk."

Radiate the light

If you want to radiate the light of the gospel, that radiation must first come from the leader himself. In the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord says, "If you keep not my commandments, the love of the Father shall not continue with you, therefore you shall walk in darkness." (D&C 95:12.)

That solicitous admonition given by the Savior is as pertinent today as it was when first expressed. Men and nations, having refused to "walk in the light," as Jesus said, stumble in darkness and know not whither they go. Motivated for centuries largely by selfish interests, the human race, judging from present world conditions, is still dangerously near the jungle where primitive passions dominate and govern.

"We have forgotten God"

Abraham Lincoln, in his day, declared to the people: "We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven; we have been preserved these many years, in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. . . . We have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated by unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to God who made us.

"It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness. . . .

"I still have confidence that the Almighty, the Maker of the Universe, will, through the instrumentality of this great and intelligent people, bring us through this as he has through all other difficulties of our country." And we all know how God did guide Abraham Lincoln.

Jesus Christ our head

There are many instances about which I could tell you wherein the hand of the Lord has been manifest in guiding his servants. I know it is real. I know it as I know that you are assembled in this conference. I know one's spirit can be in tune, and hear that sweet, still, small voice. I know he will warn us. I know he will never say anything that is impossible to understand. I know he is our Father in heaven. He is just as real as my earthly father and mother, whom I hope to meet over there. The Savior, the Son of God, is at the head of this Church. I am not the head of this Church—Jesus Christ is our head! I know that the former Presidents of the Church knew that, and declared it. Joseph Smith, the Prophet, knew it. This is Christ's Church, and we are his messengers, his representatives, and it is our duty to keep in touch with him and know what his wishes are. You and I, and all who have repented of their sins and have been baptized into this Church, have had hands laid upon our heads and are entitled to the companionship and inspiration of the Holy Ghost. If we keep in tune with Christ and his teachings, we are entitled to fellowship with him. He does not love sin, he does not love lying, nor stealing, misjudging one another, nor condemning others. We have to keep our hearts pure and clean to be worthy of his fellowship.

God help us so to live that we may be found worthy to hear from him the whisperings of his Spirit, the whisperings of his voice, as he guides us and warns us and tells us what to do in order to come back into his presence.

Lose lives in service

Man is not living for himself. His selfish desires should be overcome and controlled, and he should render service to others. One of the greatest sayings of Jesus, when he was among the Twelve during his two and one-half years here, was the one that touched upon that same principle: "He that findeth his life shall lose it [that is the selfish part] and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." (Matt.

10:39.) A paradoxical statement, but oh, how true! Thousands upon thousands in the Church are willing to lose their lives in service to the building up of the kingdom of God.

Prayer for God's help

I pray that God will give us strength to continue our mission here in life and, by our actions and our words, to teach others so that we shall bring the honest in heart to know the truth. May we show to all that the gospel has been established in this dispensation for happiness and joy and salvation here in this life, as well as in the life to come.

God keep our young people away from the low, from those who seek to follow the scheming plans of he who enthrones passion, who decries self-control, who renounces the sacredness of the family, and who, in the words of Marx himself, would "dethrone God." God inspire our young men and women to sustain and to fight for, and yes, if necessary, die for the light of Christ, that they will come to realize the truth of Christ's saying that if they are willing to lose their lives for his sake, they will find them.

God bless you all in your homes. Husbands, do not be cross when you enter your homes. Let us be kind, courteous. Have the same courtesy in your homes that you have when you are out in society. Thank your wives; thank your children; and say, "If you please," "Excuse me." These little things mean so much and make life so much sweeter.

Defense of the right

Let us be courageous in defense of the right. Be not afraid to speak out for the right. Let us be true. Let us defend the weak, be charitable to our brothers, render help to the sick and the afflicted. The gospel is the spirit of kindness. Let us honor and sustain the priesthood in our homes.

I pray God to sanctify to our good, and the good of all who have listened in this day, and to the Church membership everywhere, the blessings and testimonies of this great conference.

Sunday, October 6

Third Day

In this parting, I leave with you, my dear fellow workers, my dear associates, and all members and friends everywhere, my blessings to each one of you, as God has given me power and authority to bless, and I do this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Alvin R. Dyer

We are indebted to our beloved Prophet for his closing remarks.

We express our deep appreciation to the following who have furnished the singing for this conference:

The Tabernacle Choir, for their excellent singing on the Saturday morning and Sunday morning broadcast sessions, and again this afternoon; and the men of the Tabernacle Choir, who furnished the music for the Saturday evening priesthood meeting.

The Relief Society Singing Mothers from the six stakes in the Las Vegas Region, who furnished the music for the sessions on Friday.

The 400 students of the Combined Choruses of the Brigham Young University, who furnished the music for the Saturday afternoon session.

We also express thanks and deep appreciation to the conductors and organists for these various singing groups.

President McKay has asked that we express his appreciation also to all who have in any way contributed to the success and inspiration of this great conference.

He is especially grateful to his beloved associates, the General Authorities, who have delivered such timely messages at this time.

We appreciate the careful and efficient attention given by local and national press representatives, and by representatives of radio and television in reporting the sessions of this conference.

We deeply appreciate the cooperation of city officials,—the city traffic officers handling carefully and ably the increased traffic; the fire department and Red Cross, who have been on

hand to render assistance and service whenever and wherever needed.

We thank the Tabernacle ushers for their courtesy and consideration in seating the great audiences of these conference sessions.

As heretofore mentioned, we are most grateful to the owners and managers of the many radio and television stations throughout the nation and in other countries, who have carried the sessions of this conference from coast to coast in the United States, to Hawaii, Alaska, Mexico, Guatemala and Canada; and by short-wave to listeners in many countries of the world.

We thank the translators for their untiring efforts in translating the messages of the conference in the various languages for the peoples of the world.

Through the extensive radio and television coverage, millions have been able to participate in this Semi-Annual Conference.

Tonight, the Deseret Sunday School Union conference will convene in this building at seven o'clock. All Sunday School workers will wish to be in attendance. The public is cordially invited.

It is understood that ward sacrament meetings will be held, where practicable, this evening in the various wards.

Just a reminder now again about driving in the city and on the highways. Please obey traffic rules. Good manners, patience and alertness are necessary if we are to reduce the number of automobile accidents.

And now, my brethren and sisters, as this great conference draws to a close, the Tabernacle Choir will favor us with "Worthy Is the Lamb" and "Amen" and "Sing We Now at Parting," conducted by Richard P. Condie.

The benediction will be offered by Elder Lemonte Peterson, president of the University West Stake, after which this conference will stand adjourned for six months.

The Salt Lake Tabernacle Choir sang "Worthy Is the Lamb" and "Amen," and then sang the hymn, "Sing We Now at Parting."