

"He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it. . ." (Eccles. 10:8.)

Bad habits tip the scale

My dear fellow members of our Heavenly Father's true and everlasting Church, with our families and eternal life on one side of the scales, is it conceivable that we are willing to allow a few bad habits to tip that scale away from all that is good and precious and true? None is exempt from the possibility. Just open the door—just a crack, that's all—and the adversary will lead us quietly away, and we will rationalize as we go that what we are doing is done by so many, and surely this once won't hurt.

The adversary sometimes changes the labels on the bottles, but the contents are still full of poison. Just like the young lad I visited in prison. Upon asking him if the offense was stealing, I received an indignant, "Not on your life. I would never steal. My mother has taught me better than that. I am here for forgery." Shoplifting never, but what is wrong with forging someone else's name on a \$500.00 check!

The way clearly marked

May our judgment be sound and our course straight. The way is clearly marked before us and is to be found in every word of this conference. Just as the insignificant termite takes his annual toll, causing buildings to tumble, and just as rust and erosive forces eat away at the foundations of that which seems so strong and so firm, so it is with those little habits that must be corrected if we are to dwell in His presence.

May we know the truth, may we live the truth, may we sustain the truth. May we do these things, that all may truly be well in Zion, for you know and I know that the truth shall make us free, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Alvin R. Dyer

He to whom we have just listened is Elder Robert L. Simpson of the Presiding Bishopric.

We shall now hear from Elder LeGrand Richards of the Council of the Twelve.

ELDER LEGRAND RICHARDS

Of the Council of the Twelve

I rejoice with you, my brethren and sisters, in this wonderful conference, and in the inspiring remarks of our worthy president, President David O. McKay.

We have just listened to Bishop Simpson as he quoted the statement of Jesus, when he said: "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32.) I ask, free from what? The false teachings and philosophies and man-made doctrines.

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.)

With man's wisdom alone, one cannot know the truth. This is evidenced

by a survey taken in New Zealand last year, in which there were 411 different churches listed. Hence the need of divine revelation to interpret the teachings of the prophets, and this church is built upon divine revelation.

A marvelous work and a wonder

I take my text today from the twentieth chapter of Isaiah, where he states: "Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

"Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and

Saturday, April 5

Second Day

a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid." (Isa. 29:13-14.)

Where do we find these precepts of men to which Isaiah refers? In these 411 different religious professions.

Shouldn't the average son of God want to know if he is worshiping God through the precepts of men? Or, if he is privileged to live until the Lord performs that marvelous work and a wonder, wouldn't he like to have a part in it?

Compare this situation to Paul's statement to the Ephesians when he said there is "one Lord, one faith, one baptism." (Eph. 4:5.)

Difference between man-made and divine doctrines

How things have changed! Why? Because men, without divine guidance, could not agree in their interpretation of the scriptures. Jesus understood that without divine guidance men could not properly interpret the scriptures, for he said: "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures." (Matt. 22:29.) Hence the need of the voice of authority to differentiate between the doctrines that are the precepts of men, as Isaiah states, and the truths revealed from heaven in the restoration of the gospel, for we did not get our teachings through man's interpretation of the scriptures, but by the revelations of the Lord to his latter-day prophet.

A whole book could be written on the difference between the man-made doctrines to which Isaiah refers and the truths revealed from heaven which constitute the marvelous work and a wonder that the Lord promised through Isaiah would cause the wisdom of their wise men to perish and the understanding of their prudent men to be hid.

Let me mention a few important corrections the Lord has made in the teachings of men through the restoration of the gospel.

Teachings on Godhead

When the Lord gave to Moses the Ten Commandments, the first was:

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me." (Exod. 20:3.)

When Joseph Smith had his glorious vision and the Father and the Son appeared to him in the Sacred Grove in the state of New York in 1820, the Father, pointing to the Son, said: "This is my Beloved Son. Hear Him!" (Joseph Smith 2:17.)

Thus Joseph saw that Jesus and his Father were glorified persons, as was Jesus following his resurrection, when he appeared unto his disciples and had them feel the prints in his hands and the wound in his side, saying: "... handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have." (Luke 24:39.)

Now compare this with the teaching of the entire Christian world at the time that Joseph Smith had this glorious experience. Here is a statement from their creeds:

"There is but one living and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts or passions . . . and in unity of this godhead, there are three persons, of one substance, power and eternity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost."

How could there be three persons in one? How could Joseph Smith or any other prophet have seen God if he has neither body, parts, nor passions, and is invisible? That means he has no eyes, so he cannot see; he has no ears, so he cannot hear; he has no mouth, so he cannot speak; he has no body, so he cannot be seen. This is a fairly good description of nothing. How is it possible that the entire world was worshipping this kind of a god at the time that the Father and Son, two glorified personages, appeared to Joseph Smith?

Condition foretold by Moses

And yet Moses knew that this condition would exist in the world, for when he led the children of Israel to the promised land, he told them that, in coming generations, they should be scattered among the heathen nations. "And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell." (Deut. 4:28.)

Then Moses promised them that in the latter days (and we are living in the latter days) when they were in tribulation, if they would seek after the Lord their God, they would find him if they would seek him with all their hearts and with all their souls. (See Deut. 4:29-30.)

Joseph Smith as a boy truly sought after him and was rewarded with the glorious vision to which I have referred. And for his testimony that God, the Father, and Jesus Christ, his Son, were two glorified personages, he gave his life. We bear witness to all the world of this great eternal truth. What knowledge could be more wonderful than to know what we might look forward to, as Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." (Matt. 5:8. Italics added.)

How could we see God if he does not exist, has no body, parts, or passions, and is invisible?

To correct this false doctrine should justify the Lord in raising up a prophet in these latter days, and this gives real meaning to Easter, which the Christian world is celebrating at this time.

Through the restoration of the gospel through the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Lord corrects another false teaching, one of the doctrines of men to which Isaiah refers. The Christian world teaches that children are born into this world with the sin of Adam and Eve resting upon them, thus denying the atonement of Jesus Christ, as stated by the apostle Paul: "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." (1 Cor. 15:22.)

Little children redeemed through Christ

Now here is the word of the Lord with respect to this matter in a revelation to the Prophet Joseph Smith: "But, behold, I say unto you, that little children are redeemed from the foundation of the world through mine Only Begotten;

"Wherefore, they cannot sin, for power is not given unto Satan to tempt little children, until they begin to become accountable before me." (D&C 29:46-47.)

The Prophet Mormon discussed this subject in a letter to his son, Moroni, as recorded in the Book of Mormon in these words:

"And now, my son, I speak unto you concerning that which grieveth me exceedingly; for it grieveth me that there should disputations rise among you.

"For, if I have learned the truth, there have been disputations among you concerning the baptism of your little children.

"And now, my son, I desire that ye should labor diligently, that this gross error should be removed from among you; for, for this intent I have written this epistle.

"For immediately after I had learned these things of you I inquired of the Lord concerning the matter. And the word of the Lord came to me by the power of the Holy Ghost, saying:

"Listen to the words of Christ, your Redeemer, your Lord and your God. Behold, I came into the world not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance; the whole need no physician, but they that are sick; wherefore, little children are whole, for they are not capable of committing sin; wherefore the curse of Adam is taken from them in me, that it hath no power over them; . . .

"And after this manner did the Holy Ghost manifest the word of God unto me; wherefore, my beloved son, I know that it is solemn mockery before God, that ye should baptize little children.

"Little children cannot repent; wherefore, it is awful wickedness to deny the pure mercies of God unto them, for they are all alive in him because of his mercy.

"And he that saith that little children need baptism denieth the mercies of Christ, and setteth at naught the atonement of him and the power of the redemption." (Moro. 8:4-9, 19-20.)

Shouldn't the whole Christian world welcome this great revealed truth to save them from following this man-made doctrine that they have been taught?

Marriage for time and eternity

Let me briefly mention another man-made and very important doc-

trine taught by all the so-called Christian churches at the time the Lord restored his true Church to the earth in this last dispensation through the Prophet Joseph Smith.

They have universally taught that marriage is for this life only, hence their marriages are all performed "until death do you part" or "for the period of your mortal lives."

In light of God's restored truth to us, this is a very flimsy and unsatisfactory doctrine. Love is eternal, and where couples live true Christian lives together, their love for each other and their children increases with the years.

I like the words of Anderson M. Baten to his wife, Beulah, entitled "Philosophy of Life":

"I wed thee forever, not for now,
Not for the sham of earth's brief
years;
I wed thee for the life beyond the
tears
Beyond the heart pain and clouded
brow.
Love knows no grave and it shall
guide us dear
When life's spent candles flutter and
burn low."

The apostle Paul indicated that we without our loved ones cannot be made perfect. (See Heb. 11:40.) The Lord has revealed the fact that marriage ties are intended to be eternal, hence all marriages in his Church are for time and for all eternity.

Scriptural affirmation

The first record we have of marriage was when the Lord told Adam, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. . . ."

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." (Gen. 2:18, 24.)

If it was not good for man to be alone before death came into the world, it will obviously not be good for man to be alone when he is resurrected from the dead.

Jesus also taught this principle, for he said:

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;

"And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.

"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." (Mark 10:7-9.)

Both God and Jesus Christ indicated that the man and his wife should become one flesh, and Jesus warns: "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Where is there any scriptural justification to assume and teach that death should annul the marriage covenant?

The apostle Peter understood that the man and his wife would inherit together the results and the rewards of this life. He said:

"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." (1 Pet. 3:7.)

The Prophet Isaiah saw the day when we would have a new heaven and a new earth, when we would build houses and inhabit them, and plant vineyards and eat the fruit thereof. Then he adds: "For they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them." (See Isa. 65:17, 19-25.)

Reality of resurrection

What a comfort to those of us who have buried our little children to know that we will be privileged in the resurrection to raise our little ones unto manhood and womanhood.

The man-made doctrines of the so-called Christian churches give their members no such promises of comfort.

I attended a funeral service for an only young daughter of one of my business associates, and the minister did not hold out one hope to this sorrowing couple that they would ever see or know their precious little daughter again.

After the funeral, I told my friend that the Lord had something better than that for him if he would live

for it. He has since joined the Lord's true Church and now looks forward to the privilege of raising that little daughter in the morning of the first resurrection.

In a revelation to the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Lord said, referring to the conditions during the millennium:

"And the earth shall be given unto them for an inheritance; and they shall multiply and wax strong, and their children shall grow up without sin unto salvation.

"For the Lord shall be in their midst, and his glory shall be upon them, and he will be their king and their law-giver." (D&C 45:58-59.)

There are many other man-made interpretations of the scriptures that have brought into existence these 411 different churches referred to in New Zealand. Isaiah prophesied that when men should serve God through the precepts and doctrines of men, the Lord would proceed to do a marvelous work and a wonder that would cause the wisdom of their wise men to perish and the understanding of their prudent men to be hid.

The Church that Isaiah promised

I testify that this Church is the marvelous work and a wonder that Isaiah promised when men would be worshiping through the precepts of men.

Recently, a converted minister joined the Church. He sat in my office and made this statement: "When I think of how little I had to offer my people as a minister of the gospel compared with what I now have in the fullness of the gospel as it has been restored, I want to go back and tell all my friends what I have found. Now," he said, "they will not listen to me. I am an apostate from their church." But he gave up his ministry and performed menial work here in the city in order that he might be a member of God's true Church.

We invite all men everywhere to share with us these glorious truths that God has revealed through his prophet of this dispensation. I repeat the Savior's promise: "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after

righteousness: for they shall be filled." (Matt. 5:6.)

I bear witness to all within the sound of my voice that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is in very deed the marvelous work and a wonder the Lord promised through Isaiah the prophet.

May God bless you all, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Alvin R. Dyer

Elder LeGrand Richards of the Council of the Twelve has been our concluding speaker.

The following are some announcements that pertain to the General Priesthood meeting to be held tonight and to the special broadcast to be held tomorrow morning.

The General Priesthood meeting of the Church will be held in the Salt Lake Tabernacle this evening at seven o'clock. Priesthood members only are invited to be present. This priesthood session will not be broadcast publicly.

In addition to the overflow meeting in the Assembly Hall, the proceedings of the priesthood meeting this evening will be relayed by closed-circuit, originating in the Tabernacle, to members of the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthood assembled in approximately 500 separate locations in all parts of the United States and Canada, and via closed-circuit television in five buildings in Salt Lake City, and to 10,000 assembled at the Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. It is estimated that approximately 12,000 holders of the priesthood will be on Temple Square this evening, and approximately 150,000 others will gather in the other locations from coast to coast and in Canada.

The Sunday morning session will be broadcast by many radio and television stations in western United States; and short-waved in English over Station WNYW in New York City to Europe, South and Central America, and Africa.

Again, 27 radio stations will broadcast the translated conference session of Sunday morning in major cities of Mexico and Central America, together