

President Alvin R. Dyer

President David O. McKay has asked his son, Robert R. McKay, to read his

closing message for this conference. We are pleased to have Elder McKay present to fulfill this request.

PRESIDENT DAVID O. McKAY

(Read by his son Robert R. McKay)

● My dear brethren and sisters:

This has been in a remarkable manner an outstanding, spiritual conference. We have experienced the spiritual, the divine in man; the supreme crowning gift that makes him king of all created beings. Spirituality is the consciousness of victory over self, the consciousness of being above the passions, whether in anger or jealousy, or envy, or hatred. To feel that you can be above those animal-like feelings is to experience spirituality, and every man and woman whose heart burned when he or she heard the testimonies of these brethren during the sessions of this conference experienced that spirituality. It is the realization of communion with Deity. No higher attainment can be reached than that.

Answers to false ideologies

We have met during a critical time in the history of our own great country and in the history of the world. I have been impressed with the answers that have been given through the brethren to some of the false ideologies and teachings that are rampant in the world. One of these false teachings is that man is not a spiritual being, but that he is just as any other animal, subject to his passions, subject to his yearnings, desires, and justified in his ambitions, no matter how many others may suffer in that achievement.

Man a dual being

We have heard during the sessions of this conference that man is a dual being: He is physical, and has his appetites, passions, desires, just as any animal has. But he is also a spiritual being; and he knows that to subdue the animal instincts is to achieve advancement in his spiritual realm; that

a man who is subjected to his physical appetites and passions only, who denies any reality of a spirit, is truly of the animal world; and that man is a spiritual being, and his real life is the spirit that inhabits his body.

President John Quincy Adams gave a good illustration of this when he was accosted on the streets of Boston one day and was asked, "How is John Quincy Adams today?"

He answered, as he tottered along with his cane, "John Quincy Adams is well, thank you, quite well. But the house in which he lives is tottering on its foundations, the windows are shaking, the roof is leaking, the doors are not hanging straight; and I think John Quincy Adams will have to move out of it soon. But John Quincy Adams himself, sir, is quite well, I thank you, quite well!" He sensed that the real John Quincy Adams was an immortal being, a son of a Father in heaven.

That is one great truth to which testimony has been borne in this conference—that man is spirit, the son of his Father, and has within him that which will cause him to yearn and to aspire to become dignified as a son of God should be dignified. The dignity of man, not the degradation of man, has been emphasized throughout this conference.

Denial of God's existence

Another false ideal that has been mentioned as rampant among people in this country and especially among millions in atheistic countries in the world is the denial of the existence of God. Every man who has spoken at this conference, I think without exception, has borne witness and testified that God lives. There has also been quoted the evidence of men who have

lived through the ages who have borne that same testimony. Many scientists today, honorable, honest men, who are giving their all to help their fellow beings, testify that there is a God. I received a visit in my apartment just a year ago from one of our own eminent scientists—Philo T. Farnsworth—who testified to me that he knows that he was directed by a higher source in gaining his scientific knowledge, and that he knows that God lives.

Thank heaven there are hundreds of thousands of people who believe that testimony and repudiate the claims of the Communists, who boast that man is his own god, and who have already poisoned the minds of their people for the past forty or fifty years with the thought that God does not exist and that Jesus Christ is a myth. I wish to emphasize the fact that this great conference has testified to the hundreds of thousands listening in from all over the world that God lives, and furthermore that Jesus is his Beloved Son, the Savior of the world.

Service to others

We have also testified to the world that man is not living for himself, that his selfish desires should be overcome and controlled, and that he should render service to others. One of the greatest sayings of Jesus when he was among the Twelve 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!

Obligation of teaching

I am grateful for membership in a church whose religion fits men for the struggle with the forces of the world and enables them to survive in this struggle. One of these acting forces is the responsibility of teaching and the opportunity afforded in this church for our local officers—stake presidencies, bishoprics, priesthood quorums, and others—to share in this responsibility. The obligation of teaching is placed by the Church first upon the parents, and the responsibility thereof

has been placed upon them by divine command. But besides parents, there are tens of thousands of men and women who have accepted the responsibility of leading and teaching the young and the adults. In the priesthood quorums alone the number runs into many thousands. And if we add mothers and fathers, general officers, and young men and women in the Sunday School, the Mutual Improvement Associations, the Primary, the seminaries, and women in the Relief Society, we have an army of teachers who have the privilege and responsibility of exercising what Martin Luther calls "one of the highest virtues upon earth."

Help to become strong

Think what the Church is doing to help this army of leaders and teachers as individuals to become strong in the battle against the forces of the world!

First, it places upon them the obligation of teaching their fellowmen by example, and there is no better safeguard placed upon an honest man or a sincere woman.

Second, it develops the divine attribute of love for others. Jesus asked one of his apostles, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? . . . Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. . . ." And Jesus answered, "Feed my lambs." (John 21:15.) Love should precede the responsibility of feeding those lambs. And these tens of thousands of teachers must have in their hearts the love of teaching, the love of their fellowmen, and a willingness to accept this responsibility with the divine attribute of love.

The third requirement is purity of life. I cannot imagine an impure person teaching purity to young boys and girls. I cannot imagine one who has doubt in his mind about the existence of God impressively teaching the existence of Deity to young boys and girls. He cannot do it! If a leader or a teacher acts the hypocrite and attempts so to lead and teach, what he is will speak louder than what he says; and that is the danger of having doubting men as leaders and teachers of our children. The poison sinks in,

and unconsciously they become sick in spirit because of the poison that the person in whom they had confidence has insidiously instilled into their souls. So the third qualification is purity of life and faith in the gospel.

Finally, it gives these leaders and teachers an opportunity to serve their fellowmen and thereby magnify the calling that has come to them and, indeed, to prove that they are real disciples of Christ. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matt. 25:40.) Thus the divine principle of service is instilled in their hearts.

Blessing and testimony

With all my heart I say, God bless and guide you leaders and teachers of our stakes, wards, and missions, you parents, you men of the priesthood, you temple presidencies, and our missionaries all over the world. God bless and protect our valiant young men who are in the armed forces of our country; God bless their loved ones.

I am grateful for and pray that God will continue to direct and bless our General Authorities who have inspired us with their messages during the sessions of this great conference.

I bear you my testimony that the head of this Church is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He is the Redeemer of the world. I know of the reality of his existence, of his willingness to guide and direct all who serve him. I know that in this dispensation he restored with his Father, through the Prophet Joseph Smith, the gospel of Jesus Christ in its fullness. I know that one of the glorious messages given by Christ, our Redeemer, is that the spirit of man passes triumphantly through the portals of death into everlasting life. To him, this earthly career is but a day and its closing but the setting of life's sun; death but a sleep, followed by a glorious awakening in the morning of an eternal realm.

May God bless you all, and may he guide and help you that righteousness, harmony, and love for one another may dwell in each home, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen. ○

President Alvin R. Dyer

And now, my brethren and sisters, as we bring this conference to a close we desire to express our sincere 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.

The Brigham Young University Combined Chorus, and the Relief Society Singing Mothers from the Cottonwood, Millcreek, Murray and Wilford Regions, who furnished the music for the sessions on Friday.

The MIA Girls Centennial Chorus, who furnished the music for the Saturday afternoon session, and the Delta Phi Kappa Chorus from the Logan Institute of Religion, who furnished the music for the Saturday evening priesthood meeting.

We express the deepest of thanks and appreciation to the conductors and organists of these various singing groups.

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

He is, as has already been mentioned, grateful to his beloved associates, the General Authorities, who have delivered such timely and inspirational messages.

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; the cooperation of city officials, the city traffic officers in handling carefully and ably the increased traffic; the Fire Department and Red Cross, who have been on hand to render assistance—these services are acknowledged with appreciation.

The courtesy and consideration shown by the Tabernacle ushers in seating the audiences of the conference sessions has not gone unnoticed, and has added much to the orderliness of the meetings.