

sus Christ of Latter-day Saints" (D&C 115:4). He did *not* say, "Thus shall my church be *named*." He said, "Thus shall my church be *called*." Members have been cautioned by the Brethren, who wrote: "We feel that some may be misled by the too frequent use of the term 'Mormon Church'" (*Member-Missionary Class, Instructor's Guide* [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1982], p. 2).

37. 2 Nephi 26:33. Additional scripture declares that God "made the world and all things therein, . . . and hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth" (Acts 17:24, 26).

The commandment to love our neighbors without discrimination is certain. But it must not be misunderstood. It applies generally. Selection of a *marriage partner*, on the other hand, involves *specific* and not *general* criteria. After all, one person can be married to only *one* individual.

The probabilities of a successful marriage are known to be much greater if both the husband and wife are united in their religion, language, culture, and ethnic background. Thus, in choosing an eternal companion, wisdom is needed. It's better not to fly in the face of constant head winds. Occasional squalls provide challenge enough. Once marriage vows are taken, absolute fidelity is essential—to the Lord and to one's companion.

38. Acts 3:21.

39. Doctrine and Covenants 101:4.

40. Doctrine and Covenants 86:9–11.

President Faust

We have just heard from Elder Cecil O. Samuelson Jr. of the Seventy, followed by Elder Russell M. Nelson, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

Elder David B. Haight of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles will be our concluding speaker for this session.

Elder David B. Haight

Foreordination of President Hinckley

My brothers and sisters, this has been a historic and blessed day. As I have witnessed the inspired manner in which President Gordon B. Hinckley fulfilled his calling as a counselor to Presidents Spencer W. Kimball, Ezra Taft Benson, and Howard W. Hunter—during their periods of declining health—I rejoice with you in sustaining him as God's anointed prophet.

With all the inspiration and love that I possess, I testify that Gordon B. Hinckley was foreordained to become the President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to be the mouthpiece of God on the earth at this time, and to

lead God's people as prophet, seer, and revelator.

President Hinckley's calling Thomas S. Monson to continue in his effective administration in the First Presidency, now as First Counselor, and James E. Faust as Second Counselor is inspired.

President Monson has demonstrated an unusual ability to lead and inspire others—whether members of this church or other non-Church organizations—in their desire to serve the Master. As a newly called Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles twenty-five years ago, my assignments were chaired by then Elder Thomas S. Monson. He was my kind but effective teacher, schooling me in a more clear understanding of the

worldwide mission of the Church and the duties and blessings available to a newly called servant of God. He was most effective and kind to me.

President James E. Faust has impressed me not only with his abilities, experience, and knowledge of this divine work, but as a valued friend and adviser sitting next to me in our council meetings for these many years. He is gifted with an abundance of wisdom and uncommon spiritual direction and discernment that will be a blessing to the Church.

These words of the prophet Alma are most appropriate at this time:

“And this is the manner after which they were ordained—being called and prepared from the foundation of the world according to the foreknowledge of God, on account of their exceeding faith and good works; . . . therefore they having chosen good, and exercising exceedingly great faith, are called with a holy calling” (Alma 13:3).

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught, “Every man who has a calling to minister to the inhabitants of the world was ordained to that very purpose in the Grand Council of heaven before this world was.” The Prophet Joseph continued, “I suppose I was ordained to this very office in that Grand Council” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1938], p. 365).

President Gordon B. Hinckley now wears the mantle given to the Prophet Joseph Smith. He was foreordained to this high and holy calling in premortal councils.

God prepares his servants

Those of us who sit at the feet of President Hinckley, President Monson, and President Faust marvel at their wisdom, understanding, and protection of sacred matters. God’s hand directs this work. He prepares His servants. He

knows their hearts. He knows the end from the beginning and raises up those servants who will carry out His designs.

These are able, humble leaders, called by God to preside over His earthly kingdom in these last days. They are true and faithful servants, tested and refined by extreme circumstances. They are teachers and preachers of righteousness, examples to the world of goodness and obedience to God’s commandments. We all would do well—for ourselves and our posterity—to heed their counsel.

An early Apostle, Elder Orson Hyde, said: “It is invariably the case, that when an individual is ordained and appointed to lead the people, he has passed through tribulations and trials, and has proven himself before God, and before His people, that he is worthy of the [position] which he holds. . . . Some one that understands the Spirit and counsel of the Almighty . . . is the [one] that will lead the Church” (in *Journal of Discourses*, 1:123).

No man better understands the Church, nor is better known to the members of the Church, than President Gordon B. Hinckley.

Heed the prophet’s words

On April 6, 1830—the date of the organization of Christ’s restored church (165 years ago this week)—Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery were sustained as the presiding officers of the Church. Called of God, Joseph was designated by revelation to be a seer, translator, prophet, and apostle of Jesus Christ, through the will of God the Father and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (see D&C 20:1–2; 21:1). The Lord instructed the small group of faithful Saints:

“Wherefore, meaning the church, thou shalt give heed unto all his words and commandments which he shall give unto you as he receiveth them, walking in all holiness before me;

“For his word ye shall receive, as if from mine own mouth, in all patience and faith.

“. . . Him have I inspired to move the cause of Zion in mighty power for good, and his diligence I know, and his prayers I have heard” (D&C 21:4–5, 7).

This revelation given to the Prophet Joseph is relevant for each prophet and President of the Church, as well as the members of the Church, for all of us to heed.

President Hinckley’s preparation

I testify that President Gordon B. Hinckley has been carefully prepared for this divine calling from before the foundations of the earth in heavenly councils.

He was born into a family of faith, devoted people, devoted to the precious truths of salvation as contained in the holy scriptures and the revelations received by the Prophet Joseph Smith. His parents set lofty examples and taught him how to work and to finish a task, which inspired him to attain a good education and a desire to serve mankind.

He accepted the challenges of missionary work and gained the blessings of sharing the gospel with others when called as a missionary to England.

New talents were developed as he assisted his mission president in London in developing Church publicity for the media and for the members of the Church and for the world. That interest has continued throughout his years and continues on, of course, to the present day.

His responsibilities in the Church missionary program added new methods and opportunities to proclaim gospel principles, and he was instrumental in expanding missionary work, particularly throughout the vast, teeming Orient, in a most remarkable way.

He has participated in the dedication and rededication of more temples than any other presiding officer in the

Church. That is not only indicative of his love for temple work, but it reflects the necessity for us to be actively involved in the work of redeeming our deceased ancestors.

President Hinckley’s marriage to his sweetheart, Marjorie Pay, added spiritual strength and increased desire to advance our Lord’s work. She has been a most inspiring companion for nearly fifty-eight years.

A man for all the world

President Hinckley is not only a man for all seasons—but for all the world!

He has usually been our spokesman in meeting representatives of governments and major worldwide organizations who come to pay their respects and honor to the Church.

At a recent civic dinner honoring President Hinckley, the master of ceremonies said of him: “It is understandable that [members of the Church] worldwide always express their affection for you. All of us [here] hope the honor, tribute and love expressed this evening . . . from [those of] diverse churches and creeds will imbue you and yours with special fond memories to help comfort and inspire you for a lifetime” (Nick S. Vidalakis, annual dinner of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, 21 Feb. 1995).

The brief but inspired administration of President Howard W. Hunter has come to a close. He loved the Lord and His work—and we know that the Lord loved him. President Hunter taught us how to be more gentle, more kind, more caring, and more worthy in our pursuit to become more Christlike.

And we now begin a new era of Church administration under President Gordon B. Hinckley—beloved by all—our fifteenth President since the restoration of the Church in 1830.

In the prescribed manner we have accepted and sustained him. Through

him, as has been done through prophets of old, revelation will be made available to us to meet the challenges of a modern society and advance the mission of the Church throughout the world.

And these revelations will be made available as appropriate, as we have seen demonstrated here this day by the calling of Henry B. Eyring to be a member of the Quorum of the Twelve, to be an Apostle of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

This work is true. It will move forward to carry out all the divine plans of our Heavenly Father. I bear you this witness on this sacred day in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, amen.

President Faust

Elder David B. Haight of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has been our concluding speaker.

We remind the brethren of the general priesthood meeting which will convene in the Tabernacle this evening at 6:00 P.M. mountain standard time.

We call your attention to the need to move your clocks ahead one hour before retiring tonight because of the change to daylight saving time.

The nationwide CBS Tabernacle Choir broadcast tomorrow morning will be from 9:30 to 10:00 A.M. daylight saving time. Those desiring to attend this broadcast and the Sunday morning session, which immediately follows, must be in their seats no later than 9:15 A.M.

We express gratitude to the wonderful Aaronic Priesthood choir from the Springville Utah Region for the beautiful music we have heard this afternoon.

The choir will now sing in closing "We Ever Pray for Thee." Following the singing, the benediction will be offered by Elder David E. Sorensen of the Seventy.

The choir sang "We Ever Pray for Thee."

Elder David E. Sorensen offered the benediction.

GENERAL PRIESTHOOD SESSION

The general priesthood session, the third session of the 165th Annual General Conference, convened in the Tabernacle at 6:00 P.M. on Saturday, April 1, 1995. President Gordon B. Hinckley conducted this session.

Music was provided by a men's choir from the Logan, Ogden, Salt Lake University, and Orem institutes. Duane Huff directed the choir, and John Longhurst was the organist.

President Hinckley opened the meeting with the following remarks.

President Gordon B. Hinckley

Brethren, we welcome you this evening to this general priesthood meeting. These services are being relayed by

closed-circuit and satellite transmission to holders of the priesthood gathered in the Assembly Hall, the Joseph Smith Memorial Building, the BYU Marriott Center, and locations in many countries throughout the world.

We acknowledge the approximately 1,990 elders viewing these proceedings at the Provo Missionary Training Center.

We note that Elders Dallin H. Oaks, Hans B. Ringger, and Rulon G. Craven are seated on the stand in the Assembly Hall; Elders Marlin K. Jensen and Joseph C. Muren are in the Joseph Smith Memorial Building; and Elders F. Melvin Hammond and Cree-L Kofford are seated on the stand in the BYU Marriott Center.