

ZION'S ADVOCATE

'And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost.' 1st Nephi 3:124

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THE POOR AMONG MEN TO REJOICE IN THE LAST DAYS

(Continued from last issue)

This condition should not exist. There is no necessity for it. God in his infinite wisdom created and placed enough of everything upon the earth for the benefit of men, and it is only because of selfishness and greed that the present intolerable condition exists, for God has said, "Behold, the beasts of the field, and the fowls of the air, and that which cometh from the earth, is ordained for the use of man, for food, and for raiment, and that he might have in abundance, but it is not given that one man should possess that which is above another; WHEREFORE THE WORLD LIETH IN SIN." D. & Cov. 49:3. And again it is written, "It is not right that any man should be in bondage one to another. And for this purpose have I established the constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men whom I raised up unto this very purpose, etc." D. & C. 98:10. If this rule was practiced among the children of men the economic question would soon be solved, for every man would have all that he needed to sustain his family, and no man should have more than that, for God said that for "this cause the world lieth in sin." Which being the case we can readily see the cause of so much strife and violence upon all sides.

The other day the editor had the privilege of attending a meeting where Jas. E. Howe, the "millionaire hobo," was to be the principal speaker, and he delivered an interesting lecture that illustrated the viewpoint of many of the working class of people; and there were others whose speeches were more or less radical in their make-up, that were of a tendency to inflame class hatred in the minds of some, and others who were very outspoken in their condemnation of the government. Now what's the trouble? Who's to blame for this? Here were men who were engaged in various trades assembled together to discuss ways and means to win their "cause." Yet they admitted that they did not have any definite program as yet, but hoped to affect some definite plan that would be successful. And we want to say to you that from the ideas and thoughts suggested we may well stop in the wild scramble for the things of the world and seek to find a solution for the evils that are eating the heart out of the industrial affairs of this nation and hearken to the warning voice of the Prophet of Palmyra, for the day has come when the Lord

is going to make bare his arm in the eyes of all nations, for the liberation of the down-trodden and oppressed. It is truly a day when the "poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel," for the message that was delivered by the angel (Rev. 14:6, 7) was for the purpose of breaking down the present order of things preparatory to the coming of the peaceful kingdom of Christ.

The question of many is this, how will this condition be brought about wherein "the poor among men" are to receive favor in the sight of God in the last days? The scriptures say that the reason would be "the terrible one is brought to naught, and the scorner is consumed." Isa. 29:20; read also Rev. 18:1, 20. When we stop to consider that the present economic systems of the world were conceived in the heart of that great and abominable church whose purpose is to destroy that freedom among men, and ability to develop within themselves the highest ideals of their natures, and bring them under the yoke of bondage, that makes them as so many beasts of burden, then we will be able to see the necessity of God sending an angel to earth to proclaim that the time is at hand when the everlasting gospel should be preached unto all nations before the winding up scenes of the last days should take place. Rev. 14:6, 7. Matt. 24:14. For when the Book of Mormon was to come forth as stated in Isaiah 29th chap., 11, 12 verses, there was to be a marvelous work and a wonder (verse 14), which should cause those who "erred in spirit to come to understanding, and they that murmured to learn doctrine" (verse 24).

Now you may say what is it that the world does not understand? It is this, that they have been kept in ignornace of the plan laid down by God by which all men should be free to work out their temporal and spiritual salvation. The plan that God instituted in the beginning made it possible for every man to enjoy the full benefit of his labor, he was entitled to have an abundance of everything he stood in need of, but was forbidden to waste and destroy that which was given him, thus all men would have been equal, there would be neither rich or poor, bond or free, but all would be partakers of the blessings of God. But in contrast to this, what do we see? First, upon every hand we find a great system which exploits men, and holds back by fraud that which another produces, and turns their earnings into other channels to be consumed upon the lusts of the flesh. Thus we have classes, rich and poor,

bond and free. We see some men enjoying life to its fullest; living off the cream of the earth, while others just as worthy are wondering how they will obtain food and shelter for their loved ones. This is not what it should be, and it was for the purpose of correcting these evils that God spoke to Joseph Smith and told him that because of this unequal condition **"the world lieth in sin."**

The whole fabric of our social existence is based upon the proposition of how we live in relation to other men. God has laid down a basic principal by which we should be governed, which is that "Thou shalt love the Lord with all thy heart, and thy neighbor as thy self," and in this is the prophets fulfilled, for as we do here upon the earth so shall we receive a reward in the hereafter. "For if ye are not equal in earthly things, ye cannot be equal in obtaining heavenly things; for if you will that I give unto you a place in the celestial world, you must prepare yourselves by doing the things which I have commanded you and required of you." D. & C. 77, 1, or in other words, "In your temporal things you shall be equal, and this not grudgingly, otherwise the abundance of the manifestations of the Spirit shall be withheld." D. & Cov. 70:3.

This law holds good at all times, and it is because of failure upon the part of the children of men to live up to it that brings about the unequal condition that exists in the world today. So when the Lord declared through Joseph Smith in 1829 that "if the people of this generation harden not their hearts, I will work a reformation among them, and I will put down all lyings, and deceivings, and priestcrafts, and envyings, and strifes, and idolatries, and sorceries, and all manner of iniquities, and I will establish my church, like unto the church which was taught by my disciples in the days of old." (Book of Com., chap. 4:5.) He meant just what he said, for if the people of the world would have listened to the counsel of God then there would be a different condition existing than there is. Instead of there being rich and poor, there would exist a condition where every man loved his neighbor as himself, they would be equal in temporal things and thus been better prepared for the great day of the Lord that is near at hand.

But thanks be to God, he has not forgotten his promise to the children of men, for he has said that, after he had bidden the rich, the noble, the wise, and the learned to come to his supper, and they refused (Luke 14:17, 20), then he would invite the poor, the maimed, the halt and the blind to come and they would come (D. & Cov. 58:3), and God would show forth His mighty arm before all nations. Therefore ye poor among men rejoice, lift up your hearts and be glad, for in the midst of tribulation cometh the blessing for the day is soon at hand when you shall see the overthrow of the proud and the haughty, and all they who do wickedly, for this is the day when God will execute fury upon those who do wickedly and will not obey Him, and we shall see the fulfillment of the things James spoke of concerning the last days" wherein he said, "Go

to now, ye rich men, weep, and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.

Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth eaten.

Your gold and silver is cankered, and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for **the last days.**

Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you **kept back by fraud,** crieth; and the cries of them which have reaped, are entered into the ears of the Lord of Saboath.

Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in the days of slaughter.

Ye have condemned and killed the just, and he doeth not resist you." Jas. 1:6.

Therefore we call upon all men to repent and give heed to the warning voice of God, and to his servants whom he has called to declare His word, that ye may be able to escape the desolations and calamities that are coming upon the earth, for ye discern the face of the sky and are able to say we will have fair weather or storm; therefore look around you in the industrial, social and spiritual world and see the hand writing on the wall that says, "Ye have been weighed in the balance and found wanting," and revolution and chaos like the sword of Damocles is threatening the world today, for God has decreed that he would establish Zion and that those who would come to it should escape the terrible things coming upon the earth.

THOUGHTS

True worth is in being, not seeming;
In doing each day that goes by,
Some little good, not dreaming
Of great things to do bye and bye.

The glory of God is Intelligence,
Intelligence is Light and Truth,
Which dispelleth ignorance
And makes us against the Tempter proof.

Where there is no vision the people perish.—
Proverbs.
Why not get the vision?

Experience is the best Teacher.
Then let us make use of our knowledge.

By their fruits they are known.
What's the fruits of procrastination?

A Stitch in Time saves nine.
A covenant kept now means a blessing here-
after.

He that would be greatest:
Let him become the servant of all.—Christ.
May God speed the day when we have more
great men.

THE TEACHER

As a Teacher of the church, I want to talk a little bit personally with you. Now, this is just a friendly visit between you and me.

Now, suppose you were a Teacher of the church, what would be the first thing you would do? Wouldn't it be study the scriptures and find out what your duties were? And then wouldn't you go to work and try conscientiously to discharge those duties? Yes—Well, that's just what I am here for.

Now, just for a few moments I wish you would forget about everything else and give me your undivided attention, for it is impossible for me to impart to you the lesson I have to teach without it. So we will try to understand what the Teacher is for. In the first place, it is one of my duties to watch over the church always and be with them and strengthen them. Now, I understand that to mean that I must visit you; if you are discouraged, to try to cheer you up; and if your faith is beginning to weaken, to strengthen you that you may not lose sight of the covenant that exists between you and God. And again I am to see that there is no iniquity in the church; and right here I want to ask you a question, are you living as clean and pure a life as Jesus would have you do? Suppose you were to hear someone knock at your door, and you went to answer it and found it was Jesus? Would you be ready to receive Him? Could you bid Him in and be at ease in His presence? Now, just ponder this over in your heart. No, you need not answer me now, just think of it to yourself. The scripture says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and sup with him, and he with me." Rev. 3:20.

Another one of my duties is to see that there is no hardness of heart among the members, neither lying, back-biting, nor evil speaking. Now, I want to ask you this, is there the least bit of hardness or ill will in your heart toward any of your brothers or sisters? Has any one offended you and hurt your feelings, that it has caused you to feel hard toward them? Now, that should not be, for we are told to forgive all men their trespasses against us—remember the Lord's prayer, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." Now, would you want Jesus to feel toward you like you do to a brother or sister when they have offended you? Well, if this prayer was answered literally, that's what the result would be—don't you see? Well, let's forget it. Next Sunday when you go to church just call that brother or sister to one side and tell them you have been offended and that you had suffered a hardness to grow in your heart which was not altogether Christlike, and you wanted to be forgiven. Just watch the result. By showing the spirit of Christ you can melt the heart of stone and thus be able to bring about a more amiable spirit between you. Now, have you spoken an untruth about a brother or sister? If so, go as soon as possible and make reconciliation with them, for Christ does not love an untruthful person, and says that they should not enter the

Kingdom of Heaven. Have you been engaging in backbiting a brother or sister? This means talking about them to their backs, saying things to others that you would be ashamed to say to their faces? Now, he that listens to a back-biter is just as bad, so we should avoid the very appearance of evil. If you have ought against a brother, don't talk about him to his back, but go to him and talk the matter over and try to show him that you love him and have his interest at heart.

What would you think if a brother or sister were to say things to your back that were untrue and unkind? Would you not resent it? Well, let us apply this to ourselves, "Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you." Of the tale-bearer and back-biter the scriptures say, "As a mad man who casteth firebrands, arrows and death, so is the man that deceiveth his neighbor, and saith, Am I not in sport? Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no tale-bearer, the strife ceaseth. As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire, so is a contentious man to kindle strife." Prov. 26:18, 21. And remember, also, that words that are spoken are as water poured upon the sands, they can never be gathered together again. Therefore, dear friend, let us try from this time forth to be more careful of what we have to say about someone else. Don't say or repeat anything concerning another that you are not ready to put in writing and sign your name to, for you may be required to do this some day or stand the consequence. For you do not know when you may be brought to trial for slandering the good name of some person.

Further, it is my duty to see that the members meet together often. Now, dear saints, just why is it that you don't come out to church like you should? Don't the work appeal to you like it once did? Don't you have the proper love in your heart for Christ and all that He means to you? Just think, He came into this world, suffered the scorn and contempt of those whom He came to help, yet He was able to discharge His duty, even until death and then when he was lifted up on the cruel cross to suffer for the sins of the world He was able to say of those who persecuted Him and condemned him to death, "Forgive them, Father, they know not what they do." If He could afford to do this, can you do less? Does the pleasures of the world appeal to you more than the simple life of a Christian? Then you better beware, for the evil one is doing all that's in His power to get you immeshed in the things of the world, so come to church, get the children ready bright and early and start them to Sunday School. Take a different view of life and see if the results are not beneficial to you. And I am sure that you will never regret sparing me these few moments of your time. Thank you.

Are you a soldier of the Cross?

If so, have you girded your loins with righteousness, put on the helmet of salvation, taken up the sword of the spirit, and the shield of faith?

If not, you are not a soldier of the Cross.

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NOTICE

Zion's Advocate will go to press each issue in time to be put in the mail by the 15th of the month. All letters and articles for publication must be in the hands of the editor not later than the 1st of month preceding the above date, or they will not be printed, if accepted, until following issue. This is necessary that the Board of Publication may have time to pass upon and prepare the copy for the printers.

LOCAL ITEMS

The quarterly business meeting of the Independence branch of The Church of Christ will be held Tuesday evening, October 3, 1922, at 7:30 p. m. All members should take notice and come out.

A. HIMES, Presiding Elder.
 SILVA BRESSIE, Secretray.

The Temple Lot Sunday School will hold an election of officers and teachers on Friday evening, September 29, 1922, at 8:00 p. m. All Sunday School workers should take an interest and come out and take part. Officers will please have reports.

A. O. FRISBEY, Supt.
 SILVA BRESSIE, Secretray.

A call session of the General Conference will be held on Friday evening, October 6, 1922, at 7:30 p. m. Matters of importance will be taken up that will be of interest to all, so make it a point to attend if possible.

A. HIMES, President.
 C. L. WHEATON, Secretary.

The Choral Society held an election of officers for the coming six months on Sunday evening, September 24, 1922. The new officers and committees are: Alma O. Frisbey, chairman; Melissa Frisbey, secretary and treasurer; T. J. Sheldon, chorister; Margaret Wheaton, organist. Social and Visiting Committee: Clarence L. Wheaton, Alva S. Wheaton, May Namur, Margaret Wheaton, Gertrude Himes.

KEEP BACK NO WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

"If any man speak let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth; that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion forever and ever." Amen. 1 Peter 4:11.

In the above quotation is instruction that every man who has been called and ordained to the priesthood of God in these last days should study and consider well. First, no man should stand before an audience and declare unto them the gospel principals except they are able to have the spirit of God to guide them. Any man with any degree of oratorial ability can stand up and entertain people with fair words and flattery, but to preach the gospel and cause his words to carry home to the hearer the conviction of his message as a minister of God requires that he should have the Spiritual God, for except they have the spirit to teach they shall not teach.

Therefore if you are called of God to preach the gospel don't let your light be hid under a bushel. Gird up your loins with righteousness, put on the breast plate of faith, and take up the sword of the spirit and stand out boldly in this dark and sinful world and be a soldier of Christ, for he is calling now to battle both the aged and the youth. You can hear his mighty summons in the thunder of his word; let us then be valiant soldiers in the army of the Lord. Keep back no word of knowledge that human hearts should know, for God has called upon you that are warned to warn your neighbor—let him speak as the oracles of God.

There are many problems to be solved in the very near future in regard to the redemption of Zion, and it is therefore necessary that preparation must be made to meet the issue. We find that Latter-day saints are divided into several divisions, each claiming that all others but themselves are all wrong, yet all looking forward to the time when the Lord would speak and lead his people into the Land of Zion.

Yet we are told that except we are one we are not His. So it seems that those who are in charge of the work should put forth an effort to effect a reconciliation among all the factions to the end that there may be a merging together of the divisions into one great organization. Think what this would mean, we would be able to say to all sectarianism that we were one, that as a result of this unity God's spirit is poured out more abundantly upon us than ever before.

Therefore let the key of knowledge be restored, and the light turned on that the people may no longer be left in the dark as to what the outcome is going to be. Let the priesthood be true ministers of God, that they may minister according to the ability God giveth them, not for their own glorification, but that Christ may be glorified and honored.