

# 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."—I Nephi 3:187.

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## *Our Masters Touch*



It's tiny things that mean so much:  
The way a baby's fingers clutch;  
And impish saucy turned-up nose;  
A cricket's chirp—a dew-kissed rose;  
A soft spring rain, a pansy's face  
Are really not so commonplace.  
These tiny things, they mean so much  
For each one proves Our Master's Touch.

It's tiny things that mean so much:  
A gentle word—a loving touch;  
A warm handclasp—a bit of praise  
Transforms like magic dreary days.  
A kindly deed—a smile—a song  
Can often right a human wrong.  
It's tiny things that mean so much,  
Each thought and deed—Our Master's Touch.

—Gertrude Cramer Williams.

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## ZION'S ADVOCATE

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## EDITORIAL

Man is a complex animal, a triumverate within himself, he is physically, mentally and spiritually constituted with powerful drives or desires in each category, that sets him at cross purposes with himself and creates tensions and problems he seems unable to solve.

Biologically speaking he is relatively a newcomer to the earth's arena. Being the last of God's creations on this earth, all other forms of animal life preceded him. From the very beginning he demonstrated capabilities beyond the comprehension of any other animal.

He is at once the kindest and most cruel of earth's inhabitants. He will sacrifice his own life to aid the less fortunate in times of stress or disaster and will commit all the atrocities of war.

The list of his accomplishments is endless and we can compare his present achievements with those of his dim past. He went from the ancient stone ax to the modern electric saw to form the lumber to build his house; the camp fire around which his family huddled for warmth and protection to the modern furnaces that heat his home in winter and cool it in summer; his first torch a flaming resinous knot with today's electric lights, and the multiple thousand candle power carbon arc search light that can pinpoint an airplane thousands of feet in the air. We trace his weapons from the first hand held spear to the Atlatl, the bow and arrow, the gun, to today's grim atomic war missile; his communication from the first shout to gain attention to today's telstar and so ad infinitum.

His possibilities are limitless with his fertile imagination to spur him on to greater and more wonderful victories in the domination of his world, the world over which God gave him dominion.

Yet he can not prove his origin nor foresee his end.

Little wonder that the psalmist asked: "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man that thou visitest him?" Psalm 8:4.

Nor has he yet been able to explain, to his own satisfaction, his actions or behavior. To know why he behaves as he does is a matter for intense study, and some men spend a lifetime at it. So far their conclusions are still inconclusive. All we know is that he is a creature of compulsions, habits, invention, and imagination. He wields the power of life and death over others but cannot stay the hand of the Grim Reaper for himself. There is no need to ask why God said: "Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils, for wherein is he to be accounted of." Isa. 2:22.

The answer to the psalmist is that man is a child of God, lost or estranged from his father, carrying within himself the spark of divinity with which he was created, and by which he may once again come to know his true God.

Because man is the child of God—God will not be content with him until or unless he acknowledges this relationship and acts accordingly.

But because he is lost, completely lost, in spite of all his proud achievements, it is necessary that he be led or guided until he is once again restored to the household of his father; and can the "blind lead the blind" or will they not "both fall into the ditch?"

For this reason Christ was sent into the world, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

With all his achievements man has not learned to live perfectly in the material world; and he is but a "babe in arms" spiritually. He has done nothing more than imagine what life could be if the entire human race should be brought once again into the presence of its Father-God. Oh individuals have occasionally glimpsed the perfect life and mirrored its perfection in their own. They have left marks in the history of man for all to see. Through them mankind has reached peaks of high spiritual life, but as we do not measure water in a reservoir by its highest water mark—neither can we measure the spiritual level of mankind by the high marks made by one or more individuals.

THE POSSIBILITIES HOWEVER ARE THERE! The vast majority of mankind walks very close to the invisible line that separates good from evil, not sure just which side of it they are on.

There is a winding river in Turkey which empties into the Aegean sea named Menderes whose ancient name was Maeander from whence comes our word meander, meaning to proceed by a winding course; to wander aimlessly, which is a perfect example of the lives of some, wandering aimlessly toward eternity. The line of Truth is not drawn by man but by the immutable laws of God! The language of the poet expresses it perfectly.

## THE HIDDEN LINE

There is a Time, we know not when, a point we know not where,  
That marks the destiny of men to glory or despair.  
There is a line by us unseen, that crosses every path;  
The hidden boundary between God's patience and his wrath.

To pass that limit is to die, to die as if by stealth;  
It does not quench the beaming eye, or pale the glow of health  
The conscience may be still at ease, the spirits light and gay;  
That which is pleasing still may please, and care be thrust away.

But on that forehead God has set indelibly a mark,  
Unseen by man, for man as yet is blind and in the dark,  
And yet the doomed man's path below may bloom as Eden bloomed;  
He did not, does not, will not know, or feel that he is doomed.

He knows, he feels that all is well, and every fear is calmed;  
He lives, he dies, he wakes in hell, not only doomed, but damned.  
Oh! where is that mysterious bourne by which our path is crossed;  
Beyond which, God himself hath sworn, that he who goes is lost.

How far may we go on in sin? how long will God forbear?  
Where does hope end, and where begin the confines of despair?  
An answer from the skies is sent; "Ye that from God depart,  
While it is called to-day, repent, and harden not your heart."

Dr. J. Addison Alexander.

I read in Ecclesiastes 7:20, "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." And Paul tells us in Rom. 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; and in Rom. 11:32, "For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all." It is therefore our sins that separate us from God, and to prove that man could live without sin and escape the miseries that sin heaps upon us—Christ came! The greatest gift to mankind the world has ever known.

Through Christ's example—the life he lived and the precepts he taught, the entire spiritual level of mankind has been raised. A greater knowledge of right and wrong has been almost universal.

Christ does not arbitrarily save anyone. He said, "Behold I stand at the door and knock:"—He doesn't

come like the Fire Dept. with forcible entry tools to crash into the most stubborn heart. No the promise is: "If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

If we accept Christ and keep his commandments we will be saved. It is only those who discard the "If" that **are** saved.

All of life is a matter of selection and those things we select determine our course through life and eternity. Through the teachings of Christ the meandering loops and turns of life are diminished and we travel a straighter line—and we also know on which side of the invisible line we are walking.

Man has tried in vain to find a substitute for Christ's teachings. Hoping to excuse himself for failure to live up to the high standard Christ has set us. Seeking a philosophy that is not so exacting—but in every case man has failed; for there is no substitute for Truth that can endure the arbitrament of time.

Christ himself has provided the clue for the ultimate test, for he said: "My doctrine is not mine but his that sent me. If any man will do his will he shall know the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." John 7:16-17.

So it is that the practice of Christ's teachings proves itself to be superior to all others. And in this practice we come to "know God, which is life everlasting." We recognize him as the Father of mankind, we desire to be numbered among his household — we desire to partake of the inheritance he has promised. This desire causes us to try harder to keep the commandments He has given, the natural fulfillment of which raises the spiritual level of our lives.

Living close to Christ pushes us farther from that hidden line and brings us back to the presence of God. What a tragic pity there are so few who do this.

O. A. C.

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**IN THE FIELD**

by

Apostle B. C. Flint

The mission field assigned me this year is Wisconsin and Iowa. However because of age and physical condition we were doubtful as to whether we would be able to spend much time in the field this season. I have not driven a car for about five years, and with railroad facilities about at the vanishing point, it really did not look very promising. Still feeling that we were in God's hands and under His divine leading, we felt that if He wanted us to carry on that He would provide the means of getting to our place of activity. As usual He did do just that.

Elder Raymond Hunholz, having been chosen as a member of an Elder's Court here in Independence, came down and brought his splendid family with him. At the close of his work here they very kindly offered to have us return with them to Wisconsin where we could begin our ministry. In this we were able to cover the entire field in the state of Wisconsin. There

we have interests in Milwaukee, Racine, Lima Center, Madison, Lancaster, Sparta, and Black River Falls. We visited all of these places and ministered in most of them. We also had an opportunity to visit my brother Clarence's family in Oconto, in the north eastern part of the state. This was the first time we had had an opportunity to do this since his death about ten years ago.

Of course the 'high light' of the summer's work was the Wisconsin Reunion of Sparta, the 10th. and 11th, of Aug. We have just recently returned after having spent seven weeks of a very busy and we think profitable season. We will have very little to say about our splendid reunion, as we have a very talented reporter in the person of Sister Helen Taubert of Milwaukee, who will furnish the Advocate readers with full details.

There are, however, a number of quite interesting experiences that were more of a personal nature. Wisconsin being our home for a large part of our married life, and our missionary activities, naturally contains the major portion of our life's experiences. It was just fifty-two years last May that I entered the field as a regular missionary under Conference appointment. The first point of contact in that capacity, was Sparta, Wisconsin, and it was there that I met Sister Flint early in my missionary work.

Hence the outstanding experience of this years work, was the privilege of baptizing three young teenagers at our reunion. This was unique in that I not only had blessed these three when they were babies, but had also baptized their parents in all but one instance. I had also blessed the parents when they too were babies—and going still further back, I had baptized the grandparents of all except the one same instance. Even further back, the great grandparents were among those who heard the gospel under my ministry, and that of my missionary associates of those years long ago. Naturally these things have welded a tie between the Wisconsin saints and ourselves, which brings them well within the sense of kinship very near to that of ties of blood relationship. And the wonderful love that has existed through the years, as manifested by the almost paternal treatment accorded us, made us both feel that God has graciously blessed our efforts even though we were not able to minister there as we did in years gone by.

We appreciated the association of our brethren of the ministry who came to the reunion. There were four of my brethren of the Council of Twelve there, also a goodly number of local men, and a member of the General Bishopric. It was the largest and seemingly one of the most spiritual ever held in Wisconsin.

Among some of the surprises was that in a visit to some of the old landmarks, made possible by a desire of our Brother John Randall (a new member by transfer) to visit some of the scenes of those old days, we found that the stream in which so many had been baptized fifty years ago, was now merely a trickle, and there could now be no baptisms there. Authorities on these matters inform us that the water level all over our land

has greatly lowered in past years. These things admonish us that time is indeed passing, and not only are we in the flesh passing, but nature itself is fulfilling prophecies of scripture.

Another interesting experience was that one evening after a day of services our local brother Elder Isaac Brockman and his good wife, took us on an exploring trip up to the vicinity of Black River Falls. It was at Black River Falls that some outstanding history of the Restoration was made. Here back in the days of extreme activity in old Nauvoo, Ill., a group came to the vicinity of Black River Falls (then covered with virgin pine) to cut timber for the Nauvoo Temple. A marker for the site of the sawmill for this preparation is in the city itself. But our quest that evening was for an old cemetery near there, where some of those early pioneer saints are buried. We did find this cemetery and it was indeed in a very strange place, between the little towns of Warren, and Millston, a long way from all present lanes of traffic. We found it in a dense woods on a steep sidehill. It seemed to have been blocked off in lots and numbered and the old crumbling tombstones were inscribed with names of those buried there. But I could recognize no names that are familiar to our history. Brother Brockman is going to try to find someone who knows something of the history of that remote spot, to see if he can find something that would be of interest to us. We do know the names of most of the party who went from Nauvoo, but it is possible that there could be some local people of that locality who could have associated themselves with that group. In fact, we know that there were some such. Anyhow our natural bent for history was aroused by this little adventure, even if it has no value in the long run.

Before leaving Wisconsin, I had a little personal family contact. Everyone knows that Madison, Wis., was once our home and that I still have quite a few of my own family still living there. Among them is my oldest daughter, and her family. With the passing of years, that family has grown, and I now have four generations in a direct line, myself making the fifth. So a five generation picture was taken and this is only part of the story. Twenty-nine years ago, this young great grandson of mine was a baby and my own father was alive, and they also took a five generation picture and it was made public in the public prints. It really is a little unusual for such a circumstance occurring in one family. What the future course of these, my descendants will be, only time can tell. The only males in this alignment is this new born baby, his father, and myself. Suffice to say, that this my great grandson has always been interested in my ministry through the years, but most of his adult life has been spent in the U. S. Navy. So whether his life course will be in gospel work or not, I do not know. He has had all of our church literature, including my own publications and has seemingly appreciated them—May God guide him is my prayer.

The old time zest for writing together with any small

ability I may have possessed in years gone by, seems to be growing dim with the rest of my qualifications.

My love for God and His work has never been dimmed, and with the approach of the sunset of life, is ever bright. Through my associations in the gospel it has grown with the passing of time. My prayer is for the final triumph of all that our kind Father in heaven, has designed will be attained in His own due time, in this glorious latter day gospel.

### WISCONSIN REUNION

Reported by  
Helen Taubert

It is with a deep sense of praise to God from whom all blessings flow, that I take up my pen to bring to you an account of our reunion.

Truly we were blessed in great measure both in the services to our Master and in our association together. We were privileged to have with us, five members of the Council of Twelve; Apostle B. C. Flint, Wm. F. Anderson, C. L. Wheaton, D. W. Housknecht and Wm. A. Sheldon, and were indeed nourished in the gospel truths at their hands.

Our visiting brothers and sisters were from Missouri, Michigan, Minnesota and Arizona, and each brought with them the spirit of love and fellowship which prevailed throughout the reunion. We missed several who have met with us other years, but were very happy to welcome quite a few new faces.

Bros. Kenneth Smith and John Randall were in charge of the opening prayer service Saturday morning Aug. 10th. This was a time of refreshing under the sweet influence of the Holy Spirit, and there were many uplifting prayers and testimonies offered.

The speaker at the 11:00 o'clock hour was our aging Bro. Anderson. Although he is now unable to read due to failing eye sight, the wealth of knowledge which he has acquired through the years of his ministry was indeed manifest. He gave us much food for thought in our obligation to the Lord and our brothers and sisters, that we grow in unity and love one to another. We must be one if we would be God's people, keeping His commandments, the first of which is to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Do we comply? Have we as we often sing—left all for Christ, and taken up our cross to follow Him, or is the Lord still waiting for vindication of our allegiance to His cause? We should read the sermon on the mount, meditating upon the things Christ taught, and sit in judgment on ourselves, as today is the day of our salvation. We have no assurance of tomorrow.

Preaching at 2:30 was by Bro. Sheldon. He brought us an inspiring message of the need of obedience to the commandments of God; that as the Israelites of old in the days of Elijah the prophet, had to choose between God and Baal, we too should choose whom we will serve. We were reminded of the Kingdom of Heaven in the last days likened unto ten virgins who slumbered and slept, five of them wise, and five of

them foolish, five who had oil in their lamps, and five who did not. We were admonished that we be not numbered among the foolish, but rather with those who have oil in their vessels. Belonging to the Church of Christ is not enough. We must be submissive and yielding, obedient to that which the Lord would have us do. We were told that we should not let the experiences of this reunion slip from our minds and hearts, but treasure them up that they may bear fruit in our lives.

Following the afternoon meeting we gathered at the waters edge for a baptismal service. Three young people, Jimmy Clifton of Sparta, Bonny Hesse of Shawano, Wisconsin, and Johna Mae Jones of Phoenix, Ariz., made their covenant with the Lord at this time. The spot chosen for the baptisms was well secluded, back among the trees on the bank of a river, and as Bro. Flint led each of these young people by turn, down into the water, my mind went back to the baptism in the river Jordan when the Master of men complied to show us the way. How great His example before us in all things.

As the evening hour rolled around, Bro. Tom Maley took charge of a short song service, after which we witnessed the ordinance of the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Spirit to those who had just been baptized. Bro. Flint and Bro. Kenneth Smith officiated in this. All went forward then to extend to these young people the right hand of fellowship. May the Lord be with them to strengthen them against the many temptations of life, and guide them in the ways of truth and righteousness is our prayer.

At 8:00 o'clock we heard a stirring sermon by Bro. Wheaton. He reminded us that we each have a place to fill and a work to do in God's great plan, and that each is of equal importance. We should examine ourselves, especially the garden of our hearts, uprooting the weeds that grow there such as malice, envy, jealousy and strife; and cultivate and nourish that which is of the good spirit, love, joy, peace, longsuffering, faith and meekness. We have been called to be saints of God, let us make that calling and election sure.

Sunday morning the church was filled to capacity, and the whole time was devoted to a prayer and sacrament meeting. Bros. Ray Hunholz and Harry Hutchison were in charge of the service, with Bro. Glen Gill and Bro. Harold Polack assisting in serving the emblems. There were many humble prayers and testimonies offered of God's goodness and the presence of the Divine Spirit was felt in abundance. We were blessed with the speaking in tongues through Bro. Flint, and in the interpretation Bro. Rolland Sarratt of Collins, Mo., who was in attendance, was called to the ministry. He was told that the Lord had seen his faithfulness, and the desires of his heart and was pleased. There was also much of an encouraging and uplifting nature, and we were told that from that place there would go to other locals, that which would be beneficial and edifying. Later Bro. Housknecht gave a spiritual manifestation of the need of laborers in the vineyard of the Lord,

naming several who should prepare for service. He also warned us of the short time we have left before the judgments of God are poured out upon the nations, and we need to be more steadfast and diligent that we be not overcome.

Bro. Housknecht was our speaker at the 2:30 hour. His sermon was primarily directed to the ministry, and yet applying to each and everyone seeking to serve the Lord. He spoke of Ezra the prophet of God who when commanded of the King to do a difficult work, did not shrink from duty, but rather sought the Lord in fasting and prayer for the strength needed to accomplish the task. We were reminded of the need of personal cleanliness both in appearance and character, that our lives might be as mirrors to reflect God. As ambassadors of God we must attain to the highest glory if we wish to help others reach it, looking to Christ as our example.

Our dear Bro. Anderson was called on again Sunday evening, and in his traditional manner delivered the closing sermon of the reunion. He admonished us that we are engaged in the greatest undertaking on earth, the gospel restored in these the later days, and we must form our lives according to the teachings of Christ, that we may be as a light set on a hill. The words, "Follow Me," which Christ used while on earth, among the people of that day, is still echoing down through the ages to us. We must be humble giving God first place in our lives above everything else. He likened us unto a stone building, each one being a block of it, and stressed that we must let Christ polish and fit us into place, that together we might become a perfect structure.

There were three special numbers offered during the reunion, a duet by Sister Mary Lois Bryant and Sister Margaret Gill, a male quartet including Brethren Glen Gill, Bill Sheldon, Rolland Sarratt and Tom Maley, and a duet by the Wheaton twins Karma and Konie. They sang the beautiful song, "How Great Thou Art," and it was beautifully done as they blended their young voices together.

It is always sad when an occasion such as this is over, and it is time to part, but as Bro. Sheldon said, let us not forget that which we heard, but cherish it close to our hearts that we might be as God desires, a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

### HONESTY

For nothing should the people of God more devoutly pray, than that their great men may be good men. One honest statesman, one great, sanctified, devout Christian man in the senate or cabinet of a nation, or at its head, is worth more to a nation than all the riches of El Dorado, and is a surer defense than all her armies and navies.

—Said Hollis Read in 1858.

### FINDING TIME

You will never **find** time for anything. If you want time, you must **take** it.

—Charles Buxton, American Educator.

### FROM THE MAIL SACK

Ed. note: We want to pass this interesting letter on to you—and with the writers permission to do so.

August 12, 1963.

Editor:

I want to write a few lines to say what a wonderful reunion we had here in Wisconsin this August, while it is still fresh in my mind. It was most gratifying to me to see so many from Missouri, Michigan, Minnesota and even Arizona as well as our own from Wisconsin.

I had always wanted to be present when someone spoke in tongues—perhaps I thought of this more than I should have. At one of our services, all of a sudden Bro. Flint was talking in tongues. It took me a few seconds to realize what was occurring. I can't help but realize how the Lord answers our desires though sometimes it may take a long time. Perhaps you would like to see some place where you would like to go, or perhaps you want something to make your life more comfortable. The following comes to mind as an example.

I always thought if I ever became rich I would like to own a certain fancy type, expensive (to me anyway) sewing machine. For I do a lot of sewing, making most of mine and the girls clothes and shirts for the boys etc. I didn't give it much thought except as a day-dream on rare occasions. One day I picked up a paper and there was advertised a contest (local) to win a machine of this type. I had never won anything or entered any contest of this sort. But I filled it in and mailed it and forgot it. I didn't even mention it too the family. Some time later I received a letter saying I had come in some where down the line (not first or second) but enclosed a certificate good for \$100 on the purchase of this sewing machine. Even then I didn't expect to be able to have one as there was a new baby and the hospital and doctor bills due in the immediate future. But somehow things straightened out and I now have the machine and have enjoyed using it for several years. Somehow it seems if we are patient and sort of relaxed about some of these things—one day when we least expect it—there is the thing we desired. This has happened to me so many times.

An incident happened over the week-end. The children and I stopped and made a small purchase and I gave the clerk a \$10 bill. She went after change and answered a question of some one's, and then gave me \$19 and some odd pennies. I promptly gave her the extra \$10 back—she wasn't even sure she had made the mistake. Then a day or so later we stopped at a souvenir place along the way. I thought I would get some small things for the boys who were left at home. I dumped the change out of my billfold to count and left it when my attention was called away. I walked around several minutes before I realized I had laid it down. I asked the manager if anyone had turned it in. Everyone said, "you'll never see it again" and I felt that way myself. But I looked and asked others and must have attracted the attention of the one who found it, after 10 or 15 minutes during which time

I really felt sick and also said a silent prayer. A man came up and asked if I'd lost something and I told him or described it and he said, "My wife found it and was going to mail it back to you." That was a quick answer to a prayer, and some solid evidence for "Bread cast upon the waters" only in this case more than two fold. I hope the good Lord will return it (the bread) to those kind and honest people.

I want to thank everyone for their prayers in behalf of my self and my son Martin (4) who is a hemophiliac (a bleeder) He had a large bruise on his forehead which is shrinking and looks much better since administrations. My heart is lighter after the wonderful prayers and testimonies we heard. While he hasn't been healed completely yet he has been blessed and escaped much of the suffering, I'm sure God takes his hand many times to prevent his injury in play. Just recently we went to the Beach for the children to swim and picnic and it looked clean and nice. They swam and played barefoot in the grass near by. Just before we decided to go I walked over near where he had been and there was jagged broken glass in the water and on the sand. I was just weak but now when I think back I can see how God really looks after these children we entrust to him when we have them blessed. I have six children from 4 to 18 years. This youngest is the only one to ever be in a hospital except at time of birth.

Remember me in your prayers please. I would love to hear from any who need a Pen Pal.

Sincerely,

Mary Addie  
Rt. 1, Box 34  
Whitewater, Wis.

(The following poem, thoughts for thinkers upon the phantasy of warped evolution, was first published in July 1953 in the Torch of Truth)

### THE EDUCATED FOOL

by

Glenn Gill

Oh, thou product of folly,  
Pride-soaked Egotist;  
Thy brain is thy foot-stool,  
Thy wisdom doeth list.

Thy wounded discernment  
Seeks true-knowledge  
In vain. It clings fast  
To falsehood, and unstable  
Thought-train.

Awake! Your mind open,  
And query of God  
Ask Him to direct you,  
Truth will spring from the sod.

A seedling of wisdom—  
Unscrambler of thought,  
Its fruit will be knowledge,  
Fool! Thou planted it not.

### VISITATIONS OF ANGELS

(Excerpt from a sermon by Apostle Leon Yates—May 18, 1958—Phoenix, Arizona).

"And it shall come to pass when the Lord seeth fit in his wisdom, that they shall minister unto all the scattered tribes of Israel, and unto all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, and shall bring out of them unto Jesus many souls." Speaking of the Three Nephites, this part of the prophecy was literally fulfilled in the following story:

From old Brother Susano Cabrera (of our Yucatan church) the brother of Sabrino, of whom you have heard us speak, and through the aid of an interpreter, I heard this experience. I wish you could have seen his enthusiasm, the light of his eyes, and heard the hope and love expressed in his voice as he related it to me.

Thirty-five years ago, he, his brothers and other men were breaking camp in the jungles one morning, preparatory to traveling by horseback to a neighboring town, about a seven hour ride away, when a strange man appeared. He was wearing a robe, was barefooted, and had a long beard. He began to preach to them, telling them that they should forsake the ways of the world and be obedient to Jesus Christ in order that they might have eternal life. He told them that in the near future many churches would come into their land. But they would teach for doctrine the commandments of man.

After that he departed and walked over a little rise in the path a short distance away. The men decided that since it was a seven hour ride they should offer him a horse. They sent a man quickly after him, but he had disappeared and the trail was empty. They were surprised for he had not had time to get out of their sight. They went on their way and reached the town.

There they inquired if anyone of this man's description had been seen. They were told he had been there and had preached to them. They asked what time he had arrived and discovered it was about the same time he had earlier disappeared from their camp. They were so excited they wanted to hear him again, but they found he had gone on to the next town. So they followed him there.

Bro. Sabrino said it was impossible to determine the color of his eyes. He seemed always to have them focused above the people as if he were looking into the heavens. There were some who believed him, but many others who did not. These threw him into a well, from which he returned unhurt. He was thrown in again, but again returned. And those wells in Yucatan are over 100 feet deep.

Among other things he told them before he departed was that they were not to accept what churches who came would offer. They were to wait, and in the future there would come a man into Yucatan who would go to a certain house in a certain city. The name of the man who owned this house would be Nemisio Xiu. And he said that when this man came to Yucatan he would preach the true gospel of Jesus Christ. He said, when you hear of him being in the

home of Nemisio Xiu, give ear to that which he has to say . . . then the stranger left. They could see his feet moving as if he were walking, but it appeared as if they did not touch the ground. There were those who pursued him and tried to catch him but it was impossible.

I am confident as I am that I am standing here, that this was one of the Three Nephites, we read about in the Book of Mormon, who had asked never to die, that they wanted to be given special power to continue to help in the work of Christ. Now Bro. Wheaton never heard this story until I told it to him this year, although he was the man who went to Yucatan, and who actually preached the gospel in the home of Nemisio Xiu. All the time he was in Yucatan this prophecy was unknown to him, this story of the white-robed stranger who foretold the coming of the gospel to the Mayans of Yucatan. As you may know, Bro. Wheaton had not gone to this house for the purpose of preaching. He was searching for white Indians reported to be in that area. He carried with him a letter to Nemisio Xiu, an introduction from the great councilman of the American Indians. So he had gone to this home to seek information. But as other Indians gathered, he took from his pocket the Book of Mormon and began to preach the words of the Master.

Why should we doubt the ministration of angels when we profess to believe the word of God as given in the Old and New Testaments, and in the Book of Mormon? We have no reason to believe that the unchangeable God will change his methods of dealing with mankind.

There in Yucatan, when Bro. Wheaton began preaching the gospel to those people, the Cabrero brothers were among those who heard. Their understanding was opened, and they accepted the gospel with joy. And this gospel of Jesus Christ came to Yucatan by the ministration of an angel . . . who else but God could have revealed to this man wearing the robe, thirty years ahead, that there would be a man come to the house of Nemisio Xiu preaching the gospel of Christ? Christ said he told us these things so that when they come true we can believe. The Cabrero brothers do not doubt the power of Christ and the ministry of angels.

Sabrino told us that God revealed to him in a vision that the time would come when there would be those who would drag him by the hair of his head, spit upon him, stick a gun in his stomach, and threaten to kill him. (All this came to pass at the time of the persecution of the church people in Yucatan recently, soon after it was organized by Bro. Wheaton.). But the angel told him, "Fear not . . . they cannot hurt you."

Joseph Smith, as a boy, went into the woods to pray because he was confused about the churches of the world. There appeared to him two personages, and one of them said, "This is my beloved Son . . . hear ye him." Because Joseph Smith listened to that voice we have the restored gospel today. And it was a man from that same church who fulfilled the prophecy of an

angel by preaching that same gospel in Yucatan, thirty years after the Cabrero brothers had first heard of it. Coincidental? Or does it have the ring of truth? I hope and pray that I may have the power to convince men of the truth as did the Three Nephites. I pray that God may use me that you may be touched and believe. The Scriptures tell us that no man knoweth that Christ is the Son unless it is revealed to him by the Spirit of God. And it is my prayer that these things shall be revealed unto you.

### " . . . A MORE EXCELLENT WAY "

I Cor. 12:31

#### "What Are You Worth To God?"

We read in Ecclesiastes about a man who spent all of his time looking for something which would produce happiness. He wanted something of lasting value in his life. He tried everything, laughter, wine, women, song, wealth, all manner of things. He finally realized he had failed. He concluded that real values were not found in frivolous things. There is no lasting profit in worldly pleasures. The only advantage and real profit comes to man from serving God. All of his folly proved to be worthless to him. What was it worth to God?

As members of the Church of Christ we should think of all our activities, our home life, our work, our play, and especially our church responsibilities in relation to—what they are worth to God.

The power of the atom is amazing and nearly beyond our comprehension. The recent developments such as the nuclear bombs which can destroy complete cities, the missiles which travel thousands of miles, and even rockets which orbit the distant sun as permanent satellites give added testimony of the weakness of men. Weak, because they fail to develop the great power which God has made available to them to benefit mankind.

Premier Khrushchev recently charged that Red China would sacrifice half of mankind in a nuclear war to achieve communistic victory. Our government will budget billions of dollars to try and achieve a direct moon shot. The cost of building even one atomic rocket runs into millions of dollars. But what is it worth to God?

Just as the discovery of the atom changed the potential of the world to either utopia or rubble, so the discovery of temptation and sin changed the potential of man to ruin or salvation. The atom bomb expended only the smallest fraction of its power, likewise the spiritual power expended is but a small part of the potentialities of man. He has the God-given ability to meet any challenge that is put before him. If he uses this unexpended spiritual energy in the proper manner Christ has promised that man can attain a life which is much above the average life of today.

Jesus revealed a new level of living to man. He lived among them and He knew the trials, pains and sorrows of the human family. He gave us an example



of how we should live, and told us what we could become if we followed His example.

Our young people are confronted with many things which challenge them. The high speeds of jet planes, the possibilities of flight through space to another planet. But no greater challenge has ever been put to man than the words of Jesus when He said, "Follow me." He calls all men to follow Him and live as He lived, obeying the word of God and living a righteous life with peace and good will toward all men. John said of Jesus, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, . . ."

The master scientist at the atomic energy plant did not say to some men, "Follow me into the plant and go to work." The men who desired to produce atomic energy must comply with certain scientific laws before they can qualify. When they wisely follow the instructions of the master scientist their knowledge increases and begins to bear fruit. Then they can produce atomic energy.

The same is true of those who wisely follow the instructions of the Master of men. After they have complied with all the laws their work will begin to bear fruit, and they will produce quantities of spiritual energy or power.

When Christ said, "Follow me." He listed certain laws which must be complied with before granting that "power to become the sons of God." To this day we must follow those instructions. By his word we cannot become the sons of God, until we acknowledge the Fatherhood of God. We cannot become the sons of God and live outside the Kingdom of God. Jesus told Nicodemus, in words easy to understand, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and the spirit he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God." John 3:5.

In this modern age everyone is looking for advantage. We all expect adequate return for the energy we expend, whether it is physical, monetary or spiritual. Many people join churches, not to glorify God, but to glorify themselves. When we are faced with some new endeavor we always ask, "What is it worth to me?" Let us consider some of the advantages of serving God and see if it is worth anything to us.

**GOD OFFERS ABSOLUTE JUSTICE FOR ALL PEOPLE.** Being children of God, we are presided over by a loving father who can look into our hearts, who knows all things about us. We can be sure of fair treatment. No one will ever get worse than he deserves. Some may ask, "Will partiality be shown when judgment is rendered?" Paul answers with these words, ". . . who will render to every man according to his deeds . . . For there is no respect of persons with God." Rom. 2:6-11. There is great satisfaction in serving a God who is never unfair.

**SERVING GOD OFFERS LOVE AND MERCY.** John said, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; He that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is and everyone is love." I John 4:7-8. Christ said, "Blessed are

the merciful for they shall obtain mercy." Matt. 5:7 No other way of life advocates love for even your enemies, and prayers for those who persecute you. God, in his mercy, offers forgiveness for all our sins. He holds no grudges, if we sin again He forgives us again, if we ask forgiveness and are repentant. Being a merciful God, He sent his only son on a mission of love, to save the sinners, that they might obtain salvation for their souls. Can we expect more returns from the efforts we expend?

**HE EXPLAINS THE MYSTERY OF LIFE AND CREATION.** His scriptures have given us a reasonable explanation of the source of all power and intelligence. By scientific observations we can see that his explanation is reasonable and that there is an intelligent being in charge of the universe. He explains the beginnings of life and conditions after death. We have reasonable assurance that we are not creatures of chance, developed by evolution from a single cell of low animal life. We have assurance that we are created in the image of a living God who gives us a reasonable explanation of our existence and a plan to save us from our sins. Could we ask for more?

**SERVING GOD OFFERS US HAPPINESS AND PEACE.** We are not offered happiness and peace because of what it gives us in material wealth and possessions, but in spite of our worldly goods. Christ proved to us that worldly goods are not essential to happiness. He offers assurance that those things need not worry us if we have the proper faith. He said, ". . . Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on . . . But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:25-33. It is surprising how many of "these things" are added to those who do "seek first the kingdom of God." We have peace within our hearts because we have hope of salvation through the Savior, Jesus Christ. Paul said, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." I Cor. 15:19.

**SERVING GOD OFFERS US ASSURANCE AND OPPORTUNITY.** We are given courage to fulfill the tasks we meet in our every day living. We have assurance that God is with us at all times, if we but do his will. The children of God are never alone. He stands ready and able to counsel us in all things, both temporal and spiritual. Christ said, "Ask, and it shall be given you: For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." Matt. 7:7-8. Added assurance is given in these words, "And, Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Through that personal assurance we have the opportunity of a new life.

H. C. Hony, an Englishman, took an old family heirloom from the wall of his home and sent it to be cleaned of dust and grime. When the cleaners removed the dirt, they were amazed to find the painting was by Thomas Gainsborough, whose "Blue Boy" brought the highest price ever paid for a painting.

Hony was told that his painting, long considered of no value, after being cleaned was found to be worth as much as a half a million dollars. Through Jesus Christ we have the opportunity to cleanse our conscience and discover the joy of living, free from unclean things. Beneath this outer shell of darkness we might find a thing of beauty and value.

**SERVING GOD OFFERS WISDOM.** How much of all things are available if we have wisdom! If we were always sure just which course to take and the right decision to make we could have riches, health, power, fame, almost anything of worldly value. But godly living produce a wisdom that is practical for daily living. Instead of worldly things we store up spiritual treasures. The Preacher of old, hundreds of years before Christ, gave us this view of wisdom. He said, "I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness. The wise man's eyes are in his head; But the fool walketh in darkness." Eccles. 2:13-14.

**SERVING GOD OFFERS US A PURPOSE IN LIFE.** It gives us a dignity in living that sets us apart from things of low estate. It keeps us from wandering aimlessly through life. We realize that we have work to do in order to bring about the completion of God's plan of salvation—because we are part of that plan. This poem, by an unknown author, give us a good insight of what our purpose in life should be.

#### MY PURPOSE

To be a little kindlier  
 With the passing of each day;  
 To leave but happy memories  
 As I go along my way;  
 To use possessions that are mine  
 In service full and free;  
 To sacrifice the trivial things  
 For larger good to be;  
 To give of love in lavish way  
 That friendship true may live;  
 To be less quick to criticize,  
 More ready to forgive;  
 To use such talents as I have  
 That happiness may grow;  
 To take the bitter with the sweet,  
 Assured 'tis better so;  
 To be quite free from self-intent  
 Whate'er the task I do;  
 To help the world's faith stronger grow  
 In all that's good and true;  
 To keep my faith in God and right  
 No matter how things run;  
 To work and plan and pray and trust  
 Until the journey's done.  
 God grant to me the strength of heart  
 Of motive and of will,  
 To do my part, and falter not,  
 This purpose to fulfill.

The things mentioned are a few of the advantages or profits that you gain by serving God. And there

are many more, even eternal life with our Savior, Jesus Christ. If you consider them carefully you can see that God is worth a lot to you.

#### WHAT ARE YOU WORTH TO GOD?

E. J. M.

#### Sermon by Apostle T. J. Jordan

(April 12, at the 1963 Conference)

I've never been very anxious to speak to a body of people—unless perhaps, I am on the front ranks, in a series of meeting. I think those men who have gone with me, will bear witness that I have continuously pushed them to the front. As I said to one brother who sits there in the back of the room tonight, "you come with me and you can do the preaching and I'll do the praying."

Without God's spirit I am unable to do anything at all. But I do believe with all my heart that I have a mission to do—I have a work to carry on even though I am a very old man. And so long as God gives me good health, strength, vitality, and power of mind, I have a responsibility toward our people, that we together may learn the lessons that will bring us closer to God and a recognition of what He requires of us as individuals, ere the scenes of disaster and turmoil that are coming to this land, will come just as sure as I talk to you here tonight.

I want to discuss some of the problems which I consider to be of vital importance to we members of the Church of Christ and children of God. I want to help you. You and I must prepare to meet the conditions that are coming.

I want to read a wonderful lesson found in the 58th. chapter of Isaiah.

"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God.

Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labors.

Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the first of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high.

Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the Lord?"

I'd like to talk to you sometime in the future—God giving me health and strength and the opportunity—about fasting. But that is not my subject tonight.

(Ed. note: the speaker finished the 58th. chapter of Isaiah, which for brevity we omit).

That is the 58th. chap. of Isaiah—it is well worth a re-reading when you go home. I want to read, in the way of a text, over in the 60th. chap.

"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising."

And one of my favorite texts is this: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the ways thereof are the ways of death." I want you to visualize that and be sure that our ways are in the ways that God would have us go. And we must cease to follow the traditions of men—I don't care when they came into being. I'm anxious about this. I spend my time, brothers and sisters, in this broad land of ours, in teaching people, as I go out in our far flung fields, the necessity of complying to the commandments of God. First the principles of faith, baptism, repentance, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

"And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." How many of you believe the prophecies of Jesus—Oh I know that you do. And this is one of the most remarkable ones I have ever been able to find in the Bible, either the old or the new, or the Book of Mormon, which I prize.

"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"

I wonder how near we are approaching that time when the Son of God shall return to earth, and I wonder how many of us have oil in our lamps, that when the cry comes, "behold the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him" we will be prepared. Sometimes I think that my oil is somewhat limited—and I'm not here to judge you. Like Paul said on one occasion, "let every man judge himself." I have little time in trying to find fault with my brother or sister or anybody—I'm too busy looking after Thomas John Jordon. God has had a terrible task keeping this old Irishman straight.

"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately saying, Tell us" And he told them. How many of us know what he told them?

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom

against kingdom; and there shall be famines, and pestilence, and earthquakes, in divers places."

We are in that period of time today—oh yes we've had the time of wars before to a limited degree, but we are now in the condition that was spoken of by the Son of God when he said, "nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom;"

"All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake."

The day is coming, not too far away, when you will be demanded to contradict the testimony I heard you bear here today and yesterday and a few days ago, that day is coming, when you will be demanded to refute your testimony, or else your life will be taken. You take that from me, that's coming.

Let me tell you a little experience I had up where I live. We live within a community called, Pioneer Village. A group of people 70 years old or over, are provided with nice duplex type homes—lovely places, very cheap. It began to noise around that I was a Mormon preacher. And one of my friends, who does not like my religion very much, if at all, came to me and told me that they were talking about me and saying around the neighborhood (there were one hundred homes in that community) that I was a Mormon preacher, and they went so far that they started a movement to demand that we be kicked out of that nice home we were living in. And I had to meet it. We are still living there and now we are boasting—if anybody wants a little help or a kindness displayed in taking them here and there in the car, they come to that Mormon preacher. But Jesus said, "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom (and that's my subject) shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

"This gospel of the kingdom" as spoken of by Paul first chapter of the Roman letter and the 16th. verse: "For I'm not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation." Then he explains what that gospel is over in the 6th. chap. of Hebrews 1st., 2nd. and 3rd. verses. Faith, Repentance, Baptism, Laying on of hands, Resurrection of the dead, and Eternal judgment. And then he tells us to leave these principals and go on unto perfection. And I ask you tonight, you who have been baptized into Christ, that now we go on unto perfection. Because I believe with all my soul that you and I can arrive at a condition of

perfection, not like unto the Son of God, but enough that will be satisfactory in the mind of God.

I quote from Jesus, wherein he said on one occasion "who do men say that I the Son of man am?" Oh some say you are John the Baptist, and others that you are Esias, and so on—they told him what the people said. But he turned to them and he said: "Whom say ye that I am?" And Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." How many of you can testify by knowledge, not belief, that you know that Jesus is the Son of God?

"And Christ answered, And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

I was asked by one of my brethren not so long ago, what was the rock that Christ was to build the church upon? I believe that rock was the revelation to Peter that Jesus was the Christ, and that's the rock that the gates of hell shall not prevail against, for they can't stop God from speaking to the children of men. But they did stop the organic form of the church. It went into apostasy. Now the first thing that Jesus did in the establishment of that church—he went up to the mountain in fasting and prayer—then he came down. Peter, Andrew, James and John and so on, it's all over there in the Bible—the names of them—a call of twelve apostles. And in that call, oh I don't like to use that harsh word, was a traitor. But he was a traitor. But the eleven of them stood pretty solid. Jesus said regarding them, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you." And I say to you, as I have said before, the church of Christ must be established with a quorum of twelve, regardless of our opinion, and regardless of the effort made by some to get rid of the ones we have today. I don't have too many years to go and you will be rid of this old white-headed fellow.

These men were instructed: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

That is down to your time and mine. But the only time the promise will be made good is when we teach the commandments of God. That's why I strive to teach the people the first principles of the gospel and then how they should continue to live in order to obtain the blessings of God.

I heard it said not long ago, "Bro. Tom, look what happened 25 years ago, in administering to the sick, why marvelous miracles were wrought beyond the understanding or comprehension. We don't enjoy them like we did back then, what's the matter?" Are we not enjoying the blessings of God today? When we get down on our knees and ask God to bless or heal that body, if He does not do that, then we better make inquiry as to what is the difficulty that these things do not take place today. But they do. A sister up our

way was having a terrible time with her heart. We were out there two different Sundays and held services. The last time I was there, three of our sisters, my wife, my sister May, and Sister Frank Jordon, came to me and asked to be administered to. We went into the front room and had prayer, then I annointed first one and then the other. My wife received considerable relief and it has continued with her from then on. Sister May had no results as far as we could see. They were supposed to come in within the following week, go to the doctor and have an operation for that heart condition. But we got a letter within a week from these good people: "Dear Tom and Mary: I'm not coming in, for I havn't had a twinge of pain of any kind or discription since I had that administration last Sunday."

Does God work miracles today? The only trouble is that we fail to recognize them. I had a miracle. I told some of you about it. I had a miracle happen a week or ten days ago. A remarkable miracle. We had come to the point that I said to my good wife, never mind my dear, God is going to get us out of this difficulty, He is going to come to our rescue. And it was one of the most remarkable things I ever experienced in my life. If we are not enjoying those blessings we should, there is some reason for it. God is still in His heaven, God still hears prayer and will answer that prayer when we into the condition that is satisfactory or pleasing to Him.

I want to read now something written about 42 A. D. about 10 or 11 years after the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. Paul in speaking to some of those who he had converted to the gospel, has this to say:

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;" Eph. 2:19, 20, also 21 and 22.

"In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord:

In whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit."

Well now Paul did you give any further instructions along that line? I think we have it here:

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk,"

These are the admonitions of the wonderful man known as Saul of Tarsus, afterward known as Paul.

So we have the church established back there, upon the foundation of apostles. I was told a year or two ago, "We're stuck with you fellows and we don't know how to get rid of you." Meaning the Council of Twelve. Be this known unto you—the moment there is a movement, and you succeed in abolishing the Council of Twelve you cease to exist as the church of Christ in its genuine form. That is sure.

We have the church established and they thought repentance of sins, baptism for the remission of sins, the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost, the blessing of babies, the healing of the sick—yes they had all this organization back there. And if we are the Church of Christ today, and I do not say that in any trace of doubt, for if I didn't have the evidence that this is the place to come, I wouldn't be here. If we are the Church of Christ today, we must be patterned after, and teach the same as did that church. This is the only body of believers in the restoration of the gospel of Christ that is in any way near the organic form of the Church back yonder. The only body. Now don't get puffed up about that.

And Jesus said this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness. It must be by and through the medium of a church established exactly as he has said, or this prophecy is of none effect. That church must be established a certain way—and when we see that church established, then we ought to lift up our heads and see the course we are pursuing and the way we are headed. There is a record kept in heaven, a genuine record. And when you and I stand before the judgment bar of God and that record is read, we will not have the desire nor the privilege of offering alibies. It is just too bad but we can't say this brother or that brother is to blame for it. My record will be there and when it is read I will know it is true. I may fool you, you may fool me, but when we stand before God there will be no alibies offered.

Now we have read the prophecies that tell what is going to be just before the end of the world and His coming—what are we going to do about it? We are approaching a serious time, extremely serious. I don't want to cause fear, I just want to invite us to take stock and see who we are and what we are and the course we are pursuing. I was pained this afternoon when I saw the jangling going on here back and forward. I couldn't help but observe—are we in truth the disciples of Jesus—are we ministers for Him? We should visualize ourselves. I am going to admonish us, including this old white-headed fellow, to go out and feed the flock of God, that they too may become fed, to the place where they will have the desire and intent to keep the commandments of God and to love Him. But you can't demonstrate love for God if you don't love your brother and sister. Maybe you think you can, but you can't. And I don't mean by that, that we should whitewash everything. But there is a gentle kindly way of going about things that brings peace and contentment. I want you people to go back from this Conference with this thought in mind, it has been a good conference, we have learned something, we

have enjoyed ourselves together. The Spirit of God was here—it has been here in most of our meetings, even the business meetings.

The next three, four years—five at the most, will try your faith. You will not know inwardly just what is going to happen next. I have had a remarkable vision. I sat in my arm chair in the city of Regina. The whole scene was opened up before me, and a voice I heard as clear as my own voice now, I was to give heed to what I was about to be shown. And it said, in the beginning of this year 1955 shall be the distress of nations and turmoil shall spread over the earth, it shall come from the heavens above, it shall be on the great deep, it shall be upon the earth it shall be within the earth, these conditions that were coming. These are the beginnings of sorrows and as the years pass they shall be on the increase until the years sixty-five, sixty-six and sixty-seven. Something was to happen, I don't know what it is—maybe it is a good thing I don't know, but something was to happen.

And I say to you my Brothers and Sisters, that as the blood of the paschal lamb was put above the doorposts of the children of Israel and the destroying angel passed by—while that may not be repeated, something of a similar type will come, and those of you who have lived your religion and kept the faith of God throughout your life, will be passed by. I believe with all my soul that while some of us may have to suffer that in the great bulk and whole of the children of God, there will be some means of escape. I have seen in vision what will take place beyond the Rocky Mountains, and it is going to come within about two hundred and fifty miles of the city of Independence.

One more experience—while traveling in my car all alone I was given a message to the Utah group, the Reorganized Church and the Church of Christ. When I arrived home and sat down to write it down, I couldn't remember one word I was given to the Utah or the Reorganized Church, but the message to the Church of Christ was:

Oh my people, oh my people!  
Hear my voice to you this day.  
I have spoken, few have heeded,  
Soon will dawn millennium's day.

Up then, to your high tower  
View the nations far and near,  
Ruled by fear midst great confusion  
Thus preparing Zion's war.

I have called you, few are chosen  
Some have fallen by the way,  
Others, slothful and unfaithful  
Call for pity o'er and o'er.

Up then to your high station  
I have bid you occupy,  
For my word waits vindication  
And must spread from shore to shore.

Heed ye then this timely admonition  
 Heed ye not to follow man's tradition,  
 But walk with me in my domain  
 That I may own you as my children.

Oh my people, oh my people!  
 Hear my voice to you this day.  
 I have spoken, have you heeded?  
 Hark, your coming Lord is near.

I want to speak a word of advice to these young men, I don't mean boys and girls, I mean men of ability and manhood. There are three things that cause your wavering, and if continued, your downfall. And that is your moral conduct—false manifestations, and aspiring to office. And if any one of these gets resident in your heart or your mind,—get it out. Because sooner or later it will be your ruination. Be yourself, and occupy where God directs, and do it with intelligence and fervor and God will come to your assistance and your blessing.

Let us be advised, let us be encouraged, but above all, let us set our house in order, let us get in the right condition, individually and as families. Let us rise to new heights, for we are right on the verge of a new era—God has set His hand for the last time to redeem his people.

Go back to your homes, keep the faith, walk circumspectly before God from day to day. Don't forget your prayers before you enter into the duties of the day. Don't forget your prayers before you lay your body down to rest. That is good medicine for the soul. May God bless you is my prayer.

Ed. note: Brother Don Housknecht had been announced to speak at this hour but had asked Brother Jordon to occupy in his stead for some had expressed a desire to hear him. At the close of the service, Bro. Housknecht who was in charge, had this to say:

"I want to tell you something that is very strange. The very text, the very scriptures that I would have used, my brother has used. I don't know that I would have said the words as he has said them—but can't you see that God meant them to be said?"

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### THIS HOUR

One of the illusions of life is that the present hour is not the critical decisive hour. Write it on your heart that every day is the best day of the year. He only is rich who owns the day, and no one owns the day who allows it to be invaded with worry, fret, and anxiety.

—Emerson.

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### ANCIENT EARTHQUAKE

The account of an earthquake that destroyed Guatemala actually was printed in Mexico 413 years ago! This was a century before the first press appeared in American colonies, according to Graphic Arts Monthly.

### WHAT IS ZION?

Sermon by C. LeRoy Wheaton, Jr.

July 21, 1963

What is Zion? This question has been raised many times, and the belief that Zion is either a place or a condition has been debated at some length. To me Zion is the seat of Christ's government on earth and as such, Zion is both, a condition and a place. A place where people living in a righteous condition will live and worship God.

In Daniel 2:44-45, we read; "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure."

Daniel had given the interpretation of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had seen as a portrayal of what was to come about in the latter days.

Brother Daniel McGregor in "A Marvelous Work and a Wonder" continues his analysis of Daniel's image, wherein Daniel saw that Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold, Bro. McGregor sees Persia as the breast and arms of silver, Grecia as the belly and thighs of brass, Rome as the legs of iron and the ten kingdoms of Europe as the feet of iron and clay. M. W. and W. pg. 131-142). He further tells us that while these kingdoms come upon the world scene following each other and stood for a time each was overcome until the break up of the Roman Empire into the ten kingdoms of Europe, which until this day have not clung together even as clay and iron will not cleave together. However he did show that these kingdoms were to stand together in the earth in the latter days, and sighted the dates to substantiate it:

**BABYLON:** Founded by Nebuchadnezzar B.C. 747. Overthrown B.C. 538. Became independent under Turkish rule A.D. 1638 to 1920.

**MEDIA-PERSIA:** Overthrew Babylon B.C. 539. Overthrown B.C. 334. Recovers independence A.D. 1730 to present time.

**GREECE:** Overthrew Persia B.C. 331. Overthrown B.C. 146. Recognized by Great Power as independent A.D. 1830.

**ROME:** By B.C. 168—ruled the world until A.D. 404, when the empire began to be broken up. Restored under the Imperial Rule of the Popes A.D. 1814 to 1848. Thus we see that for a brief time the image stood complete as follows:

**BABYLON:** A.D. 1638-1920.

**MEDIA-PERSIA:** A.D. 1730—Present time.

**GREECE:** A.D. 1830.

**ROME:** A.D. 1814-1848.

Ten kingdoms of Europe: AUSTRIA, BAVARIA, ENGLAND, FRANCE, NAPLES, NETHERLANDS, PORTUGAL, SARDINA, SPAIN, AND WUSTEMBERG.

In 1847 one historian in a periodical, "The Last Vials", makes this statement: ". . . so that nothing now remains but the establishment of the fifth empire—the eternal kingdom of God, not in heaven, but upon the earth."

Daniel said, "in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom." The Book of Commandments records this event in Chapter 24 which I quote in part, "The rise of the Church of Christ in these last days, being one thousand eight hundred and thirty years since the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the flesh: it being regularly organized and established agreeable to the laws of our country by the will and commandments of God in the fourth month and on the sixth day of the month, which is called April: which commandments were given to Joseph, who was called of God and ordained an apostle of Jesus Christ, an elder of this church and also to Oliver, who was also called of God an apostle of Jesus Christ, and elder of this church, and ordained under his hand: and thus according to the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom be all glory both now and forever. Amen."

As you read on in this chapter you find that much that constitutes a kingdom was set up, officers, laws, duties of members, and a set method of becoming a citizen of that kingdom. By 1832 the place of the kingdom was pointed out in an orderly manner. Book of Commandments 54:1-4, "I the Lord will make known unto you what I will that ye shall do from time to time until the next Conference, which shall be held in Missouri, upon the land which I will consecrate unto my people, which are a remnant of Jacob, and them who are heirs according to the covenant." Millennial Star, Vol. 14, supplement pg. 72 (D. C. 57:1) "Hearken, O ye elders of my church, saith the Lord your God who have assembled yourselves together, according to my commandments, in this land which is the land of Missouri, which is the land which I have appointed and consecrated for the gathering of the saints: wherefore this is the land of promise, and the place for the city of Zion. And thus saith the Lord your God, If you will receive wisdom here is wisdom. Behold, the place which is now called Independence, is the center place, and the spot for the temple is lying westward upon a lot which is not far from the courthouse;"

On August 3, 1831 this piece of ground was dedicated by Joseph Smith and seven companions and is today held as a sacred trust by this Church of Christ. Yes the "little stone" was cut out of the mountain without hands, it was cut out by Almighty God and it shall roll forth until it fills the whole earth. The effect of the Church on the world may seem small indeed, but it is like a story told a few years ago in a sermon, "There is a rock of solid granite called Butte Rock, on the very top of this rock is a tree, started from a tiny seed that the wind had blown there and as the tree

grew and its roots went deeper it split the solid granite rock in two." So shall the Church of Christ, as we take root and begin to grow as Daniel saw the "little stone" roll forth, so shall the Church in these latter days roll forth until it shall break in pieces the great solid kingdoms of the earth and fill the earth with a knowledge of God.

We must roll forth in God's way, and one important step is found in III Nephi, Chap. 5:41,—"Verily, verily I say unto you that this is my doctrine; and whoso buildeth upon this, buildeth upon my rock; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them." We must build upon the doctrine of Christ or we are on a sandy shaky foundation and will be swept away.

In the Articles of Faith—Article No. 24, It says we believe in the redemption of Zion. This means that a people as well as the land should be redeemed. Isaiah 1:21-27, tells of the condition that the people got into and what the Lord will do to them: "How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers. Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water: Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them. Therefore saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts, the mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will ease me of mine adversaries, and avenge me of mine enemies: And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin: And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city. Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness."

We hear that leaders have led the flock away, this is true to a certain extent, but Isaiah says (verse 23) ". . . everyone loveth gifts and followeth after rewards." Leaders lead people astray because the **people want** them to. But the Lord shall purge and afterwards the people shall be called righteous.

Another condition we must get into is set forth in Acts 4:31-32, ". . . And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul:—" This is the condition we must get ourselves into today. Doubt and distrust cannot exist in Zion. We can never have 'all things common' or 'consecration' or 'Zion' if we are constantly looking over our shoulder in mistrust of one another, or in doing under cover deeds which cause others to lose faith in us.

Zion is a place and a condition. We must adjust our lives to be worthy to live in Zion. We must begin now—we may not have till 1965 or 67 as some have claimed. It may be sooner. We cannot sit and wait like the five virgins, we may wake up and find it's too late.

We sometimes hear those who rather boastfully seem to say, 'see what we are going to do', but read carefully III Nephi 9:106, 10:1-6, ". . . I will establish

my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant, and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land . . . And also, as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem: and then shall they assist my people that they may gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem." This is talking of a place as well as a condition.

The Kingdom has been established and is rolling forth and eventually will fill the earth. The Kingdom of God in Heaven and earth will be one together, in the earth. But not yet . . . there must be a change in our present condition. We must have a change of heart, a change of attitude, we must give up the old way of contention and strife. We must be truly considerate of each other, we must live by the Golden Rule. The remnant of Jacob will do these things and the Gentiles will assist if they are faithful.

I personally believe the land in which we live is where Zion will be established, the Land of the Book of Mormon. As to this particular place, Independence, you may doubt . . . but I have had much personal evidence which causes me to believe that is the place where Zion will be built and that a people living in a righteous condition under the law will be gathered together. I believe that the power of God will be in their midst and many marvelous things will be experienced. I believe that this will usher in the millenium.

Joel 2:15, says "Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:". People today are worried about Russia, Red China, and the Atom bomb, etc. There is a simple escape from these things, a simple way, pray, call upon the Lord, humble ourselves, be obedient to Him. He will bring about their downfall.

Since the beginning of time the Devil has been able to tempt man with a counterfeit of the real thing that man should be working for—and in this Kingdom he has a counterfeit too. The Vatican State is a counterfeit—where they have rulers, laws, land, etc. But don't be fooled. So do the kingdoms which Daniel saw, but they all shall fall and great shall be the fall thereof.

We must be prepared. Now is the time. Don't wait for the Lord to push us.

**WORKING TOGETHER**

Cooperation is another word for the brotherhood of man. "United we stand, divided we fall" was never more true than today. Together we may work out the solution to all our problems; divided we suffer singly but none will escape.

—Carl Holmes.

**THE ARTS**

The greatest of all arts is the art of losing ourselves in the service of others.

—Harry Halsey Starret.

Clarence L. Wheaton, Sr.  
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