Remarkes by Prest. Brigham Young

Nov. 19th. 1854

I wish to add my testemony to some of the remarkes of Bro. Pratt, with regard to the location and blessings of the Saints.  They do not realise the blessings that they enjoy; it seems that the people are not capable of comprehending, and contrasting the sercumstances they pass through in life; it seems they become more ignorant; if they know a fact to day tomorrow it is gone from them; it is like a passing dream, they forget it; it is to them as tho' it had never been.

I wish that the Iatterday Saints could realise the importance of the sayings of the prophets, of Jesus, and of the Apostles in former days, and in latter days.  I wish that good men, those who are realy good men; those that are in authority in this kingdom could realise one fact; if you could realise this one fact Bren you that are in authority, that realy disire to be saints in every sense of the word, just realise this one fact before God, it is better for this people to be but very few in number, and be as the should be, than to swell their numbers and be as they should not be.  I wish men could realise this, I do beleive they would my request on last sabath, that is for each and every Quoram commencing at this place to sever the dry, and the dead, and the rotten branches from the tree, and let the tree grow though it may be small; but it will affect the whole tree if the dead, and dry, and rotten branches are left upon it.  I had rather be numbered with a few that are prepared to enter in at the strait gate than to go with the mass to disstruction.

Well then why are the Elders of Isreal so soft in their feelings, so kind, so benovelent, so sympathetic, and they are so full of charity; presedents of Quorams that will fellowship the most currupt, and abominable wreatch that can be found rather than to cut them off from their Quorams; <men that are> drinking, swaring, stealing and every other violation of the moral character of a christian is going on here in this place, at head quarters.  Let us fellowship such characters; fall into their wake occionally be led by them once in a time, be influenced by them from day to day, and I tell you that sorrow fluenced by them from day to day, and I tell you that sorrow awaites this people.

Bro. Orson has told you that we may prepare ourselves for blessings, and all the blessings our hearts can disire; we can prepare ourselves also for all the sorrow we can wish for.  Will the people be righteous or will they be wicked.  I requested last Sabath, and I make the same request again; cease to fellowship these wicked men, people that will violate every moral character of the Christian; those that will not live according to the law of God.

I know that the bretheren will turn round and say, "such a man is strong in the faith; he is a latterday saint, that is he is a Mormon, he will do anything for the cause." Yes he will steal the coppers off his fathers eyes if he lay dead there, for Mormonisam, or anything else.  For a man to turn out and fight Indians, and mobbs, or stand between me and my enemy, dont prove to me he is a <Mormon> saint by any means: for a man to beleive Mormonisam is true dont prove to me that man is a Latter Day Saint.  What does prove it to God, to Angels, and to all the righteous?  It is in his life that he lives; according to his religion he lives, and serves his God day by day, and there is no other proof to me that a man or woman is a Latter Day Saint.

We say to this people if wish to be blessed, to be prospered, to be favoured of the Lord and owned of him, santify yourselves then; santify your Quorams, and save us the trouble.  We have a right to cut off any man right here, but we do not want that trouble; and we want the men that are righteous to realise that it is better for a few to be prepared to bear the vessels of the Lord than to be classed with the wicked, that the curses of God may come upon the people.  Rise up I say ye Elders of Isreal and clense yourselves, and then purify and clense your Quorams.  I take the liberty making these few remarkes for I wish them impressed upon the minds of the Elders of Isreal; we wish them to realise the necessity of their living their religion, and then what the world says thinks of us I care but little about, it is no no matter to me what they think; one thing I do know, I realise it day by day that Christ and Bailiel has no fellowship one with another.  That I realise, but it seems that the people wishes to carry the world in one hand, and comparatively speaking religion in the other.  They wish to say Bro. Latter-Day Saint, Bro. Mormon, Bro. Gentile, Bro. Devil and bro. every body else, and be friends <with>, and in favor with every body. Give me the freinds of God and angels; and the devil, and all the rest will do what <as> they please; they may be ready to kiss the ground I walk on but I care no more about them than he does  I walk on.  The high and the low the bond and the free, the rich and the poor of them they are all the same to me.

Bro. Orson has been preparing to tell a great Mystery to us.  I have one request to make of him, and the philosophers of the age, that is become Mormons in one respect and latter day saints.

Now I bring a comparrison, and I tell you the philosophy of the day.  You take a reservoir that will hold five thousand gallons,and you fill that with Chaff, and put one curnel of wheat in that Chaff, and stirr it up, and let them           cry to you that there is a great treasure in that reservoir, and you may fummel over the chaff until you are blind to find that one grain.  I say to Bro. Orson and to all the learned of the age, fetch it out like a Mormon, and not <make> write a book of six hundered pages with that, that ought to be told out in a few Minutes:  but to write books, write books, what for?  to tell that they ought to tell in a minute.  I can tell the philosophers something they dont know; when they become learned as men will be upon the earth instead of taking about eight hours to get a lunar observation and tell the Longitude and latitude, and work hard they will tell       it in half A minute; and to tell the rotary motions of the planets instead of writing a great book of eight or ten hundered  pages they will sit down and give it upon half a page.  There is no kingdom without a space, and there is no space without a kingdom says the prophet Joseph.  Now let me tell you there is no world made without that world has motion, and it is governed and controled by the law of the eternal preisthood; and if you want to know what preisthood is, it is a perfect system of Government by which planets and all creations are governed.  Philosophy sit down,and tell us how the Gods came into existance, and how the first creation was made, and the planetts, it proves to me they expose their poor ignorance before all  intellegence, and plants themselves in the pages of forgetfulness.  There is no plannets nor kingdoms that mortal man can <find out> decifer and find out without the revelations of the Almighty.  But I am not an asstronomer nor a philosopher, nor do I profess any learning; I have none only what the Lord taught me, and what I got while I was in the woods rolling loggs, and while I was in the willderness, but thereis knowlege and truth. and it is just as easy for the Lord to reveal to a person a mystery with regard to the plannets motion on their axes, that they can tell it to a congregation or to the world in one Minute, as to be six mounths about it, just exactly.  I want something that will do us <some> good.

Why I speak of it, Bro. Orson told us last sabath what he had disscovered; now if you have got anything good bring it out I say to all people as I do.  I get up before the people in all simplicity, and talk the thing out as I have got it.  I mean what I say; I am streneous in my feelings Elders of Isreal.  Rise up and purify your hearts before the Lord and then clense your Quorams.  See the abominations in the midst of this people; Can you tell whether you are a saint or a sinner?  Look at the people and see what they would do; shall I tell you what they would do if they where permitted in this City in two yeas time; if they were not watched over and gaurded on every side there would not be five persons left in the City that could tell God Angels, heaven, hell, earth, devels, one from the <an>other in their principles or persons; and if there was any righteous they would be for leaving and going to the Mountains.  That is what the people would do if they were not watched day by day.

See the drunkeness there is here just through the permission of keeping a beer shop, and selling a little liquir.  Do you see Elders of Isreal staggaring through the streets, men who have done much good, and been firm in the faith?  Why is it they are left to give way to the poor misserable state of a drunkard?  Do they know?  No.  You meet them in the streets so drunk they do not know where they are, and ask them if they beleive Mormonisam" Yes I beleive Mormonisam with all my heart," (this was given in the drunkards tone) staggaring about,Yes I am a Latter day Saint." I dont beleive it.  They do as one fellow did in Kansville, says he, "I sware I am a Mormon.  The people will go plume to disstruction, and missery, and ruin themselves if they are not watched over.  What shall we do with them?  tie them up and give them a whiping?  They diserve it.

I have invited the mare of the City to stop these Grogg shops in the City, and stop currupting the people by laying in their power wisky to be sold; and then stop every person from dissposing of liquir who have brought it in the City, and stop having drunkards in our streets.'

You will turn round and say, "it is not so bad in this City as in other places we have been in, in America" Hearken who are the persons living here?  How came this City into existance?  You inquire of yourselves; what is the answer from the world?  The whole world will tell you, "the Latter Day Saints that were driven fromthe United States built a City in the mountians."' You ask yourselves, "is it the Latterday Saints who came here and built this City?" Are these the Latter day Saints who are living in these houses round here, are these the Latter day Saints that is ploughing up the ground, and making fences, and farmes, and improving the earth, going into the Canyons, and doing all this work we see done; if it is not those that profess to be Latter day saints      tell us who they are.  Now if there is a person here, (and there is a greatat         many I presume that have the light of eternal truth) how do you feel?  You feel, "Shame on such conduct," that is practiced in this <City> place." Is there any necessity of a man sinning?  Is he obliged to sin, and do wrong?  to lie, to cheat, his neighbor, to pick up his neighbor's ox in the Canyon and keep it; to pick up clothing in the streets and keep it, and never mouth it?  Latter day Saints, when you pick up anything in the Streets to snuggle it, if they come accross anything that is out of the way, and the owner knows not where it is you hide it.  O ye Latter day Saints every Man and woman that has the light of truth in their hearts say shame on this community; not every individual but some.  There is a portion of the community that is callculated to currupt, to corrode, and disstroy the <rest>  What will you do saints will you rise up and put away his iniquity or let it overcome you.  I say rise up and clense the people, and let us wipe out these nasty grogg shopes; we can do that without any man's praying.<to> Stop this drunkeness, and stealing, and send them off to Callifornia where a number of them are going now, and there is a number more I wish would go with them but they are going to be left in our streets.  Talk about stealing in Callifornia do not talk anything about that for there is plenty of it here.

After all this my heart says God have mercy upon the people, and help us to santify ourselves, and get the light of truth that we may know the will of the Lord conserning us.  May God bless you Amen.

G. D. Watt

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