

PRACTICAL RELIGION.

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WHAT IS PRACTICAL RELIGION?

A RELIGION becomes practical when its principles can be used in all the affairs of life—small and great alike, on weekdays as on Sundays. A practical religion mingles faith and works. People who possess a practical religion and who use it may be recognized by the fruits of their labours.

The practical nature of the religion of the Latter-day Saints is best shown in the results of their history. It is an old law that "by their fruits ye shall know them."

THE TEST OF A PRACTICAL RELIGION.

What is the effect upon the people of the practice of a religion? The answer to that question determines in the end the value of the religion. It is the only final measure of the human value of a system of principles for the guidance of life.

The test must, however, apply to all phases of human existence. It is not sufficient to believe in the Lord, and then, in earthly sin, degradation or misery, to wait for a glorious life in the hereafter. Body and mind, to-day and to-morrow, the here and the hereafter, must be benefitted by the exercise of the religion. It must enter into every concern and activity of mankind.

The following statements show some of the results of living the Gospel of Jesus Christ as taught by the Latter-day Saints.

They are evidences of a practical religion.

HEALTH OF BODY.

The death rate of the Latter-day Saints is 7.5 per thousand, or about one-half of that for the leading nations of the earth, thus implying an increased length of life.

Deaths from tuberculosis are about one twentieth of those among six foremost nations; from cancer about one-third; from diseases of the nervous, circulatory, respiratory and digestive systems about one-half; from kidney diseases about one-half.

The high average health has produced many notable athletes in many fields of physical sport.

Insanity is about one-half of the average for the non-"Mormons" among whom they live.

Infant mortality is less than two-thirds that of the foremost nations.

Within the "Mormon" Church there are four births for each death—probably the highest ratio in the world.

ECONOMIC WELFARE.

Nearly 80% of the Latter-day Saints are engaged in productive occupations.

They are a home-owning people—nearly 75% own their own homes.

Few are very wealthy; few are really poor; nearly all have the necessities of life.

Industry, thrift and honesty are the foundation principles for economic success.

POVERTY.

One mature man in 1,000 needs full support. Twenty-two mature persons per 1,000 require partial support.

Poverty is relieved in a simple manner. Once a month the members of the Church go without two consecutive meals, from the evening of one day to the evening of the next. The money equivalent to the meals saved during this period of fasting is placed in a fund for the support of the poor. By this method, were it generally and faithfully practised, one out of every 45 persons in the world could be fed—thus poverty would vanish.

By a system of monthly, unpaid visits of members to members, cases of distress or need are discovered and reported for amelioration.

EDUCATION.

Literacy among the Latter-day Saints is over 99.7%—practically complete.

Sixty in every thousand attend high school, annually—more than three times the average for the United States.

Nine in every thousand attend universities, annually, nearly twice the United States average.

MORALITY.

The marriage rate is nearly twice as large as the average for twenty of the leading nations.

Divorces number about one-third of the average for fifteen nations.

Illegitimate births are fewer than one-tenth of the average for twenty-two civilized nations.

The number of criminals among the Latter-day Saints is less than one-third of the average for its neighbouring communities.

PATRIOTISM AND LOYALTY.

Utah's Record in the Great War :—

Total enlistment :—

Army				20,872
Navy				3,510

Three times the requested number of men were provided.
Financial support :—

Every Government War loan was largely over-subscribed among the Latter-day Saints.

The Latter-day Saints are taught peace and the methods of avoiding war ; but also the necessity of full allegiance to the country in which they reside.

COLONIZATION.

The Latter-day Saints, driven from their homes, entered the Great American Desert and conquered it and made it a prosperous and profitable part of the earth.

They have founded and built 615 cities, towns and villages.

They established the practice of irrigation under the conditions of modern civilization.

The application of the principles that were used in this extensive and vast colonization enterprise, are taught to the members of the Church, everywhere.

MINDING ONE'S OWN BUSINESS.

"Mormon" creed: Mind your own business ; Saints will observe this ; all others ought to.

This permits the Latter-day Saints to live at peace with their neighbours everywhere.

The Latter-day Saints are noted for their peaceful communities.

ORGANIZATION.

The Church, now numbering about three-quarters of a million people, are divided into about 2,000 wards and branches, presided over by unpaid officers.

This organization gives the opportunity for extensive individual care and supervision.

The wards and branches are grouped into larger organization units, also provided with volunteer officers.

Finally, the church-wide officers exercise general jurisdiction over the Church.

The organization permits of rapid and effective guidance and assistance for the members of the Church.

SOCIAL CONTENTMENT.

Organizations are provided for activity. Every member of the Church has the privilege of taking part in these activities, and at some time is an officer in an organization.

Steady growth and development, the keys of contentment, follow such constant, continued activity in worth while affairs.

The spiritual part of the Gospel is intermingled with daily tasks, to beautify them and make them desirable.

MEN OF DISTINCTION.

The Church has produced many men of distinction. Judged by the names in "Who's Who," it has a larger proportion of distinguished men than any other community of like size.

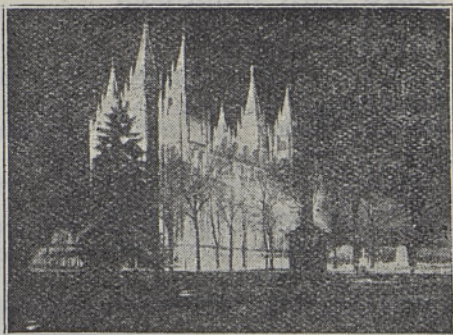
SURVIVAL AGAINST PERSECUTION.

The Church has been subjected from its beginning to senseless persecution; chiefly from frightened ministers of other churches. In some countries the fury of the persecution has been unbounded.

In spite of such opposition, and because of its inherent truth, the Church has grown consistently from its original six members in 1830, to about 750,000 in 1930.

Such an organization, showing such fruits, is worth investigating.

Will you do so?



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