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COMPLETE RELIGION

OBJECT OF RELIGION.

THE object of religion is to make people happy in this life and in the hereafter. To accomplish this, religion must be as a truthful and complete compass or chart for life's voyage, and an effective guide for human effort. It must be part of work and play as of formal worship. It must be useful in every occupation, condition or need. It must be practical.

An acceptable religion must conform to the many-sided nature of humanity; it must be complete. Man has physical, economic, social, intellectual, mental and spiritual needs, all of which must be satisfied by an acceptable religion. To be acceptable, a religion must be the guiding philosophy and supporting power of all human actions.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD HEALTH.

A sound body, physical health, is the foundation of true success. Every daily task is best done with the aid of vigorous physical health. Disease is opposed to the health-giving purpose of religion. Therefore, health must be a concern of religion. This is emphasized by the doctrine that the human body is the tabernacle of an immortal spirit.

The Latter-day Saints, consequently, teach moderation and wisdom in eating, drinking, sleep, work and play; they set forth the foods best adapted to promote physical well-being; they discourage the use of alcohol, tobacco or any drink or substance that injures or unnaturally stimulates the body. This code of health laws, known as the Word of Wisdom, explains the high average health and longevity of the "Mormons." The birthrate (300 per 10,000) among them is one of the highest if not the highest for a group of similar size in the civilized world; and the death-rate (75 per 10,000) is less than one-half of the most favourable elsewhere in the world.

THE HIGHER SOCIALISM.

Economic welfare is likewise essential to full human happiness. The Gospel taught by Christ if practiced by the world would enable every person to secure, in honour and with reasonable effort, enough to eat and drink and to be comfortably clothed and sheltered. In the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, honesty, industry, thrift and co-operation, with the wise use of money, are enjoined upon the people. Honest labour, toil if necessary, of every kind, is held in high respect, and it is held that "the labourer is worthy of his hire." Idleness is not tolerated. The history of the Church is full of romantic stories of economic conquests. The Church has built hundreds of cities and villages, it has conquered deserts, it has brought about an average individual prosperity higher than in any other group of like numbers. There are few poor among them (one mature man in a thousand requires full support, and 22 per thousand partial support); upwards of seventy-five per cent. own their own homes, most of them (seventy-seven per cent.) are in productive occupations. They have achieved an economic independence which the world envies. They have proved that adherence to the principles of Christianity may be used successfully in economic life.

CARE OF POVERTY.

There would be no poverty in an ideal society, in which every one conformed to the doctrines of the Gospel. That condition has not been reached. The poor, too often the products of sick social conditions, are entitled to assistance. The Latter-day Saints have made simple, effective provision for the relief of poverty. On the first Sunday of each month, neither breakfast nor midday meal is served. The money thus saved, the equivalent of the cost of two meals, is placed in a fund for the support of the poor. This short, monthly fast is exceedingly good for the body, and turns the spirit of man to divine things. The money saved by the abstinence from food, two meals out of ninety in a month, would feed completely one person out of forty-five. That would probably care for all in real distress, if practiced by all the world.

Should any catastrophe, such as fire, rob a man of his belongings, the group often go out as a group to give the necessary assistance even to the restoration of the lost property.

IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH.

The best social conditions should exist among the followers of Christ. The Church is one great brotherhood. Salvation for all should be the desire of all. Among the Latter-day Saints, the term Brother and Sister are, in fact, commonly used to indicate this community of ideals and purpose. Women as well as men are active in the organizations of the Church. The Priesthood is conferred upon all worthy men, in varying degrees, from boyhood to manhood. There is no Priesthood class in the Church. The Church therefore is governed by its members. The poor and the rich have equal privileges in all Church affairs. The organization and government of the Church, participated in by all members in good standing, are such as to produce unity of feeling and powerful community strength. Social life in the Church is conducive to high human welfare. Recreation and wholesome enjoyment are promoted by the Church, which believes in a glad and happy people.

GROWTH FROM ACTIVITY.

There are within the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints a variety of organizations; Priesthood organizations for the men; Sunday Schools for all members; Mutual Improvement Associations, with several divisions, for the young people; Primary Associations for the children; Church Schools, Genealogical classes and various others. These are maintained for two purposes: First, to provide for the growth of the members, for the Latter-day Saints believe that every person must grow and increase, continually, in knowledge and power; and, second, to provide activity for every member of the Church, for growth comes best from intelligent activity. Thus it comes that all the members of the Church at one time or another hold office and, by taking direct part in activities of the Church, gain experience useful in all life's labours.

MAN CANNOT BE SAVED IN IGNORANCE.

Man's intellectual needs should be fostered by the Church. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is one of enlightenment. It declares that "the glory of God is intelligence." It abhors ignorance, superstition and intolerance. "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." The Church must devise means, and support every proper agency, to enlighten, educate, and help humanity advance intellectually. The joys of learning must be available not to the few but to all who care to use them. The Latter-day Saints have conformed to this doctrine. The Church maintains in active operation, for use of all members, the many organizations for intellectual, moral, and practical

development. During its century of progress, it has built schools and universities, and assisted the State in educational activity. Young and old are encouraged to seek education. Literacy among the Latter-day Saints is nearly 100 per cent. and there is no other group of the same size in all the world which has so many students in high schools and universities. It is becoming the best educated people on earth.

THE WAY TO FREEDOM.

The moral well-being of man must be a distinct concern of the Church. In the words of a great political leader, "Our way to freedom is education and morality." The practice of the principles taught by the ten commandments and the beatitudes, and obedience to just human laws, are expected of every member of the Church of Christ. Followers of Jesus Christ should be good citizens. They must be honest. They must keep themselves clean. They must desire and practice morality. Latter-day Saints are required to obey the cardinal principles of moral propriety. All must be just; a man must be as clean as a woman. There can be no double standard of morality. The result of such teachings is that relatively few Latter-day Saints are in prison; venereal diseases, the scourge of mankind, are almost unknown among them; illegitimacy is lower among them than any other people of like size. During the late Great War, 2,000 young men, mostly "Mormons," were examined for military service at the Utah State University, and only two were found to have venereal disease—and both of these were non-"Mormons."

"MAN DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE."

Best of all, the Gospel of Jesus Christ satisfies the spiritual yearnings of man; it supplies more than the needs of body and mind. Eternal questions are forever before man, the answers to which determine human peace and contentment. For example:

Whence came man? The Latter-day Saints answer: He lived spiritually, with God, in a pre-existent stage, where he grew and increased, until the experience of an earth-life was deemed desirable for him. Then, in accordance with a definite plan of God, but with the sanction of his own free will, he was placed upon the earth.

Why is man upon earth? To gain strength by the experiences of mortality, to conquer self and thereby win joy for himself on earth and prepare for his future eternal life. To help his fellow man advance to receive like blessings.

Where does man go after death? Into the spirit world, where he will be judged according to his works on earth and where he may continue as an active being, ever progressing, ever moving onward, ever growing toward perfection. In this spirit world all the holy attachments of earthly family ties and friendships will be continued, and whatever of worth man has learned on earth, will be his to use in the after life.

What is the law of life? Eternal progression. To please God and to win true happiness, one must grow daily in righteousness and good works.

What is the law of the individual? That he be allowed to act for himself, and choose for himself when principles of truth are set before him. That no force must be placed upon the right of his free agency, and the exercise of the human will.

What is man? The very son or daughter of God. The work and glory of God is to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of all His earth children, that is, to enable them to advance eternally in power and happiness.

Who is God? Our very spiritual Father, who knows and understands and loves us. He is a personal Being, who has revealed Himself to His prophets in the past, and who still reveals Himself for the guidance of His children.

Can man know God? Yes, so far as human limitations permit. God hears man's prayer and in wisdom answers it. Those who ask in faith shall know the truth. Those who seek God shall find Him.

What is the Church of Christ? The organization of those who have accepted the unchanged Gospel of the Lord and who have obeyed its ordinances; the organization through which the principles of the Gospel may be applied for human good. It is possessed of divine authority, and acts in the name of the Lord.

Such clear and sensible answers to the many questions asked by men throughout the ages have made the Latter-day Saints spiritually intelligent and contented. Truth feeds the spirit of man.

Many glorious principles, that for want of space can not be discussed here, form God's philosophy or plan of salvation for His children on earth. Adherence to this vast plan for physical, mental and spiritual perfection, a marvelous work and a wonder, will raise mankind to a condition of happiness and intelligent contentment. It is the great need of the present age.

THE RESTORATION OF THE GOSPEL.

More than one hundred years ago, the Lord appeared to Joseph Smith, the Prophet, and conferred upon him authority to restore in its ancient purity, the Church of Christ, and revealed to him the body of saving doctrine belonging to the Church. This organization was effected on April 6th, 1830. A century has shown the life-giving, joy-producing power of the truths of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the highest mode of life known to man.

The Latter-day Saints are teaching humbly but with certain knowledge, the message of the truth of the Restoration to all the nations of the world.

THE TEST OF TRUTH.

Truth, the most precious thing in the world, should be sought for by all people. Upon its acceptance depends the future happiness of mankind.

The proof of truth is not in age or numbers or fame, but in its results. Radio is new, but, since it is sound science, it is of world service; Galileo was once alone in his astronomical theories, but they were founded in truth and now the whole world is following him; humanity was long in political bondage, but the idealism and high principles of free government have set an example in wise and successful government. Radio, Galileo, and self-government are known "by their fruits."

So may religion be judged. Jesus of Nazareth set forth the divine test. "Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles?" The Latter-day Saints are willing to be judged by their fruits.

Further information concerning the system of religion practiced by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be supplied by application to the subjoined address. The Church conducts regular meetings in nearly all larger cities and many of the smaller ones.

JOHN A. WIDTSON,
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Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,
British Mission Office, 43 Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.