

**TWO LECTURES
ON MORMONISM**

DELIVERED YESTERDAY BY ELDER WHITTAKER, OF UTAH.

A Thorough and Exhaustive Explanation of the Mormon Faith from a Mormon Point of View Was Given—Stated That Objection to Mormonism Is Now Directed Against Other Doctrines Than Polygamy Which Was Forever Abandoned by Mormons in 1890.

The lectures by Elder John M. Whittaker, of Utah, yesterday afternoon on "Mormonism, What It Is, Why Opposed," and last evening on "Social and Religious Life Among the Mormons," which were given in Co-operative hall, were attended by many prominent persons and the closest attention was given as the various phases of the questions were discussed.

Elder Joseph Finlason, who lives at 169 South Sumner avenue, this city, presided, and at the close of each lecture Mormon literature was distributed, and a number expressed themselves as surprised at the doctrines of Mormonism as expressed.

At the formal opening exercises, Elder Whittaker spoke as follows: "There is less correct information among the people on the Mormon question than most any other subject known. Many people are almost hopelessly prejudiced because they have read only the perverted statements contained in books and reports from avowed enemies, and have never heard the Mormon view. An honest investigation is sought, and the truth concerning Mormonism, shall be fully known, the unjust prejudice so unworthy the American people will be removed and people will be less willing to believe all the vile slanders circulated against the Mormons."

WHERE THE TERM CAME FROM.

"The term 'Mormon' was given the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints by their enemies as a stigma, the same as the followers of Christ were at first stigmatized by the name 'Christian.' The word Mormon was derived from a book by that name—a record of God's dealings with His people on this continent from 600 B. C. until 500 A. D. It gives an account of the people during that period of time, of their habits, customs, religion, rise, progress, civilization and of their decadence, until now only the remnant is found in the American Indian. The unearthing of the great cities by archeological societies are silent witnesses of the advanced stage of civilization of pre-historic America. The Book of Mormon is the only book accounting for these things, and is therefore one of the most remarkable books in existence."

"The Mormon belief is based on the atonement of Jesus Christ. It teaches that after the crucifixion Jesus, the killing of His apostles and the early Christians, that the gospel was taken from the earth. In harmony with prophecy, it has been restored to the earth by direct command of God and was re-established April 6, 1830, through

the instrumentality of the Prophet Joseph Smith, with its perfect organization of apostles, prophets, pastors, sevens, bishops, elders, priests, deacons; with all the laws, ordinances, principles, keys, powers, gifts and blessings. The same requirements are necessary to obtain salvation now, as have been in times past, when God's church was upon the earth.

WHAT IT TEACHES.

"Mormonism teaches that the plan of salvation was perfect, and when established by Christ it was to always be the same in all times, under all conditions, and no man will obtain salvation except in strict obedience to the laws regulating the same. That belief alone will save no man, but it is the life one daily leads, rather than the profession of faith alone, coupled with a fulfillment of the great laws of salvation, that entitle one to its blessings. It teaches that God is a perfect personal immortal being; that Jesus is likewise a personality, but separate and distinct from His Father, yet united with Him in all their plans and purposes and in the carrying out of their great works."

"Mormonism teaches that the Holy Ghost is their agent to execute their will in all things, and that it is the power that animates all living things, and by which the Father and Son are omnipotent. It is the comforter, the spirit of truth, which was to bring to the mind of man all things past, and show things to come. Mormonism teaches that in God, in His Son Jesus Christ and in the Holy Ghost. It teaches that man's spirit is the offspring of God, that it lived with its Father the same as Christ did before coming here; was familiar with the plan of life, understood the necessity of coming to this earth, was willing to undergo the trials and gain the experience this life afforded in order, like Jesus Christ, to rise above all things."

THE GENERAL SCOPE.

"Mormonism covers the grand scope of eternal salvation to every creature, based on Christ's atonement and man's willingness in complying with the laws on which salvation is based. It is not only for the living, but redemption is possible for those who never heard the gospel here, for while Christ's body lay in the tomb His spirit went and preached to the spirits in prison and there those who never heard the name of Christ had the glad message taught to them and they, living according to men in the spirit, will be judged according to men in the flesh."

"Salvation is an individual work; each must do what God requires. No one will be forever damned without the fullest opportunity for betterment and man damns his own progress. When he refuses to accept light and truth then he ceases to grow."

"Mormonism seeks the development of the good, the beautiful, the God-like attributes within man. It appeals to his reason, calls for the exercise of his judgment, requires a most holy and upright life. It teaches what Christ taught; promises what He promised, requires what He required, holds out the same beautiful hopes that have enabled its adherents to undergo the severe persecutions heaped upon them in the past for conforming to His laws. It has brought, peace, comfort, joy and happiness to those who have accepted its teachings and live up thereto."

"It has adorned their lives with graces of virtue, purity, chastity and

brotherly love. It has made their homes, hallowed for the peace, harmony and love dwelling therein. It has made their lives so free from the social evils that are corroding the fountains of life. It has made their communities prosperous, industrious, peaceful and united, and noted for their purity, hospitality and liberality, and where for years, and until those not of their faith made them possible, there were no saloons, no grog-shops, houses of infamy, poor farms or almshouses in the Mormon country."

"Mormonism has gathered thousands from the varied conditions of life and united them in a common purpose looking to the elevation and salvation of mankind. It has taught the necessity of purity, virtue, chastity and honor, and has made their checkered career one of great experience and the history of the past is painted in living colors as lessons of endurance, patience and mercy, in their endeavor to present peace and liberty to the world. It has made the grass to grow, the gardens to yield, the orchards to bring forth where before sterility obliterated such conditions."

"It has taught its adherents the beauty of peace, likewise an honorable defense of their country, as witnessed by their deeds of valor at Manila in the late war with Spain. It has blessed the needy, comforted the afflicted, lifted the fallen and seeks to raise every soul from the condition in which it may be found to the exalted position of preserver of equal rights and justice for all. Its mission is one of peace, of progress, of making for the fatherhood of God the brotherhood of man. It selects the good to every human being and magnifies and seeks to help overcome the evils."

THE SECOND PART.

Elder Whittaker then took up the second part of his subject and said:

"Let it be understood once for all that Mormonism is opposed, not for polygamy, but as charged in anti-Mormon pamphlets, which declare it is not for polygamy, but because of the horrible ideas of God, Christ, man, sin and the anti-Bible doctrine of salvation that we oppose Mormonism. No, the deep prejudice existing will be removed as the truth concerning Mormonism shall be made known."

"The facts remain, however, that polygamy never has been the cause of any of the troubles of the Mormons. From 1839, when the church was organized, to 1847, when they were, after many previous migrations and drivings, finally driven into the Alkali valley of Salt Lake, polygamy was never raised as a cause; nay, it was not committed to writing until 1843; never published to the world until 1852; and was abandoned in 1890, since which date not one polygamist marriage has been performed. Yet not one of their persecutions was due to polygamy."

Now underneath the phantom of polygamy the real truth is becoming apparent. It is the doctrines of the Mormon church that are being attacked, and the same spirit that crucified Christ destroyed His apostles and the early Christians, drove the pilgrim fathers to this country and burned the witches of Salem; killed many of the leaders of the Mormon church, with Joseph Smith its founder under God. That same dark specter of persecution is now being aroused to rob the Mormons of religious liberty."

"In closing I ask for one thing, namely, that people would not be hasty in condemning but be reasonable and listen to the presentation of facts."

In the evening lecture the social and

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religious live among the Mormons was treated upon. The elder said: "If the mirror reflects the image before it, so truly does the social and religious life of a people reflect their inner life. They are very much as other people; live as their religion advocates in the spirit of love; are lovers of legitimate pleasure; develop the faculties within man; encourage the acquirement of the arts and sciences, music and fine arts. Among their social customs may be mentioned 'Old Folks Day,' when those over 70 years old are entertained each year free of all expense in a manner that makes them look forward to that day as among the most memorable of the year."

"Utah stands third in education among the states of the American Union. There are men of science; there are poets and artists of rare gifts among the Mormons; their temperance; their social purity; habits of industry tend to make them a people respected for their commercial standing, and there is coming a change that will yet place them in their proper light before the world."

"Their care of the poor; their settling difficulties by arbitration; their custom of teaching their young to live, not profess, is making a community of citizens worthy of the proud name they bear—men and women of renown. Their lives and as such they invite the world to partake of the truth that has made them free, indeed."

Elder Whittaker lectures at the same hall tonight at 7.30 on "Origin and Destiny of Man," and on Tuesday he lectures in Wilkes-Barre in Shaffer's hall.

AN ABLE DISCOURSE.

Delivered Last Night in the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church by Rev. C. E. Spieker, the Pastor.

Rev. C. E. Spieker, pastor of the Holy Trinity Lutheran church on Adams avenue, spoke last night on the promulgation of the holy gospel. His sermon was forcible and strong.

His text was taken from John xxxv:1 and read as follows: "Then Jesus turned and saw them following and said unto them, 'What seek ye?' They said unto him, 'Rabbi (which is to say, being interpreted, master) where dwellest thou?' Concerning these words Rev. Spieker said: "Andrew, the follower of St. John, heard these words, Andrew, who had been the follower of that stern teacher, John the Baptist."

"John was no mild or easy master. He did not preach the word of the Lord in sweet and honeyed tones, but rather spread the true gospel in a rugged manner and ever resounded the one vibrating text, 'Repent ye, repent ye for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"

"He preached alike to publican and laborer, to the rich and the poor, the covetous and the envious, with no discrimination of class or creed."

"Such preachings are sore needed in these days of ease and comfort when there is no desire but for religion to be made easier and means of securing it more ample."

"When Andrew heard the words of the Savior he departed and straightway went to the home of his brother and, assuring him that the Messiah had come to earth, converted him into another follower of the Holy Nazareth."

"Now people desire to reach heaven in the same way that they live and gain the spiritual heights with the least possible difficulty."

"But no, they must first tread the hard path, strewn with the rocks and boulders of adversity. It is said of our great president, Abraham Lincoln, that on passing unknown through a crowd of men, one seeing his odd, strange face, remarked: 'Heaven, what a common looking man!' The martyr president turned his sad, melancholy eyes on the thoughtless speaker and quietly remarked: 'But the Lord loves the common people.'"

"It is true. The Lord does love the common people, and he works by them. He does not use as his emissaries and instruments those high in power and place, but rather the lowly and downcast."

"Them he employed in his work and in the upbuilding of the walls of Zion. There is not enough true promulgating

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of the gospel now, as in the days of yore. As Andrew spread the gospel and worked to make known the word of the Lord, so should we now. How many are there who attend church simply from social or political interests they have at stake? How many are there who, while faithfully attending services themselves, never make a step nor move a hand to bring a brother to a realization of the gospel and the Lord?

"Where can we find Jesus? Not in the churches that pander to the popular taste with sensational topics or matters of current interest, and everything but what belongs to the Bible. No, not in these false temples of the Lord, but in the gospel itself. True religion brings its own reward. How many claim to have found Jesus are content to enjoy the benefits accruing

from the use of the house of the Lord without any regard to others."

"It is our duty to distribute to others the same good which we ourselves receive and unless we do so our mission is in vain and our life's work is nothing. Let us look into our hearts and see what is there. Let us probe into the depths of our consciences and see what is hidden therein. Have we spread the word of the Master? Have we promulgated and taught the true gospel? Let us act as did the disciples. Let us follow the example of Andrew and even as he led his brother into the fold of the true believers, so let us take our wandering brethren by the hand and bring them to a realization of the one God."

"Lastly, let us strive for a holier living and a better life."

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