

DEDICATED TO MY FAMILY

For some time past I have been impressed to leave to my family a signed statement setting forth my last solemn testimony to the divinity of the Gospel as revealed to the world through the Prophet Joseph Smith. This statement I would like read at my funeral services and a copy given to each member of my family.

This will be read at the time when my body, cold in death, will lie in itsasket, but my spirit, immortal and indestructible, will also be there. My statement will be simple and brief but true and, as a voice from the eternal world, I pray you hearken.

Upon numerous occasions I have borne this testimony and now at the age of eighty-eight and while my mind and intellect are as clear and bright and my spirit as buoyant and hopeful as at any time in my life, I repeat it for the last time in mortal life, and sincerely hope that it will be seriously considered and remembered by all members of my family and by all others to whom it may come, whether friends or strangers.

I know that God lives and that His Son, Jesus Christ, is the redeemer of the world; that He came into the world, that He suffered an ignominious death that He might bring us (the human family) back into the presence of our eternal Father, whose face had been long hidden from us as a result of the fall of our forefather in the Garden of Eden.

It is my solemn testimony that Joseph Smith was divinely commissioned to bring forth the everlasting Gospel, the only true plan of salvation, inaugurated and planned by God Himself, with all its wonderful gifts and blessings, for the benefit and final exaltation of the human family. He will stand at the head of this Gospel dispensation, the greatest of all dispensations of God to man. Through His ministry the Church of Christ has been organized and established by direct revelation from Heaven and, under divine protection and guidance, it has grown and prospered. Through its power and authority this Gospel is being preached to the inhabitants of the earth, and I bear solemn witness that no power on earth will ever be permitted to disturb or stop its progress.

It is my testimony that this body will be resurrected and that, in the due time of the Lord, I shall be permitted to re-enter it in a changed and immortal condition.

Christ's resurrection was the example. It was real, it was literal and, as His mortal body became immortal by reason of this wonderful principle, the RESURRECTION, so I believe that this body, which I now possess, will come forth from the grave and clean, pure and immortal, purged of every imperfect element and glorious in appearance as the finished work of the Great Rester. My spirit will then re-enter the body and I shall be a living, active, immortal soul.

I believe that I shall be rewarded or condemned as the case may be, for the deeds done in the body, and being familiar with all the secrets of my heart and the conduct of my life in all its details, I have implicit confidence that I shall be permitted to enter into the presence of God my Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. That the good deeds and purposes of my life will out-weigh the weaknesses of the flesh and that I shall soon be permanently and forever associated with my loved ones, who have gone before, and that my happiness there will far exceed the understanding of the human mind.

It has been my practice and determination in life to sustain and uphold the authorities of the church and to respect their counsels and teachings. I recognize them as God's anointed, they having been duly chosen and given authority to act in His name in all things pertaining to the carrying forward of His great work and I sincerely admonish you, my beloved children, to regard most sacredly and with profound respect the rules and regulations of the church. Therein you will find safety and happiness in this world and, in the next, exaltation and everlasting life with continuation of happiness, growth, progress and the eternal development and unfolding of the attributes and powers destined to bring you into the companionship of your families and give you power to minister forever at the head of your generation.

With deepest gratitude and appreciation for the great love and support which you have always given me, I leave you with my most heartfelt affection and blessings. I am at peace with all mankind and my soul is full of love and gratitude.

Affectionately your Father,

Samuel A. Parkinson