

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.

The ten commandments embrace some of the great principles of our Savior's religion, as well as rules for government and social intercourse. In fact, the word commandment is really great, coming by inspiration, and seems to whisper to the saint, THUS SAITH THE LORD!

When we remember, that the commandments of God, came by the gift and power of God: or, in other words, holy men spoke moved by the Holy Ghost, we ought to rejoice with great joy: for in this manner, spoke the prophets for the saint's good, even in these last days.

The Lord is imperative on this subject, and when he says keep my commandments, he means what he says: this may be one reason why we have no account, or record, that the Lord ever acknowledged a church to be his, unless there was a prophet in it. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one church, one gospel, and one way of being baptized for the remission of sins; one promise of receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost: one promise of reward for keeping the commandments, and one surety of eternal life by holding out faithful to the end.

The high estimation of the commandments, may be somewhat seen by reading a few verses in the 119th Psalm: Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. I am a stranger in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me. Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments. I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.

Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight. And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved. My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes. Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments. All thy commandments are faithful; they persecute me wrongfully; help thou me. Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy commandments. Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me yet thy commandments are my delights. Thou art near, O Lord; and all thy commandments are truth.

Lord, I have hoped for thy salvation, and done thy commandments. My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.

It does seem strange that the world should be so clouded in darkness, as not to see, that the church of Christ, (for there never was, nor ever will be any other that will be admitted into the celestial kingdom,) could exist without the Comforter, even the Holy Ghost in it, whereby the members might profit by the gifts, and commandments. The two first verses of Acts read thus:—The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen.

In one of the commandments to the church in Zion, is the following beautiful language: Behold, saith the Lord, blessed are they who have come up unto this land with an eye single to my glory, according to my commandments; for them that live shall inherit the earth, and them that die shall rest from all their labors, and their works shall follow them, and they shall receive a crown in the mansions of my Father, which I have prepared for them; yea, blessed are they whose feet stand upon the land of Zion, who have obeyed my gospel, for they shall receive for their reward the good things of the earth, and it shall bring forth in its strength; and they also, shall be crowned with blessings from above; yea and with commandments not a few; and with revelations in their time.

And we might quote columns, showing that the Lord is the same yesterday, to-day and forever, giving commandments to them that seek the riches of eternity, that man may know his will and be saved with an eternal salvation in his kingdom.

While on the subject of commandments, it may be worth while to say a few words on opinions, as the church has the sure word of prophecy.

Opinions, where we have the word of the Lord, are worth nothing. Since the days of the Savior, they have strangely divided men into almost as many sects, as the number of the name of the beast that John saw. All men have a right to their opinions, but to adopt them for rules of faith and worship, is wrong, and may finally leave the souls of them that receive them for spiritual guides, in the celestial kingdom: For these are they who are of Paul, and of Apollos, and Cephas: they are they who say, there are some of one and some of another; some of Christ;

and some of John; and some of Moses; and some of Elias; and some of Ezechias; and some of Isaiah; and some of Enoch, but received not the gospel; neither the testimony of Jesus; neither the prophets; neither the everlasting covenant; last of all: these are they who will not be gathered with the saints, to be caught up into the church of the first born, and received into the cloud: these are they who are liars, and sorcerers, and adulterers, and whoremongers, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie: these are they who suffer the wrath of God on the earth: these are they who suffer the vengeance of eternal fire: these are they who are cast down to hell and suffer the wrath of Almighty God until the fulness of times, when Christ shall have subdued all enemies under his feet, and shall have perfected his work, when he shall deliver up the kingdom and present it unto his Father spotless, saying: I have overcome and trodden the wine-press alone, even the wine-press of the fierceness of the wrath of Almighty God: then shall he be crowned with the crown of his glory, to sit on the throne of his power to reign forever and ever.

Now, brethren, let us turn to our day, and rejoice that the Lord has been so merciful as to give commandments unto men, that they might know his will, and know, also, when they have done it. We can lift up our hearts and be glad, for the day is nigh, & the hour at hand, when we, if faithful, shall be of one heart and one mind; yea, and shall speak a pure language, and shall see our Lord face to face.

Do good and the reward shall be given; for it is better to give than to receive. The Lord is good: he gives precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little, and for the sake of them that may come to a knowledge of their situation, by our good example, let us obey the Lord and keep his commandments.

In a letter from our brethren in the east, is the following concluding paragraph of a late

REVELATION:

Therefore, verily I say unto you, my friends, call your solemn assemblies as I have commanded you, and as all have not faith, seek ye diligently and teach one another, words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books, words of wisdom: Seek learning by study, and also by faith.

Organize yourselves. Prepare every needful thing, and establish an house, even an house of prayer; an house of fasting; an house of faith; an house of learning; an house of glory; an house of order; an house of God: that your in-comings may be in the name of the Lord, and your out-goings may be in the name of the Lord; that all your salutations may be in the name of the Lord, with uplifted hands unto the Most High.

Therefore, cease from all your light speeches; from all laughter; from all your lustful desires; from all your pride, and high-mindedness, and from all your wicked doings.

Appoint among yourselves a teacher, and let not all be spokesman at once, but let one speak at a time, and let all listen to the sayings, that when all have spoken, that all may be edified of all; and that every man may have an equal privilege.

See that ye love one another. Cease to be covetous; learn to impart one to another as the gospel requires. Cease to be idle; cease to be unclean; cease to find fault, one with another; cease to sleep longer than is needful.

Retire to thy bed early, that ye may not be weary. Arise early, that your bodies and minds may be invigorated; and above all things, clothe yourselves with the bonds of charity, as with a mantle, which is the bonds of perfectness and peace.

Pray always, that you may not faint, until I come. Behold I will come quickly, and receive you unto myself: Amen.

EXTRACTS OF LETTERS FROM THE ELDERS ABROAD.

Kirtland, Ohio, December 24, 1832.

BROTHERS Orson Hyde, and Samuel H. Smith, have just returned to this place, in good health and spirits, saying, that they had built up four churches; one in the state of Maine; two in Massachusetts, and one in Pennsylvania.— They have baptized sixty or more, disciples, who they say, are strong in the faith, rejoicing in the Holy One of Israel.

Brother Lyman Johnson returned a few days since, leaving Orson Pratt among the churches in the east, saying, that they had built up a number of churches, and baptized nearly one hundred.

Brothers Simeon and Jared Carter, we understand, have done wondrous works in Vermont, in breaking down prejudice in a wonderful manner. Better than one hundred have been brought into the kingdom, in a few months past, by their instrumentality.

Brothers Hyrum and William Smith have just returned home, after an absence of about three weeks, having baptized twenty-three in Pennsylvania. Brother Mur-

dock has also returned from Thompson, Ohio, where he has baptized twenty-three. There is also a number of elders in the east, that we have not heard from particularly, but understand they meet with great success. We frequently hear of new churches being established in various parts, which causes our hearts to rejoice.— Thus you see, brethren, that the cause of truth is prospering, and thanks be to our God, for he is a God of love, mercy and truth; yea, and a God of power; and as good old Daniel said, his kingdom shall break in pieces all other kingdoms, so it shall be done.

The people in this vicinity, generally, are more calm in their minds, and many of them attend our meetings, and appear more friendly than heretofore, and we have peaceable times.

I have just learned, that brothers Martin and Emer Harris have baptized one hundred persons at Chenango point, New-York, within a few weeks.—NEWEL.

Union, Missouri, January 7, 1833.

Beloved brethren, we write to you, praying that the words from the press which has been dedicated to the Lord, in these last days, for the good of men, may go forth for the good of souls; that Zion may flourish upon the hills; that her light may shine to the uttermost parts of the earth; that every secret act may be made manifest.

Brethren and sisters, our prayer to our Father, for you all, is, that your lights may shine continually unto the perfect day: for, says David, when the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory.

Do you remember, the prayers of the righteous availeth much? and that we are in the wicked world, struggling that we may share in that glory; and not only so, but are anxious that our fellow men may come to the standard of truth also, and be saved? For this cause we labor with much long-suffering, to but little effect; for surely, gross darkness covers the earth, and wickedness greatly prevails among the people, and the truth makes them angry, for they are joined to their idols.— We desire your prayers, that God would give us the victory unto life, and open an effectual door for us.

Beloved brethren in the ministry, be encouraged to take your staves and travel without scrip, and proclaim the ever-lasting gospel, if faithful, the heavenly Father will feed you and clothe you. It is harder to get to the hearts of the children of men now, than last winter. An old methodist preacher informed us, that, in all the cholera in St. Louis, he saw but two families shed tears. He said the people seemed to be in a dead, stupid state, and when the doors of the meeting-houses were thrown open for prayer-meeting, few attended, and they, had no feeling sense for praying, and since the cholera has disappeared, the people are worse than ever.

Brethren your privilege is great in Zion. The promises are worth more than fine gold, or any riches beneath the sun. James says, seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? The building must be without a jar, that it may remain unshaken. The time is near at hand when every man's work will be tried, and he that is holy will be holy still, &c.— If we are the body of Christ, we are one, and as he has loved us, so let us love one another.

We are about fifty miles off St. Louis, and shall bend our course to the south among the thick settlements on the Mississippi, to search for the meek. God is yet love.

CALVIN & PETER.

Cincinnati, Ohio, December 11, 1832.

The Lord has said, (by the mouth of David,) when he builds up Zion, he will appear in his glory; and when I look after Lydia and my children, something attracts my eyes more glorious, it is the recompence of reward that God has promised to the faithful; and as the Lord has called me: and as the time has come that Zion is to be builded: & lest much of the wheat should be left for the fowls and beasts to destroy, I labor with the good servant, and suffer privations, patiently.

My mission has been rather swift, since I wrote to brother Sidney. Brother Jared and I left Benson, Vermont, for Albany, New-York. Here we tried but could not obtain a house, and went to Schenectady where we fared the same.— We then went to Chenango, preaching by the way, and visited the church that brother Page built up. From thence, to Kirtland; and thence to Amherst and New-London, where I took brother Stevens, and came to this place, and since I came here, I have baptized four. Some others are ready and waiting. The Lord is to work here, and O that he would do a great work, for great is the wickedness and unbelief.

I have baptized in all about seventy, and the Lord has kept me and supported me. The church at this place is expecting to go up to Zion next summer.

SIMON.

HEARKEN O ye people, and open your hearts, and give ear from afar: and listen, you that call yourselves the people of the Lord, and hear the word of the Lord, and his will concerning you:

Yea, verily I say, hear the word of him whose anger is kindled against the wicked, and rebellious; who willet to take even them whom he will take; and preserveth in life them whom he will preserve:

Who buildeth up at his own will and pleasure, and destroyeth when he please; and is able to cast the soul down to hell.

Behold I the Lord uttereth my voice, and it shall be obeyed.

Wherefore verily I say, let the wicked take heed: and let the rebellious fear, and tremble.

And let the unbelieving hold their lips, for the day of wrath shall come upon them as a whirlwind, and all flesh shall know that I am God.

And he that seeketh signs shall see signs, but not unto salvation.

Verily I say unto you, there are these among you, who seeketh signs; and there has been such even from the beginning.

But behold, faith cometh not by signs, but signs follow those that believe.

Yea, signs cometh by faith, not by the will of men, nor as they please, but by the will of God.

Yea, signs cometh by faith, unto mighty works, for without faith no man pleaseth God: and with whom God is angry, he is not well pleased: wherefore, unto such he sheweth no signs, only in wrath unto their condemnation.

Wherefore I the Lord am not pleased with those among you, who have sought after signs and wonders for faith, and not for the good of men unto my glory:— nevertheless, I gave commandments and many have turned away from my commandments, and have not kept them.

There were among you adulterers and adulteresses; some of whom have turned away from you, and others remain with you, that hereafter shall be revealed.

Let such beware and repent speedily, lest judgments shall come upon them as a snare, and their folly shall be made manifest, and their works shall follow them in the eyes of the people.

And verily I say unto you, as I have said before, he that looketh on a woman to lust after her, or if any shall commit adultery in their hearts, they shall not have the Spirit, but shall deny the faith and shall fear:

Wherefore I the Lord have said that the fearful and the unbelieving, and all liars, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie, and the whoremonger, and the sorcerer, should have their part in that lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

Verily I say, that they shall not have part in the first resurrection.

And now behold, I the Lord saith unto you, that ye are not justified because these things are among you, nevertheless, he that endureth in faith and doeth my will, the same shall overcome, and shall receive an inheritance upon the earth, when the day of transfiguration shall come; when the earth shall be transfigured, even according to the pattern which was shown unto mine apostles upon the mount: of which recount the fulness ye have not yet received.

And now, verily I say unto you, that as I said that I would make known my will unto you, behold I will make it known unto you, not by the way of commandment, for there are many who observe not to keep my commandments, but unto him that keepeth my commandments, I will give the mysteries of my kingdom, and the same shall be in him a well of living water, springing up unto everlasting life.

And now, behold this is the will of the Lord your God concerning his saints, that they should assemble themselves together unto the land of Zion, not in haste, lest there should be confusion, which bringeth pestilence.

Behold the land of Zion, I the Lord holdeth it in mine own hands: nevertheless, I the Lord rendereth unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's:

Wherefore I the Lord willet, that you should purchase the lands, that you may have advantage of the world, that you may have claim on the world, that they may not be stirred up unto anger:

For satan putteth it into their hearts to anger against you, and to the shedding of blood:

Wherefore the land of Zion shall not be obtained but by purchase, or by blood, otherwise there is none inheritance for you.

And if by purchase behold you are blessed; and if by blood, as you are forbidden to shed blood, lo, your enemies are upon you, and ye shall be scourged from city to city, and from synagogue to synagogue, and but few shall stand to receive an inheritance.

I the Lord am angry with the wicked; I am holding my Spirit from the inhabitants of the earth.

I have sworn in my wrath and decreed wars upon the face of the earth, and the wicked shall slay the wicked, and fear shall come upon every man and the saints also shall hardly escape:

Nevertheless, I the Lord am with them, and will come down in heaven from the presence of God, and consume the wicked with unquenchable fire.

And behold this is not yet, but by and by:

Wherefore seeing that I the Lord have decreed all these things upon the face of the earth, I willet that my saints should be assembled upon the land of Zion and that every man should take righteousness in his hands, and faithfulness upon his loins and lift a warning voice unto the inhabitants of the earth; and declare both by word and by flight, that desolation shall come upon the wicked.