pose of God my Father in sending me to 
this state of existence, and the relationship 
in which I stand to Him.

To those called to mourn the departed 
who have died in the faith, these principles 
are a source of great consolation; their con-
templation causes the heart to bound with 
joy and exultation, and to rejoice in God 
and the holy gospel which He has revealed. 
You can bear testimony to this as well as I 
can. You had no knowledge pertaining to 
the principles of salvation, the knowledge 
of God and things pertaining to eternal 
life, until you received it through the 
gospel. The sectarians of the Christian 
world, although they are professedly en-
gaged in the promulgation of these things, 
are as ignorant in relation to them as the 
beasts that perish. They do not know any-
thing about the principles of salvation, and 
they are so prejudiced that they will not be 
taught; they ignore the only source whence 
they can be obtained in these days, because 
it is unpopular, and they will be damned, 
because great is the sin of unbelief. As it 
was with the Jews in the days of the Savior, 
so it is now with the Christian world. Light 
is offered them, and they reject it, and this 
will be their condemnation. It was said an-
ciently that no good thing could come out 
of Nazareth, and today the Christians say 
that no good thing can come from the 
“Mormons” or from Joseph Smith. By and 
by they will find that a great many good 
things can come from just such a source.

That is the way the Lord works. He 
takes the poor weak things of the earth to 
confound those who are wise and mighty 
in their own estimation. God will have the 
glory, it is His right. He will accomplish 
His work and His purposes in His own 
due time. It is His right to do so, and to 
have the glory and the honor of it. If the 
Lord were to choose those who are great 
and wise, according to the notions of the 
world, they would want to dispute with 
Him because of their great attainments, 
and they would claim the honor for this 
and for that, and would say that such a 
man should be canonized because of his 
holy and righteous life, and great honor 
should be paid to another because of his 
learning, and because he has divulged so 
many things. If the Lord were to reveal 
principles of truth to such men they would 
claim the honor, and would make mer-
chandise of the gospel. Some may inquire 
how I know this? I know it by what they 
have done and are doing. They are selling 
men’s souls and their own for filthy lucre’s 
sake. There is a scramble among the clergy 
for the loaves and fishes. They will take 
children and make ministers of the gospel 
of them without any authorized ordina-
tion, and whether the Lord wants them or 
not, no matter whether their minds are 
touched with the principles of truth or not, 
provided they become learned in the law 
and have Rev. or D.D. appended to their 
names. Such things are abominable in the 
sight of Heaven! It is not likely that the 
Lord would avail Himself of such people to 
make known His law to the children of 
men. There is no room in such hearts for 
Him to make an impression upon. It is a 
great deal more likely that He would select 
such a one as Joseph Smith, who was free 
from tradition, and on whose mind He 
could make an impression as easily as He 
could with a pen on a piece of white 
paper—an honest, sincere soul, seeking the 
way of eternal life. It is far more reasonable 
to me to suppose that the Lord could make 
an impression on such natures, than that He