

notwithstanding our opportunities for improvement, to arouse the indignation and hatred of the wicked, and to entitle us to the chastisement of God, through his servants, for our improprieties, for "whomsoever the Lord loveth he chasteneth." But we should not provoke the displeasure or incur the chastisement of the Almighty—presuming upon his forbearance and mercy by neglecting to perform those duties and responsibilities so justly required of us—but we should be most diligent, putting forth every energy in our power to correct our ways, and thus increase our faith that we may become more worthy of the blessings and protection of God, than hitherto. He is more willing to bestow blessings upon us than we are to use them properly when we obtain them, thus by our unworthiness we may prevent ourselves often from receiving the very blessings we desire, and

that he is not only abundantly able, but willing and ready to shower upon us if we were worthy, for he cannot consistently bestow "pearls upon swine." No blessing or good will be withheld from those who are prepared and worthy to receive and make a wise use of it. The kingdom of God is to be enjoyed by the Saints—those who are righteous, not those who are wicked. If we prove unworthy, Zion will have to be redeemed by our children, who may be more worthy, while we may be kept, like the ancient children of Israel, wandering in the wilderness, enduring hardships, persecution and trials, until we shall have suffered the penalty of neglected, not to say broken and unfulfilled covenants.

May the Lord bless us all that we may prove ourselves faithful and efficient servants unto him, is my prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**SAINTS SHOULD BE WHOLE-HEARTED—SEEK FIRST THE
KINGDOM—THE LATTER-DAY WORK A
REVELATION—JOSEPH SMITH ILLITERATE—OUR
AGENCY ACCEPTS OR REJECTS—LOVE OF THE TRUTH
PROVED MORE BY EXAMPLE THAN PRECEPT—AN
IMPORTANT GENERATION.**

DISCOURSE BY ELDER CHARLES C. RICH, DELIVERED IN THE NEW TABERNACLE, SALT
LAKE CITY, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 12, 1877.

REPORTED BY GEO F. GIBBS.

I am glad to enjoy the opportunity of meeting with the Latter-day Saints in this Tabernacle in Con-

ference, under circumstances so favorable. I have been much interested in listening to the instructions we