this knowledge today is more precious
than any knowledge there is upon the
face of the earth; for in the darkness, in
the unbelief, in the denial of God, which
is so common at the present time, the
man who knows that God lives, that God
hears and answers prayer, the woman
who knows this occupies a very superior
position and has great cause for thank-
giving and praise that such knowledge
has been placed in his or her posses-
sion. Now Paul, who wrote this epis-
tle from which I have read, understood
this perfectly. His life, in many re-
spects, resembles the lives of those who
preceded him in the same career. In
many of its features it resembles the
lives of the prophets who lived before
the days of the Savior; and the lives
of the servants of God in this day in
which we live have a strong resemblance
to that of Paul and his fellow Apostles.
Brother Woodruff has published a little
work, called, "Leaves from my Journal,"
and in reading that book I have been
very forcibly reminded of the lives of the
ancient Apostles, it resembles them so
much. You have doubtless thought, all
of you, about the character of the men
whom Jesus chose to be His Apostles.
They were men who were stumbling-
blocks to their generation, for they did
not belong to the popular classes. They
were not learned men, they were not rich
men—that is in the worldly sense of the
word—they were not dignified men; and
Jesus Himself, the Lord of life and of
glory, was a constant stumblingblock to
His generation. His origin was humble—
although he came of a kingly line: his
surroundings were mean and low; his re-
puted father a carpenter, and doubtless
he himself worked at the business, and
the men whom he chose were fishermen,
men of low degree, men of lowly ori-
gin; not scholars, not men of fine pres-
ence so far as worldly advantages were
concerned. But he filled them with the
power of God; he gave them the reve-
lations of heaven; he taught them the
plan of salvation; he sent them forth en-
dowed with power from on high; and
they effected a great revolution in the
earth. They laid the foundation of a sys-
tem that has accomplished marvelous re-
sults, and through their work the name
of Christ has been spread throughout all
the earth.

Have you not been frequently struck,
my brethren and sisters, with the pecu-
liar manner in which God called his peo-
ple and his servants. It is not many
wise, it is not many learned, it is not
many noble who have been called as his
servants. He called his Prophets wher-
ever he could find them, and they were
suited to his purpose. He called his
Apostles and his disciples in the same
manner. It seemed to be a necessity
that the faith of the generations of men
should be tried, that their confidence in
God should be tested, to see whether
they would be willing to receive his truth
from any source however humble. It
would not be any trial of a man's faith
if some man possessing supreme power,
who wielded wonderful influence, were
to declare that what he said was the
word of God unto the people—a man
of popular honors, a man who could
control all the people, who could make
the system which he advocated popu-
lar and desirable among mankind, what
trial would there be of a people's faith
to embrace truth under such circum-
stances? But that has not been the
course which God has taken with his
people. He could have sent his Son Jesus
Christ among men at a time and under