

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST OR ANCIENT CHRISTIANITY—ITS
GROWTH AND PROGRESS DESPITE OF OPPOSITION—CHRIST’S
SERMON ON THE MOUNT—SIMILARITY OF ANCIENT, TO
MODERN OPPOSITION TO THE TRUTH—THE EARLY APOSTASY
AND THE GOSPEL’S LATTER-DAY RESTORATION—THE OBJECT
OF ANTI-“MORMON” LEGISLATION NOT THE SUPPRESSION OF
IMMORALITY—THE SAINTS WILLING TO ABIDE THE ISSUE

DISCOURSE BY ELDER GEORGE G. BYWATER, DELIVERED IN THE TABERNACLE,
SALT LAKE CITY, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 27, 1882

Reported by John Irvine

“I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” These words were uttered by the Apostle Paul, who, prior to his acceptance of the Christian religion was a vehement persecutor of the new cause that had sprung up in Galilee, and in the regions round about, but who upon being divinely inspired in a miraculous manner became convinced of the power of this Gospel of which he speaks in the language I have just quoted. It will be remembered that at the period of the world’s history when these words were enunciated by the inspired Apostle the Christian religion was not then as it is now, the professed religion of a large portion of the inhabitants of the earth. It was then a new cause; it was then considered a sect which was everywhere spoken against. The doctrines and principles of this new faith appear, from the history of its incipient development, to have aroused very bitter

feelings in the hearts of the professors of the popular creeds and philosophies of that age. The history of the rise and progress of Christianity presents to the intelligent student a history of many of the most important principles and lessons connected with the unfoldment of civilization and the purification of the moral ethics of that age and through the succeeding ages, I may add, even down to modern times. The readers of sacred history, as well as the students of universal history, know full well that there has been in the history of the struggle of our common humanity, rising upward from the lower strata of society or masses of the human family who could not well be denominated societies in the sense in which the term is employed today; they, I repeat, know full well the struggles which have been made by mankind to emancipate themselves and to be emancipated through the instrumentality of the light and intelligence that surrounded them and the revelations