

**THE WORK OF GOD ONLY PARTIALLY
UNDERSTOOD—MANIFESTATION OF THE FATHER AND
SON TO THE PROPHET JOSEPH—THE PRIESTHOOD
CONFERRED UPON HIM—KIRTLAND TEMPLE, AND THE
MINISTRATIONS OF MOSES AND ELIJAH—BENEFITS AND
USES OF TEMPLES—PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
IMPROVEMENTS ADVOCATED—CHILDREN SHOULD BE
PROPERLY TAUGHT—WIVES SHOULD BE KINDLY
TREATED—EXHORTATIONS TO VIRTUE AND PURITY.**

DISCOURSE BY PRESIDENT JOHN TAYLOR, DELIVERED AT MALAD, ONEIDA COUNTY,
IDAHO, WEDNESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 20TH, 1881.

REPORTED BY GEO. F. GIBBS.

I am pleased to have the opportunity of meeting with you. We have been traveling during the summer through many of the various Stakes of Zion, and we thought that our labor would not be complete without visiting you. We have general and Stake Conferences, but the circumstances and numbers of the people do not allow of them attending these meetings, and therefore we think it well to come among you at your own homes, to see you, and converse with you, and to feel after your spirits, and that you may see and talk with us and feel after our spirits, that we may be mutually benefited and blessed; and that we may be the better prepared to operate together; for if we can comprehend it, we are engaged in a very great work. Not only we who are here, for we form but a very, very small portion of the Latter-day Saints; but the people that are Latter-day Saints in this Territory and those that are in Utah, and that are in Colorado and Arizona, and

those that are scattered abroad in the different places throughout the earth, wherever a branch of the Church is organized. We do not all comprehend this work; in fact, comparatively a very few do. It is a work in which not only the Latter-day Saints are interested, but everybody else, if they could understand it; but they do not. And, indeed, we can hardly understand it ourselves. We get a faint glimpse, as it were, of certain truths, mixed up with many errors which we have previously entertained; but it is very difficult for us to understand correct principles; and if we would comprehend them at all, it must be by a life of devotion to God, and by complying with His laws, some of which Brother Joseph F. has spoken upon this morning, and which the other brethren present talked about yesterday.

The object that God has in view is to benefit mankind as much as lies in His power. We talk sometimes about moving heaven and