

WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST.

By ELDER RODERICK MAY.

Why I am a member of the Church of Jesus Christ, known among men as THE Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Because I believe in Jesus Christ, that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and that His words are true words of Eternal Life.

I believe that He, being the Son of God, knew what to teach, and how to teach it, and therefore what He said and taught is the right thing to teach, believe, and practice. He said, though the heavens and the earth shall pass away, His words shall not pass away, because He is the Word of God (Mark 13, 31). I therefore am a believer in the one Christianity, and that is the original Christianity which came from Christ Himself.

Now Christ left not those people who believed and obeyed Him without a witness of His divinity, therefore He said, "And this is life eternal to know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent." (John 17, 3). The knowledge that God exists, and that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, is, and has been the foundation of the faith of the saints, apostles and prophets of all ages, and is that upon which the Church of Christ continues to this day.

The teachers of the true Christian faith were the first twelve apostles, bishops, and overseers of the church, and they taught and handed on to other properly ordained teachers, the genuine tenets that Christ taught. He taught them what the Father told Him to teach (John 15, 15). He promised, and did send them the Holy Spirit to teach and inspire them, and this had its commencement with them on the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts, chap. 2; and the promises of Christ were that this Spirit should continue in the Church, (John 14-26, 15-26, 16-13), and they went everywhere teaching, preaching, and feeding the nations with the words that Jesus sent them to teach through the Holy Spirit, thus making them

special witnesses, and inspired Apostles, testifying that God lives, and also His Son Jesus Christ, as Paul puts it, 1. Cor. 12-3, "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost." This promise is to all through the preaching of the Gospel, that by obedience to its principles and doctrines, every man from the least to the greatest shall know that Jesus is the Christ, and finally when the world is converted to Christ "the knowledge of God shall cover the earth as the water doth the mighty deep."

The word and promises made to the Church never failed, therefore all men who wish can find that to-day, there is a Church, specially commissioned by Divine inspiration, authorized to preach Christ's Gospel, in this the eleventh hour dispensation, which was vouchsafed to Joseph Smith and others, by whom under the direction of heaven by revelation, and the administration of angels, the Church of Christ was set up in 1830, with all the power and authority of the ancient Apostolic Church. To all men we would say "Come and see," and test for yourself that God is true to all that he has promised in the Scriptures.

Those revelations in part were transcribed from ancient plates, written by a line of prophets among the ancient inhabitants of America, who were a part of the house of Israel, to whom Christ appeared in person after his resurrection, and preached the Gospel to them as He did to the Jews at Jerusalem, among whom He established His Church, thus establishing another witness to the world that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, also His resurrection from the dead, and His ascension into Heaven. This book is called the Book of Mormon, which means, "More Good," or "More Light", giving a history and record of God's dealings with that people for a period of a thousand years. Its teachings are pure and uplifting; in chastity it is not excelled even by the Scriptures; in doctrines it is in accord with the Bible, and it also serves to the confounding of false doctrines, and man made creeds; it will assist in converting the Jew, and the gathering of the children of Israel. Together with this book, the Lord adds to the Church present day revelations, which are received from time to time according to the necessities of the Church, and the prayer of faith; these revelations are compiled in a book known as the Doctrines and Covenants. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, and those two Books, the three combined makes the Church of Jesus Christ as now established the pillar and ground of the truth, (1, Tim., 3-15). He who is Eternal has long before-hand fortified the coming forth of this Book, and the setting up of this Church in these

last days, by many infallible prophecies in both the Old and New Testament Scriptures, against the present disputers and gainsayers of the word, and clearly reveals his purpose in bringing to light the fulness of the Gospel in this the dispensation of the fulness of time.

Is it not reasonable to expect that if the church of Christ is to be the light of the world, that God would crown this enlightened age with the light of His glory, and inspire His church to be in the advance, teaching the nations, higher conditions spiritually, temporally, morally, economically, politically and scientifically. The command to the church to teach all nations must mean it occupies the higher position; if not it is remiss of its power, has failed in its mission and departed from God. The prevailing, and mistaken idea among many religionists that God will not any more reveal His will to his people and Church is contrary to the spirit and letter of every word written by inspired prophets and apostles in every scrap of literature that can be found since the world began; but the Lord said, man shall not add to, or take away from the revelations of God, with impunity, (Rev., 22-19, Deut., 4,-2, Prov. 30,-6.) The church being set up is now proclaiming the everlasting Gospel to all nations, kingdoms, tongues and people, without being circumscribed by individual national limits or laws, free and independent from human environments, yet cosmopolitan.

The Church of Jesus Christ actually exists to-day upon its ancient foundation, and with its organized officers in their order—Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers, (all differing in office functions, yet constituting the one body, the Church) Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone. (1st Cor., 12, 28.)

The Church of Jesus Christ is a body of people whose ministry is called of God as in ancient times, (Heb., 5-4) and is the dispenser of the gospel, and its ordinances, (1st Cor., 11-12) a kingdom under one Lord, one Faith, and one Baptism, (Eph., 4-6) a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, (Dan., 11-44) against which the gates of hell shall not prevail (Matt., 16-18) and into it from the beginning the Lord has added daily such as shall be saved.

This being the true Christian Church, it is built on the rock of eternal truth, universal in its proclamation of the everlasting Gospel as announced by the angel, seen by the Apostle John, while on the Isle of Patmos, who said it would come in the hour of God's judgement, (Rev., 14-6). Every man and woman in this world should know of its truthfulness

and seek God earnestly and prayerfully. Those who seek shall find.

Preaching every Sunday at 3 p.m., at Finsbury Park, London, N.E. We cordially invite your attention and investigation. I can be seen at my residence any time by appointment.

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P.S.—We here repeat that it is unjust to confuse this Church with the Utah Mormons who parted ways in 1844 with the Church which was organized by Joseph Smith in 1830.

In 1852, eight years after the death of Joseph Smith, they added polygamy and other false doctrines to their faith. The Utah Mormons have failed in the Supreme Courts of the United States of America to prove that Joseph Smith was a polygamist or that he ever taught such doctrines. We challenge the correctness of history or statements to the contrary. It is only the uninformed, the prejudiced mind and the persecutors who are voicing this mystic confusion. The sanctity of the marriage relation is no where held more sacred than in this Church as should be among all people.

ORGANIZATION RIGHTS.

Every organization among men, whether Social, Political, or Religious, has the inherent right to represent its own system of faith or doctrine, through its own chosen representatives and standard publications. By this self representation and no other, is every organization bound; history and encyclopædia to the contrary.

PROPER WAY TO JUDGE AN ORGANIZATION.

1st, If we desire to judge the fruits of any system by the conduct of its professed adherents, we can only do it by the conduct of those who are living in accordance to its profession, otherwise, our conclusions will be erroneous. The abuse of anything is no argument against the thing itself.

2nd, An enemy or persecuter of any cause is not a competent or safe judge in the minds of sane and unprejudiced people.