

reap," is as true in morality and in the spiritual realm as it is when a man sows wheat, or plants corn, or any other seed with the intention and expectation of reaping the like. The Bible is against such a construction as that. Solomon, the wise man, after he had had almost a lifetime of experience, told the people not to wait until they became old to serve the Lord: "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." The Savior harmonizes with this in the statement, "Seek first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these [necessary] things shall be added unto you;" no such thing as spending life foolishly and then expecting a full reward.

In the St. Joseph district of the Methodist Church, in Michigan, the presiding elder, Elder Cogswell, preached in the little town of Galien where I lived, and he took strong ground against the idea of deathbed repentance, and in his effort he cited us to Proverbs; and of friendly people in this audience to-night, but not of our faith, I ask you to take that first chap-

ter of Proverbs and let its sentiments cling to your minds, and let them rest in your hearts, and when you go to prayer to-night it will come to you ringing, the language is something like this, The wisdom of God says, "I have called and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded." "How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? . . . and fools hate knowledge?" Ah, then he proceeds to tell them that when their destruction cometh as a whirlwind, they would seek him and not find him; they shall call upon him and he will not hear, etc. That is the language of divine wisdom. Do not wait, then, until the days come when you say "I have no pleasure in them."

I would like to amplify further to show that this modern interpretation of this parable is not in harmony with the Scriptures, but I am reminded that congregations and reporters get weary and love to have a rest after an hour's hard work. I therefore conclude with these thoughts.

[Reported for the HERALD by Gomer R. Wells.]

SERMON BY ELDER JOHN A. McINTOSH,

(EIGHTY-SIX YEARS OF AGE,)

DELIVERED AT

THE GENERAL CHURCH REUNION, LOGAN, IOWA, OCTOBER 6, 1892.

Subject, SOME EXPERIENCES.

I EMBRACED this work in 1838, when the ministers of the gospel came through our country. I believed the message and that it had all the blessings and power of God if I only lived for it. I commenced to live for it and God blessed me. When I did not feel able to meet the task I asked for help. I cannot add anything to the gospel as it has been preached to you by these well-informed brethren. I am glad that I live in a time when it is set forth in such beauty.

When I was baptized I had a severe trial. Coming out of the water I met my uncle who was crying. He talked pretty roughly to me, but I had no idea of being baptized when I left home that morning—thought I would wait until I went to Nauvoo. My wife was a humble woman, and prayed for me. She had received evidence that I would be baptized that day. When the time came for her baptism I suddenly

wanted to go with her and said I was going home for my clothes. "Here they are," said she, "I knew you would be baptized, and brought them with me." Well, that did me good. I was ordained an elder at the time of confirmation, and the next Sunday placed in charge of that part of the country. I do not know what they did that for unless it was because ministers were scarce.

I sought the Lord for power, and he was with me. I had good liberty and voice in preaching and baptized many in Southern Illinois. But I got to thinking I was a good preacher—they told me I was and I became afraid I would be lifted up and think more of myself than of my Master. I asked God to help me keep myself humble. I believed and loved the truth, and have loved it ever since. I received a testimony that God would be with me and care for me, if I would endeavor to keep

humble. I went to Nauvoo and saw Joseph Smith. He laid his hands upon me and said that God would bless me, and no weapon formed against me would prosper; and it has been so. I cannot preach any more, but I can tell you my experience.

I want to tell you a joke. An old lady by the name of Sides came to me one night desiring baptism. I asked her if her husband was willing and she said "No." "Well," said I, "we do not interfere between men and their wives." But she insisted so strongly and so did her kin-folks, that I baptized her. The next day I met her husband. He said he did not want anything to do with the Mormons but he liked me. Said his wife wanted to join, and when I asked him if he was not going to allow her that privilege he very positively said "No." He then asked me if I got anything for preaching. When I said "No," he asked me if I would object to his giving me anything. I told him no, and he gave me some money. Had he known what had happened I hardly think he would have done that.

I preached the same promises that are made here to-day. I received many of the gifts and blessings by fasting and prayer. The nearer I lived to the Lord the surer I was of the blessing. Since then I have traveled a great deal. My folks were poor and I traveled on foot, preaching the gospel to dying men and women. I do not know how many I baptized, I will know some day. I never feared to make a gospel promise.

I am not able to talk much. I did not receive the Spirit at first, but did two or three days after baptism. I was disappointed, and laid the matter before the Lord earnestly. I received it, and cannot tell how beautiful all nature seemed. I have received it many times since. And I saw dark and cloudy days, but I found that it did not matter how dark, the sun shone more beautiful than ever afterwards. I preached in the States of Arkansas, Tennessee, Iowa, Illinois, and several others.

I did not fear anything then, and I do not know why I fear to speak now, for while you elders know many things that I do not, perhaps I know some things that you do not.

Before I saw Joseph the Seer in person, I saw him in vision, on the deck of a boat. I was able to point him out in a large crowd. I always felt that he was my friend. I loved him, and all the Saints; and I love you to-day. I do not find anyone too big to speak to me. I have this further to say: Go right ahead, trusting in God, and all his promises will be fulfilled—no mistake about that. It will be Benjamin's measure, shaken down and running over. I have lived in this gospel for fifty-three years and if I live fifty-three longer I then want an *eternity* lease.

In the dark days, I did not know where to go. I had faith though it was not accompanied with works. It nearly killed me to see some of the Saints ignoring the counsel I had given them. I went to hear Bro. Blair and Bro. Briggs. Somehow I rather liked them and followed them. It was Bro. Briggs' time to preach. He had not talked long before I felt that same Spirit that I had before; could hardly wait until he got through to bear my testimony. For twelve or more years, I had been in the "slough of despond." I was skeptical, and shy toward ministers. There were many "Lo, heres," and "Lo, theres;" hence I think God inspired me with love towards these brethren and testified to me of their mission. I bore my testimony then and I have been bearing it ever since. I love the work yet. Pray for me that if it is God's will I may have strength to visit my brethren the rest of my days and go to Lamoni conference next spring. May he bless you much, even if it is more than he blesses me. This is a good work we are engaged in, there is no mistake about it, brethren. It is all right. I know it is all right. I have tried it for fifty-three years. God wants you to lean upon him.