

GIVEN TO THE CHURCH OF CHRIST (TEMPLE LOT) By Joseph Luff.

Oh, ye who have made covenant with God, and delight yourselves in the assurance of his fidelity, and have hope in the triumph of his power. Who say his promises fail not, and in their fulfillment we shall have honor and glory, while yet your doings vitiate your heirship thereto and invite not approval but rather reproof. Who cry; "Love all men as Christ has loved," yet love not; who pray: "Forgive us Lord as we forgive," yet forgive not, but seek your redress as the godless do, and find delight in parading what ye account to be wrongs of others. Would ye thus be forgiven of your Lord?

Who seek to fatten yourselves<sup>u</sup> on the folly of your brethren, and declare God favors your increase.

Who delve into the tombs of your sires in service for tokens of their erring, that by sowing these ye might gather to yourselves a harvest from the yield of disappointment and distrust, and in this have spent your energy, rather than in declaring the gospel to men. From whence have ye learned that this is your calling, or by sodoing ye give honor to God? Make answer to yourselves, and be ye judges thereof.

Who have interpreted the scriptures to your liking, and declared the glory of gospel triumph to be dependent upon the building of a house by human hands. Who with this idol in your hearts have poured forth your prayers and counsels continuously until your zeal's fruition, and the product of your contentions, is manifest in deception and dismay.

Who seek to now defend the steps unwisely taken by feigning a discovery of both Satan and God in the currant and chammel of your revelations and think that the stream from which ye drank nourishment hath become poison, yet fail nevertheless to discern or confess that the poison ye deplore is manifest in the works ye seek to defend.

Who hear not in the spectacles of your blundering a call to repentance, but limit the need for repentance to those from whom ye hold yourselves separated.

AWAKE from your delusion while time is yours, lest the dissapointment which is your present portion shall be but a whisper compared to the thundering that shall follow.

The Temple of your purposing ye shall not be permitted to build as ye have planned, nor will you gather from the field of your present sowing a harvest of satisfaction. Upon the ruins of your brethren's hope ye shall not erect a monument; for Christ hath not, as ye have imagined, discarded the assemblage of his former choosing, nor closed his ears to the supplications of his heritage. His mercy and his purpose alike await the repentance of all who have named his name, but who in the shadow of fleshly interposition and carnal manouvering have misplaced their confidence and deprived themselves meanwhile of the abundance of his promised outpouring of good, yet count themselves rich in their poverty.

For behold, from both here and there, and from every circle where God's intervening hand shall smite and awaken to repentance, shall arise a cry to which he shall give ear and his answer shall dissolve the obstacles that hinder, and the differences that provoke contention, and from thence forth those who remain and give heed to his revealment shall abound in the joy of their sanctified experience, and God shall have a unxited people.

Cease, therefore, your clamor of superiority and your denunciations of human frailty elsewhere, and give yourselves to the righteousness of humility and self abasement, that the kingdom of heaven, for whose coming ye pray, may not be compelled to exclude, but rather include you at its appearing.

Give heed, and let not stubbornness or pride deprive you of the good that awaits contrition. Open the door at which the Spirit knocks and its entering will mean the increase of your peace, and the effectiveness of your service; but whoso shall bar its entrance will invite the ill from which its mission is to save him.

(Explanatory note) The above communication by Elder Luff is not handed to you by his request. He presented it to the Apostles of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) about three years ago. It seems they did not present it to their general assembly, nor was it published in their Zion's Advocate.

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