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SOME OF MY THOUGHTS IN 1878.

WHY I AM NOT AN L.D. SAINT OF ANY CLICK OR PARTY

Wm. E. Mc Gilliam

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## Some principles and practices of the Church of Christ.

Now I want to write plainly and candidly-unprejudiced.  
There were five great and wrong principles established and  
<sup>acted</sup> upon when Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery organized this  
Church on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of April 1830; which principles and  
their practice arising therefrom <sup>with other things</sup> caused its ultimate overthrow;

1<sup>st</sup> Smith required Oliver to ordain him a Prophet, Seer,  
Revelator, and Translator on that 6<sup>th</sup> of April. 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Smith declared  
by his revelation that the church should receive, "His word, as  
from the mouth of God." 3<sup>rd</sup> Joseph claimed on that day that he  
and Cowdery were Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ. 4<sup>th</sup> J. Smith  
said to Oliver, "Thou shalt not command him who is at thy head,  
and at the Head of the Church." 5<sup>th</sup> Again, in 1830 Joseph set  
himself up above all others, in the matter of receiving and giving off  
revelations for the church.

1<sup>st</sup> As to the ordination of a Prophet or Seer, I know  
of no place in the word of God where a Seer, or inspired Prophet  
was ever ordained by man. It is not a ministerial office,  
but is a direct gift from God. It is neither conferred or confir-  
-med by ordination. And the man or men who pretend to confer  
such office or state upon any man only act from the suggestion  
of their own hearts, or from the promptings of Satan. Hence the  
ordination of Joseph Smith by O. Cowdery on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April  
1830; and Smith's ordination of David <sup>Whitman, Prophet & Seer</sup> on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of July 1834  
were all without authority from God, all wrong, null & void.

Hence all claims to that office, or to that station, is simply  
fallacious and silly. True Aaron was consecrated High

Priest by Nozy, and the Urim and Thummim was placed in the breast-plate, and that in the Ephod which was worn by Aaron as a surice of gift; so that he could inquire of God through or by that instrument and get answers for the people. But Aaron was never ordained either Prophet or Sur. High Priest, both of the order of Melchisedec and of Aaron were either consecrated or ordained, but never Prophets or Sur.

2<sup>nd</sup> As to receiving any mortal man's word as we would the voice of God is simply imposturous. No man ever did or ever could. Hence that command was perfectly vain. It would be a perfect impossibility. God's <sup>voice</sup> is the highest evidence that can be presented to man's mind; but the word of fallible man is to a great degree uncertain, and consequently must be received with some doubt, <sup>until his avowal is proved by revelations going before.</sup> J. Smith delivered a revelation in 1830 positively contradicting a declaration in the book of Mormon, saying, "Teachers have not authority to baptize". I prefer the book of M., hence his "word" cannot be relied on as being positively certain. His statement relative to the tary also contradicts the sayings in the New Testament. If I should follow up this subject I would not know where to stop, as to his discrepancies.

3<sup>rd</sup> An Apostle of Christ must have knowledge within himself. All the Apostles of Christ in Jerusalem, and all the Disciples in America saw, heard, and felt, hence they could bear a firm testimony and witness that they most positively ~~know~~ knew what they declared. Did Smith and Cowdery they know? They did not, They were in the early part of the church so professed or declared. They <sup>were</sup> Apostles of the true translation of the book of M., but not Apostles of Jesus Christ. Paul was called

after the ascension of Christ. He saw, heard, and felt, hence was a genuine, true Apostle, having knowledge within himself, & Smith should not have made so false a claim for himself & Cowdery.

4<sup>th</sup> The Lord Jesus Christ is certainly Head of his Church, as much so as a man is head of the woman. Paul says, "God gave Christ to head over all things to the Church, which is his body!" It was a wretchedly false claim for Smith or any man in the world to claim to be head of the Church. If Christ is Head and any man on earth is head also then the Church would be an anomaly having two heads on the <sup>one</sup> body.

5<sup>th</sup> One of the most unchristian and ruinous principles that Smith or any man ever did or could lay down was the one ~~one~~ <sup>and Com.</sup> that he alone was to receive and cause to be written revelation for the Church. He related thus "Behold, verily, verily I say unto you, no one shall be appointed to receive commandments and revelations in the Church, excepting my servant Joseph, for he receiveth them even as Moses." Now declare, when Joshua wanted him to forbid prophesying in the tent of Israel, "Would to God all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit upon them!" This declaration was made under the law age, in the darkness of ceremonies and rights, by the distinguished law giver of that age of sacrifices. And Joel and Peter said, "God will pour out his spirit upon all flesh," which spirit the angel said to John, "For the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy." And Paul to "All that in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord — For ye may all prophecy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted." The wish and design of Moses and of the three distinguished Apostles was

that in the law age and also during the whole gospel dispensation men should receive and deliver off a "Yea sayth the Lord" for the benefit of other men. Yes, to comfort and edify them?

But this practice of receiving God's word would violate J. Smith's rule of assuming to himself the exclusive right, and would place him down upon a level with his brethren. It would set up the great liberal gospel principle that "All might receive the Spirit, and by it show forth things to come," to enlighten all the honest hearted in all the world.

These five great principles and practices being wrong at the origin of the Church of Christ, it is not wonderful that many other wrongs would enter into it, and so destroy its usefulness in the world. If we pursue it a few years longer we will find other miserable, wretched wrong principles and worse practices, started up by the Leaders of the movement, and finally worked it, entire ruin, and it ceased to be the Church of Christ, and turned to be a new thing under the sun, governed by an entire different set of principles & practices.

We will pass on a few years, and see if the above remarks is not true in detail. The Church at first was taught and practiced the principle of non-resistance for some years. Would not return evil for evil, <sup>or railing for railing</sup> or smite whom smitten. They trusted in God's word which says "vengeance is mine and I'll repay." In 1833 in August <sup>by Smith</sup> they professed to receive this word from the Lord, "Renounce war, and proclaim peace." But in less than two months the Leaders renounced peace and proclaimed war. In July 1833 the Church was mobbed in Jackson Co. Mo., what they <sup>called</sup> "the Lion of God."

usa- They were set upon by the old inhabitants of the country, The  
for leading men in Ohio, receiving many of the mobbing, held a  
Council and determined to send <sup>and</sup> Erson Hyde and John Gould  
all the way, near a thousand miles, from Kirtland to Lion  
to tell the members of the Church to stand in their own defence  
- to fight if oppressed. This was contrary to all revelation,  
and to the best interests of the Church, and was the prime cause  
to of the entire Church being driven from the country, over the  
Missouri river into Clay Co.

ng. In January 1834, the scattered, persecuted Elders held  
a consultation together, <sup>in council</sup> in their forlorn condition and sent  
to Lyman Wight and J.P. Pratt to Kirtland, O. to see the first  
Presiding of the entire Church, in order to consult with them,  
to learn and know what the Church must do in <sup>distressed</sup> ~~his~~ forlorn  
situation condition. Wight was fully imbued with the war spirit,  
the and inspired Smith and Company with the idea of redeem-  
ing Lion, viz the Church of Lion with murder of War!!  
The Leaders issue a proclamation to the entire Church in  
the eastern states, to gather up their munitions of war material,  
and assemble at Kirtland the first of May. About a hundred  
men gathered, and the 4<sup>th</sup> day of May was set to start for upper  
Missouri. But, as in the days of Ahab and Michalabah,  
"Then came forth a lying spirit, and stood before the Lord." So it  
was with J. Smith an evil spirit whispered in his ear to call  
a council of all his first ministers. They assembled on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
day of May, and deliberated relative to names and appellations.  
They concluded that Christ was not the name to go to war in,  
since they threw the name of the Church of Christ entirely



away, and adopted the non-descript <sup>name</sup> of the Church of Latter-day saints.  
And in that name on the next day they set out for Missouri,  
gathering numbers by the way, until when they reached  
Clay Co. Mo. they had about 400 men in their army of ret-  
-rants, with Joseph Smith at their head as their great  
Generalissimo - their Prophet and Leader!

Now in this warior raid they imbibed four great  
leading doctrines and practices, that were eminently and  
miserably wrong. 1<sup>st</sup> They took a wrong doctrine or principle  
in imbibing the disposition to fight for their religious belief!  
2<sup>nd</sup> That it was an evil spirit dwelling in them in order to make  
them carry out their designs. 3<sup>rd</sup> That they had to take a  
false, fictitious name in order which to carry out  
their war doctrine and spirit. 4<sup>th</sup> That their practice  
was war - ~~like~~ was to resist evil by evil, was to smite  
whom smitten, was to take vengeance into their own hands.  
All this was contrary to the peaceable and glorious doctrine  
of The Lord Jesus <sup>Christy</sup>, to cease to do evil, <sup>and</sup> cease to resist evil.  
I can't see or know how intelligent men could be so blindly  
led only that their minds were holden and inspired by the  
power and persuasions of the Devil and Satan.

There were some very good and intelligent men in  
that camp led on by their confidence in Joseph Smith's  
inspiration, until they were led to death by that awful  
scourge of the human race viz. Cholera. For when they had  
reached near Liberty, Clay Co. Mo. the cholera seized  
about seventy of their number, and fourteen died of it!  
This was fatal to all their great calculation of conquering

the mob by war and fighting. They had no living  
faith in God to stop the ravages of that curse upon  
them for lifting their swords in the name of pure  
religion. But numbers of them had to die! Fall by  
the dead monster!! <sup>my god</sup> When I look back at that singu-  
lar scene I can't but marvel and wonder at those men  
who were actors in that <sup>tragedy</sup> scene. That a professed prophet  
should be so deceived and led to desolation and ruin  
by an ambitious & manly <sup>and J. Smith</sup> Lyman Wight!  
This to me looks dark and dismal.

But they failed entirely failed in their hope and  
expectations of their declared object to take their brethren  
in and reinstate them back upon their land, in Jackson  
Co. from which they had been forcibly driven in 1833,  
the year before. But not a stone was turned over  
towards the redemption of Zion, nor of their brethren,  
but evil and only evil produced by that warrior said  
into upper Mo. It roused and embittered all the country  
round about in all the upper Counties. And much pre-  
cious time, thousands in money squandered - wasted foolishly,  
and many most excellent lives lost, worse than wasted.  
Wo! be to all war feeling and practice in the Church  
of Christ when it commenced, or in the Church of Latter  
Day Saints, where it was carried out.

On things I have to say after looking at all this folly,  
I pity men that get into the meshes of such a delusion,  
as to believe that a Prophet or Seer could be <sup>legally</sup> ordained by man,  
also to think any man's word was as <sup>truly certain</sup> God's; or that a man

or man could be a resty of Jesus Christ without seeing, hearing, and feeling him, as the Apostles of old did is to me the meanest nonsense; and for a man to claim to be Head of the Church while Christ lives, to be Head himself, simply shows a great want of honesty and a knowledge of the gospel system; but above all to claim the only power with God to receive and write communications - inspired mandates for all true believers, is simply monstrous. Here I leave the claims of Joseph Smith in the hands of the honest - searching after truth +

That he was the medium through whom the book of Mormon was brought to light <sup>I am willing to</sup> ~~must~~ <sup>and most firmly believe</sup> ~~admit~~, but then and then his mission and work ended. Here I will give a quotation from his own revelation, given in March 1829, more than a year before he set up his Church of six members. "He has a gift to translate the book, and I have commanded him that he should pretend to no other gift, for I will grant him no other gift." With this quotation I will cease with this matter.

I will tell some of the reasons why I do not believe in the "Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints," presided over, taught, and led by Joseph Smith, the second.

1<sup>st</sup> It is contrary to the gospel system for any one man to hold the stations of President and Head of the Church. Christ on both continents, set ~~first~~ in the church <sup>first</sup> Apostles - twelve men to establish and lead the church onward to triumph. No one man power was seen among them, after Peter opened the door to <sup>the</sup> Jews at Pentecost, and to the Gentiles at the house of Cornelius. Thereafter the gospel doorway wide open for all <sup>the world both</sup> Jew and Gentile. Prophets were set second in the Church, were under the direction and government of the Apostles, so far as all their ministerial duties were concerned. And whenever people put a prophet at the Head they violate the great gospel principle.

They set God's <sup>rules</sup> ~~ways~~ at defiance and try to establish their own ways.

2<sup>nd</sup> I do not believe in a plurality of Gods. But this is the doctrine of the Josephites. To believe in and worship more Gods than one is idolatry, one of the wickedest sins mortal man can commit; and why any men in the 19<sup>th</sup> century could originate or hatch up that idea is most surprising to me. All the Scriptures testify that "There is but one God." God himself says, "Yea, there is no God <sup>besides me?</sup> I know not any." Isa 44:6. And if God's knowledge, which extends to all worlds throughout all space knows no God but himself, then where will <sup>we</sup> find room for another God? I know the book says, "As there be gods many, and Lords many." It says also, "But to us there is but one God, the Father." Thus the whole point and matter is settled, firmly fixed. God's word is true when it says, "There is but one God, of whom are all things."

3<sup>rd</sup> I do not believe in two priesthoods existing in the Church of Christ at one and the same time. There never were two priesthoods at the same time in the Church of God, or the Church of Christ since the world began. Whenever a new priesthood came into existence then the preceding one was done away - set aside entirely as useless. When Moses introduced the first-born <sup>ministers</sup> priests in the camp of Israel, for all that race of Abraham, the Patriarchal <sup>Priests</sup> was set aside, it is never more mentioned as existing in Israel, or in the wide world afterwards. When the Aaronic was introduced and set up in Israel then the first-born were all paid off by the Levites, and by a few of them paying five shekels each into the treasury. Then the first-born priests are never more heard of in Israel, or in the world. The Patriarchal reigned alone until the first-born was set up, then disappeared. The first-born operated alone until set aside by the Levites. The Aaronic existed alone, until Christ came and set it aside and introduced his own Melchisedec order of Apostles, Elders, Bishops, and Deacons; or as on this land, of Elders, Priests, and Teachers. And his order reigns alone as much as the Patriarchal, the first-born, or the Aaronic did, while they ministered before the Lord in their priestly authority.

4<sup>th</sup> I do not believe in lineal rights to priesthood. The gospel system knows nothing of lineal rights. It is trying to combine all former dispensations into the gospel system. No Apostle or priest after Christ ever had a successor by lineage. Each minister received his authority by faith and obedience in himself. I am aware that the Patriarchs, and Aaron and his sons had successors by lineage, but Christ introduced a free gospel system, with no hereditary followers on either continent. All had to act and minister from their own individual faith in God.

for themselves. Not even a hint is found in the New Testament or in the Book of Mormon of any hereditary claim by even any one individual. 5<sup>th</sup> I do not believe in baptizing for the dead!

It destroys the principle of man's accountability. All men are to be judged according to the deeds done in the body. And if I could be baptized for a person and bring him up in the resurrection, and thus save him, it must be done without his agency, thus destroying his accountability. I save him being proxy for him. Proxy salvation is no salvation at all. Away then with this doctrine. Let every person be saved by their own faith and righteousness, but not by proxy!

But if they are saved in that way then their salvation would not be theirs, but the one who stood surety for them. Nonsense and worse! Proxy men saved a soul since the world began, nor never will except <sup>Christ's proxy for us.</sup>

6<sup>th</sup> I don't believe in tithing one tenth.

Not a hint of tithing is found in all the New Testament, or Book of Mormon, in <sup>their</sup> gospel parts. Its advocates have to go back into the old obsolete law age in order to find tithing. And then there would be a great difficulty having no priest according to the law. It is said "And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites, when the Levites take tithing." Nehemi 10:38. Who is authorized to take or to receive and distribute tithing according to any gospel principle. There is no law or hint given in the gospel system about tithing in any one instance.

The doctrine and practice among the Apostles was donations for the benefit of the poor saints, but never any tithing. This again is trying to blend the Law and Gospel ages together. This all L.D. Saints are bound to do, for they try to have the old obsolete priesthood of the law age combined with the Melchisedec order, Priesthood of the Son

of God. And thus have two priesthoods existing at the same time in the Church, which was never the case in any former age of the world. Each priesthood while it existed legally in the Church or world was head in spiritual affairs, hence could have no partner, or another existing with it, to be an appendage to it.

7<sup>th</sup> I do not believe John the baptist, came and ordained J. Smith and O. Cowdery on the banks of the Susquehanna in 1829. John at that time must have been either a disembodied spirit, or an Angel clothed in a material body. No disembodied spirit can ever visit this earth. And no angel ever ordained a man to any ministerial office since the world began, trusting to the books. Even Christ, after his resurrection into a glorified <sup>body</sup>, as the angels have, did not at his appearance to Paul ordain him, but said to him; "Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do." This to my mind shows the rule or law by which such things are governed. It is said John conferred the Aaronic priesthood upon them at that visit. John was only a chief priest, and did <sup>not</sup> possess the hood to give. No Aaronic priest ever ordained any man to any office since they were consecrated themselves. Lev 4. Hence that professed ordination was a myth - a nullity. A falsehood! A wicked wrong!!

I never saw such an amount of egregious folly as is manifest in trying to introduce a dead priesthood into the church of Christ, and then continued in all the parties of L.D. Saintism. It is a perfect impossibility that <sup>the</sup> old law priesthood should be revived into existence again. And then a priest of that order would be bound to administer the law of Moses, but not the gospel of Jesus. He would only know the law, but would not know the gospel of Christ, hence could not administer it. Again I say O the folly of otherwise god men!!