

**HONESTY OF PURPOSE SHOULD ACTUATE ALL TRUE
BELIEVERS—VIEWS OF MANKIND IN RELATION TO
GOD—THE EXISTING MODES OF DIVINE
WORSHIP—ANCIENT CHRISTIANITY COMPARED WITH
MODERN SO-CALLED CHRISTIANITY—THE PRINCIPLES
OF THE GOSPEL.**

DISCOURSE BY ELDER JOHN TAYLOR, DELIVERED IN THE FOURTEENTH WARD ASSEMBLY
ROOMS, SALT LAKE CITY, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, NOV. 16, 1873.

REPORTED BY DAVID W. EVANS.

In rising to make a few remarks this afternoon I shall not attempt to take any text, or to confine myself to any particular subject. My impression about this is, that both speaker and hearer ought to be under the guidance and direction of the Almighty, for unless a man speaks by the dictation of the Spirit of the Lord, his discourse will be of very little benefit to those who hear; and unless those who hear also hear by the Spirit, and are prepared to receive correct instructions, no matter how eloquent the discourse may be, or how forcible and powerful the truths which are enunciated, it amounts to very little. It is not the hearer of the word, we are told, who is benefited, but he that doeth it. And Jesus says that many will say in that day, "Lord, have we not spoken in thy name? and prophesied in thy name? and in thy name done many wonderful works?" Yet he will say unto them—"Depart from me, ye workers of iniquity, for I never knew you;" or I suppose, in other words, "I never approved of you."

There is one great principle by which, I think, we all of us ought

to be actuated in our worship, above everything else that we are associated with in life, and that is honesty of purpose. The Scriptures say—"If the truth shall make you free, then shall you be free indeed, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation." We are told again that God requires truth in the inward parts. It is proper that men should be honest with themselves, that they should be honest with each other in all their words, dealings, intercourse, intercommunication, business arrangements and everything else; they ought to be governed by truthfulness, honesty and integrity, and that man is very foolish indeed who would not be true to himself, true to his convictions and feelings in regard to religious matters. We may deceive one another, and, in some circumstances, as counterfeit coin passes for that which is considered true and valuable among men. But God searches the hearts and tries the reins of the children of men. He knows our thoughts and comprehends our desires and feelings; he knows our acts and the motives which prompt us to perform them.