

position they occupy. We have to act under the direction of the Almighty. I know it is not popular to serve God, but God has called us to be one; and he expects us to be one and carry out his purposes,

and be obedient to the laws of Heaven.

May God bless you, and lead you in the paths of life. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

## THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PREACH THE GOSPEL, ETC.

DISCOURSE BY PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF, DELIVERED IN THE SALT LAKE ASSEMBLY HALL, AT THE HALF YEARLY CONFERENCE, OF THE SALT LAKE STAKE OF ZION, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JAN. 9, 1881.

REPORTED BY JOHN IRVINE.

"Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! For if I do this thing willingly, I have a righteous reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me." These were the words of the Apostle Paul. Again he said: "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." And he repeats this. Again he says: "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." I will say as Paul did, "Woe be unto me, if I preach not the gospel." I will say the same for the Apostles, the High Priests, the Seventies, and the Elders, so far as

they are called to declare the words of life and salvation to this generation; the judgments of God will rest upon us if we do not do it. You may ask why. I answer, because a dispensation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ has never been given to man in ancient days or in this age, for any other purpose than for the salvation of the human family. Again, the Lord says (in sec. 1 of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants): "And the voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples, whom I have chosen in these last days. And they shall go forth and none shall stay them, for I the Lord have commanded them. Behold, this is mine authority, and the authority of my servants, and my preface unto the book of my commandments, which I have given them to publish unto you, O inhab-