

**THE PERSONALITY OF GOD—VAGUENESS OF THE
COMMON IDEA OF DEITY—WHO AND WHAT GOD IS—THE
SPIRITS OF MEN THE OFFSPRING OF GOD—SPIRIT NOT
IMMATERIAL—THE TRINITY CREED OF
CHRISTENDOM—MAN MAY BECOME LIKE GOD IN HIS
GLORY.**

DISCOURSE BY ELDER CHARLES W. PENROSE, DELIVERED IN THE TABERNACLE, SALT
LAKE CITY, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 16, 1884.

REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.

The remarks which have been made to us this afternoon by Bishop Preston are of a practical nature and calculated to lead our minds to reflection upon our duties as Latter-day Saints.

The religion of God is a practical religion, and God is a real and practical being. It has been stated by one of our leading men that God is "a business God," and many remarks have been made concerning that expression by persons opposed to us, with the desire of turning it to ridicule. It has not been stated by any of our brethren that God is *only* a business God, but the remark was made with reference to some of his attributes and of His works. The people of the present day who profess to believe in God, generally speaking, have very little idea in regard to what He is. They consider that He is incomprehensible. Their ideas concerning Him are very vague, and the attempts which have been made to explain God to the children of men, by persons who claim to be teachers of religion, and to have authority to speak in the name of the Lord, are of such a char-

acter that no one can understand them. The reason of this is because those persons who have attempted to make an explanation have not understood the subject themselves; and when a person does not understand a thing it is very difficult for him to try and make somebody else understand it. Now, I do not pretend to say that there is anybody living who fully and entirely comprehends God; but there are many people living who have some definite ideas concerning Him, concerning His attributes, concerning His ways, concerning His will; and what they understand they are at liberty to declare and to try and make other people understand, particularly if they are called upon by the Lord, and authorized by Him so to do. People very frequently refer to that passage of Scripture which says: "God is a Spirit," and as their notions concerning what spirit is, are not very clear, that passage of Scripture does not make very plain to their understanding what God is. People, generally speaking, have an idea that spirit is something intangible, something that cannot