

## A TALK GIVEN BY ALLEN WEST AT THE FUNERAL OF DERAL WEST

23 MAY 1989

I feel it an honour to be asked by the family to take part in the service for Deral today. As I thought about our early life at home, I realized that I couldn't really remember the first five oldest brothers and sisters being there as they had married and moved out by the time I was old enough to remember very much. I guess this could easily happen when there is 26 years between the oldest and the youngest. I do remember however spending quite a bit of time at June and Deral's when I was quite young and eating June's excellent chocolate cake. I remember Deral as being kind and considerate and absolutely honest. He really liked people as we see by the full chapel here today and made friends easily. He liked to work with his hands as has Kim has said, he whistled while he worked and Lefty, as he was called by his friends and fellow workers, could never hide from anyone while he was working at the factory because he was always whistling. If you wanted to know where he was all you had to do was stop and listen.

I recall the time that Deral contracted to stook some oats for a farmer out on the ridge and he volunteered me to come and help him. I recall we got out there about daylight. Now this was a field of about 70 acres of green oats that had been cut for feed. Some of the oldtimers will be able to relate to this, how much work is involved in something like this. Anyway, we got out there about day break and he was whistling as we grabbed the first bundles and started making stooks. Well come sunset, he was still whistling and I was really dragging, he was still whistling and throwing these stooks together. He was always cheerful and happy, even when the unfortunate accident confined him to a wheelchair. Not once did I ever hear him complain of his plight. What a joy it is to see someone of good cheer who, when others because of unpleasant happenings live in bitterness or resentment, faces the situation [with] cheerful endurance and good spirits.

How powerful and comforting is the Saviour's declaration in John Chapter 16, Verse 33. "In the world ye shall have tribulation but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Deral was humble and faithful, he had a strong testimony of the truthfulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ and of the plan of Salvation. This is why he had no fear of death because he knew that death was just another step in the saviour's plan and our journey to return to our Father in Heaven.

The plan of salvation accepted by us in our premortal state includes a probationary period on earth where we learn to make choices, experience adversity and prepare to return to the presence of God.

Alma Chapter 34, Verse 32 tells us "for behold this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors." Nothing in the entire plan of salvation compares in any way in importance with that most transcendent of all events, the atoning sacrifice of the Lord.

It is the most important single thing that has ever occurred in the entire history of created things. The act of the atonement in its simplest terms is the reconciliation of man with his God.

Because of their transgression, Adam and Eve, having chosen to leave their state of innocence, were banished from the presence of God. This is referred to as the fall, or Adam's transgression. It is a

spiritual death, because Adam and Eve were separated from the presence of God and given agency to act for themselves. They were also given the power of procreation so they could keep the commandment to multiply and replenish the earth and have joy in their posterity. All of their posterity were likewise banished from the presence of God, however the children of Adam and Eve were innocent of the original sin because they had no part in it. It was therefore unfair for all humanity to suffer eternally for the transgression of our first parents and so the need for the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ in his role as Saviour and Redeemer. Because of the atonement, it is possible for every soul to obtain forgiveness of sins, to have them washed away and forgotten. Forgiveness comes about however on condition of repentance and personal righteousness. The Lord said in Moses, Chapter 1 Verse 39, "Behold this is my work and my glory to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man."

The Lord wants us all to obtain eternal life. There is a distinction between immortality or eternal existence and eternal life which is to have a place in the presence of God. Through the grace of Jesus Christ, immortality comes to all men just or unjust, righteous or wicked, but eternal life is obtained by keeping the commandments and enduring to the end. If we so endure the promise is we shall have eternal life.

Deral knew these things to be true and so he prepared himself well for this day by keeping the commandments and enduring to the end.

We are all saddened by the loss, by the passing of a loved one but at the same time we can rejoice with Deral as his spirit is once again united with his body, a body in perfect form. In a glorious reunion with loved ones who passed on before. You are a fine family. Stay close and support each other and love your mother. May the Lord bless you, may you find peace and comfort in knowing that you can be united with your father and loved ones again. This is my humble prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.