

THINGS THAT SHOULD AND THINGS THAT SHOULD NOT BE TAUGHT  
IN OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL.

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There are a number of questions before us, a few of which have been touched upon this afternoon, and if we can get time this evening there is one subject particularly that I would like to speak upon also. I have been much surprised at the character of questions that have been propounded and concerning which answers have been desired, in some instances coming from quarters that we would not expect; and I feel as though something should be said on this subject before the convention adjourns.

Many questions come up from theological classes—questions that are, to say the least, somewhat abstruse, and concerning which there is no written revelation; questions, too, that are not pertinent at all to the work of the schools. I was stopped yesterday afternoon by a young man, who wanted to know whether Adam was the father of our Lord and Savior—whether he was the being we worshiped, etc. Now, we can get ourselves very easily puzzled, if we choose to do so, by speculating upon doctrines and principles of this character. The Lord has said through His Prophet that there are two personages in the Godhead. That ought to be sufficient for us at the present time. I have heard during my life a great many speculations concerning the personage of the Holy Ghost—whether he was a personage or not. But it has always seemed to me that we had better not endeavor to puzzle ourselves or allow our minds to be drawn out upon questions of this kind, concerning which the Lord has not revealed perhaps all that we desire. When men give themselves license to do this, they are very apt to be led along into error and imbibe ideas that are not sound.

The people who are called Theosophists have a great many ideas concerning reincarnation. I remember, when I was a boy, hearing Elders who considered themselves in pretty good standing in this Church talk about men having different probations. At that time there was not much known in America concerning theosophy; in fact, the name was not even known. Since then we have had believers in and lecturers upon theosophy come to America, who have propagated their ideas concerning reincarnation. It is a theory that some of our people indulged in formerly, and I understand that some who call themselves members of the Church are given to such ideas at the present time. I think it very unwise, and something that will result in darkness, to have our Sunday School classes indulge in speculations of this kind. Let

the teachers in the classes confine themselves to that which God has revealed, and repress as much as possible all these improper inquiries that cannot be answered from the word of the Lord. We can indulge in a great many theories, if we give way to that kind of a spirit; but it is very improper, and I desire that you may all be on your guard in this direction. Young people are frequently inclined to ask questions about things they are desirous of knowing, which is all proper enough if we can obtain knowledge that is reliable; but let us not try to find out mysteries. If men have received revelations concerning things that the Lord has not revealed to His people, they ought to hold their tongues about such matters; because if God gives men knowledge concerning things which He has not authorized His servant who holds the keys to reveal, they have no business to teach it as doctrine. There are many things which God reveals to His servants from time to time, but a wise person who has a revelation that is trustworthy will not go around telling it and teaching it as doctrine, because the same Spirit, if it be from the Lord, that reveals such things, would also teach that such a course would be very improper. There are many things which God has revealed that are unlawful for men to utter. No doubt, He does now reveal things of this kind from time to time to those who have faith and who are chosen vessels; but you may rest assured that where there are any of that class, they are not around propagating these ideas, whispering them and telling them to people as truths that they ought to understand; the Spirit of God will not prompt any such thing.

Concerning the doctrine in regard to Adam and the Savior, the Prophet Brigham taught some things concerning that; but the First Presidency and the Twelve do not think it wise to advocate these matters. It is sufficient to know that we have a Father—God the Eternal Father, who reveals Himself by His Holy Spirit unto those who seek unto Him; and that Jesus Christ is His Son, our Redeemer, the Savior of the world. If we confine ourselves to the facts as they are written in the word that the Lord has given unto us, we will do well. I would therefore say to all the brethren and sisters, refrain from indulging in these speculations; it does not lead to good. Do not indulge in the asking of foolish and improper questions. The Lord has revealed enough to keep us busy if we but study His word.

I do wish to impress upon everyone connected with this Sunday School movement the great importance of teaching our children purity. Let us raise a pure generation, a virtuous generation. Oh! how dreadful it is to have our young people commit such sins as some do! How painful to hear of young men going on missions and having their consciences pricked after they get away, and writing home and confessing they have committed sin! When they get to preaching repentance to the people, then their transgres-