

THE FULLNESS OF MY INTENT

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*I glory in plainness; I glory in truth; I glory in my Jesus,
for he hath redeemed my soul from hell. (II Nephi 15:7)*

Over thirty years ago now I attended a weekend youth retreat in Liberal, Kansas. Elder David R., one of the camp pastors from Colorado spoke prophetically to the youth by the gift and power of the Holy Ghost. He stated that there would be those among us who would write, and that write we must. As Brother David talked, I glanced around the room wondering to whom he was speaking. It seemed rather obvious that he was not talking to me since I did not seem to have any apparent ability nor any aspirations to write.

Brother David and his wonderful wife Betty have since passed away. But the words he spoke so long ago, *and write you must*, have continued to echo through my soul, calling me to commit to writing many of the marvelous truths our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has taught me about Himself and His everlasting kingdom.

The importance of the message Brother David brought was reaffirmed to me several years later in the summer of 1980, in which I had the opportunity to visit with Brother F. Henry Edwards in his home in Independence, Missouri. During our visit, I thanked Brother Edwards for writing the book *Fundamentals*, from which I had gained so many spiritual insights. When I asked him why his book was no longer being published, Brother Edwards explained how he had asked that it not be printed again because each generation must write the truth of God's word for themselves so that they might be vital among them.

Whether or not I am indeed one of those of whom Brother David or Brother Edwards was referring, I now find it necessary to make an account of a number of my writings. And my hope in doing so is that I might be found a faithful steward unto the Lord in giving *meat in due season* to His household.¹

Like Nephi of old, I consider that which I have written to be of great worth to the children of men because I have been led to write them as I was taught from on high.² And I trust that these writings will be of great worth to all who love the Truth.³

However, like Moroni, I must also confess that I have often *stumbled* at the placing of my words throughout the preparation of the writings included in this work, especially in the earlier articles.⁴ Nevertheless, I am not ashamed of what I have written. Rather, like the apostle Paul, I glory in the weakness of my infirmities *that the power of Christ may rest upon me and that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*⁵ So, as is written in the Title Page of the Book of Mormon, I would simply say *if there are faults, they are the mistakes of men; wherefore, condemn not the things of God, that ye may be found spotless at the judgment seat of Christ.*⁶

May this collection of writings become an instrument in our Lord's hands for His work of bringing again Zion, THE PURE IN HEART, upon the earth.⁷ And, may the Lord graciously confirm that which is true in these writings to

the welfare of your souls according to His riches in Jesus Christ is my prayer.

For the fullness of my intent is that I may persuade men to come unto the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, and be saved. (I Nephi 2:4)

And my soul delighteth in proving unto my people that save Christ should come, all men must perish; for if there be no Christ, there be no God; and if there be no God, we are not, for there could have been no creation; But there is a God, and He is Christ, and He cometh in the fullness of His own time. (II Nephi 8:12-14)

O then, my beloved brethren, come unto the Lord, the Holy One. Remember that his paths are righteousness. (II Nephi 6:79,80)

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1. Matthew 24:52
 2. II Nephi 15:3 with D&C 43:4c, 83:3b & 104:9; cf. Galatians 1:11,12
 3. II Nephi 15:1-3 & Ether 5:26-29 with John 14:6
 4. Ether 5:26,29 with II Nephi 15:5
 5. II Corinthians 4:7 & 12:9
 6. cf. Mormon 4:21
 7. D&C 94:5c & Isaiah 52:8 with Matthew 6:38