
Doctrine and Covenants 114 — Settle Up Thy Business

A revelation given through Joseph Smith at Far West, Missouri, on April 17, 1838, to David W. Patten, an Apostle, concerning a mission to be undertaken the following spring.

This is a short revelation to the Apostle David W. Patten, directing him to *settle up all his business* and prepare for a mission the next spring — words that take on a deep poignancy because Patten would be dead, killed in the Battle of Crooked River, before that spring ever came.

From the Chapter's Architecture

*Two verses, a charge and a warning. The **charge** (v. 1): settle your business, dispose of your merchandise, prepare to go with the Twelve to testify of Christ to all the world. The **warning** (v. 2): some have fallen from their high estate and others called to fill their places — the calling kept by faithfulness, not tenure. The architecture is brief and weighty: a practical directive to a man whose obedience would, within months, cost him his life, set against the backdrop of others who let their callings slip. Patten is the man who settled his business and was found ready.*