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can in my humble and weak way to assist them in every way I can. If I have any disappointment, I think it would be in Brother Romney, that he let me leave the welfare committee just at the time when I thought I could help him a little. They trained me for a little over a year and had just given me a new position wherein I thought I might be helpful, and here today that work has been terminated, and I have a new position in the Church.

I love the youth of the Church, and I love you folk. I hope and pray that

together we will move as a mighty army, and that this great Church will grow and prosper. My testimony is this, that as we work in this Church, so will our testimony increase, and so will the Lord love us and his blessings be with us. May it be so, I pray humbly in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Tabernacle Choir and the congregation joined in singing the hymn, "Praise To The Man Who Commanded With Jehovah."

ELDER ELRAY L. CHRISTIANSEN

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles

WITH YOU, my brothers and sisters, I take great joy in sustaining, in a real sense, these valiant servants of the Lord who have proven themselves so well in the past. I sustain them in their new positions with all my heart.

After three days and two evenings of hearing the inspiring remarks of the brethren who have addressed us, I can assure you that the only comfort one gets at this stage is the comfort that comes from knowing that that which he thought to say has been more adequately expressed than he could have given it. That is my situation.

I think we have had a most wonderful conference in that there have been sobriety, seriousness of purpose, earnestness of feeling, and it seems to me, a desire on the part of everyone to accept that which has been given us. The words that were given to one of the characters by William Shakespeare seem to express my feeling:

O God, who lends me life, lend me a soul replete with thankfulness.

I hope, my brothers and sisters, that we can go from here, each of us, with "a soul replete with thankfulness" for the abundance of blessings which are ours; for the truth which we have; for the authority to act in the name of the Lord and to officiate in his name, and thereby bring salvation not alone to

ourselves but to our loved ones and to all those who will heed the call.

We should be thankful, as I am sure we all are, for these inspired men who lead and direct us in such a splendid way.

If I could condense into a few words the general theme of this conference, it would be something like this: Forsake the vain practices of the world and serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ.

Now, if we can go from here heeding that general thought, this conference will have produced much. I have often wondered why Latter-day Saints should need to be constantly admonished when we can declare in testimony and in truth that God lives and that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph Smith was an instrument in his hands in restoring the gospel. I have very often thought that that should be sufficient for any of us, and like Adam, as President Clark mentioned this morning, to know what our Father desires should be sufficient.

And as with Adam, so with Abraham—no matter how great the sacrifice, he did not equivocate. He did not hesitate. He did not ask questions. I hope, my brothers and sisters, that we can approach this in our faith and our determination to serve the Lord.

We are, however, exposed to the philosophies and the practices of the world, and sometimes become intrigued

with certain innovations which many people would have us think are the things to do. Therefore, we need to be reminded from time to time of the things which really count, to put first things first, to love the Lord with all our hearts and with all our might and with all our strength.

We Latter-day Saints need not subscribe to those practices which are around us, of which we have been warned in this conference. We need not minimize the religious standards and ideals which have been set up for us to heed and to follow. We need not be "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God," as Paul has said that many in the world would be in these last days. (II Tim. 3:4.) We need not and should not be "high-minded" nor self-sufficient, but as true Latter-day Saints we should walk humbly before the Lord and remember that he is our God.

If we can be humble and submissive, gentle and easily entreated, we will grow in strength and in stature and be able to meet the vicissitudes of life, and to withstand the ". . . evils and designs which do and will exist in the hearts of conspiring men in the last days" (D. & C. 89:4), as we have been urged to do.

There is an old Spanish proverb which says,

He that loseth wealth, loseth much. He that loseth friends, loseth more. But he that loseth spirituality, loseth all.

It seems to me that there is a depression on spiritual things. We are in a worldwide "spiritual depression." As I go about and observe the conduct of many men and women, this seems all the more convincing. And we are told

. . . the whole world lieth in sin, and groaneth under darkness and under the bondage of sin.

And by this you may know they are under the bondage of sin, because they come not unto me.

For whoso cometh not unto me is under the bondage of sin.

And whoso receiveth not my voice is not acquainted with my voice, and is not of me. (D. & C. 84:49-52.)

That was given to the Church in 1832. I doubt that the world has improved much since then. Maybe we have learned a lot more devilment in the intervening time. I am not sure, but it would appear that way.

Now, my brothers and sisters, through these days of confusion and of doubt, where can we find security? On what foundation can we safely build?

Speaking of the conditions that would exist in these days, a revelation through the Prophet Joseph Smith gave us this assurance:

For they that are wise and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived—verily I say unto you, they shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire, but shall abide the day.

And the earth shall be given unto them for an inheritance; and they shall multiply and wax strong, and their children shall grow up without sin unto salvation.

For the Lord shall be in their midst, and his glory shall be upon them, and he will be their king and their lawgiver. (*Ibid.*, 45:57-59.)

How marvelous it is, my brothers and sisters, to contemplate such a blessing. It is ours if we will just heed the requirements for it. I very often turn to the scriptures when I speak to these young people, or did do in the temple, in an effort to get them to hold to the course which is good for them, giving them this admonition in the words of Helaman:

And now, my sons, remember, remember that it is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation; that when the devil shall send forth his mighty winds, yea, his shafts in the whirlwind, yea, when all his hail and his mighty storm shall beat upon you, it shall have no power over you to drag you down to the gulf of misery and endless wo, because of the rock upon which ye are built, which is a sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build they cannot fall. (Helaman 5:12.)

I commend that to the Latter-day Saints, and to the young people particularly, who are making a struggle to

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establish themselves in their homes and in their lives as husbands and wives and fathers and mothers, to build upon that sure foundation, for if they do, they cannot fall, and they will not be deceived by the practices of the world.

I sustain the brethren with all my heart. I know that this is the work of

the Lord. This is not just another Church. This is the Church of Jesus Christ, and he heads it and directs it through these instruments, these holy men in his hands.

I testify to this, and pledge my allegiance to it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER MILTON R. HUNTER

Of the First Council of the Seventy

MY BRETHREN and sisters, I humbly ask an interest in your faith and prayers, and the Spirit of God, to direct the few things that I may say this afternoon.

I have a strong desire and feeling in my heart in this closing session of the conference to encourage the Latter-day Saints to keep God's commandments. I know that there is nothing in this world that is as important to members of the Church as to keep all the commandments. In fact, the very purpose, the reason for our existence here in mortality, is to prove us, to see if we will "... live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God." (D. & C. 84:44; 98:11.)

As President Clark pointed out in his masterful discourse this morning, Jesus Christ, at the grand council in heaven, declared that the sons and daughters of God would be placed upon this earth to "... prove them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them." And the Master gave the promise to them that those who were successful in doing so, would "... have glory added upon their heads for ever and ever." (Abraham 3:25-26.)

In due course of time, Father Adam and Mother Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden. They partook of the forbidden fruit. The Fall came about; thus they became mortal beings. A veil was drawn over their minds, and they forgot their pre-mortal existence and the gospel by which they had previously lived in the spirit world. It was necessary, therefore, for Jehovah,

even Jesus Christ, to reveal to them the gospel plan.

As time passed, time and time again, little by little, line upon line, precept upon precept, doctrine upon doctrine, the gospel was revealed by the Savior to Father Adam and Mother Eve. They rejoiced in all the revelations that they received; and faithfully they rendered obedience to the commandments of God. We read in the Pearl of Great Price:

And he [meaning the Lord] gave unto them commandments, that they should worship the Lord their God, and should offer the firstlings of their flocks, for an offering unto the Lord. And Adam was obedient unto the commandments of the Lord.

And after many days an angel of the Lord appeared unto Adam, saying: Why dost thou offer sacrifices unto the Lord? And Adam said unto him: I know not, save the Lord commanded me. (Moses 5:5-6.)

Now, some people may regard Adam's answer as one of blind obedience. I think his answer is one of the most sublime illustrations in the scripture of faithful obedience. Although he did not know the full answer why, yet he knew that God would not tell him to do anything which would be harmful for him. He was convinced that all that God commanded him to do was for his own good; therefore, he obeyed, and later on he received light.

It would be a wonderful thing if all the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints would follow Adam's example. When the holy prophets—the First Presidency of the Church,