

room, those little feet might find the splinters which went undetected, and she would have to suffer anew for that which she did.

### Repentance brings forgiveness

For a young person to violate the law of chastity or some other commandment and then to later put his or her life in order, such action, I am sure, will mean the forgiveness of an understanding and loving God. Yet as that person progresses in life and reaches a point where he or she enters into a marriage contract and as they have children of their own, it just might be that a splinter of a previous wrongdoing somewhere on the floor of his or her life might prick the conscience.

This is not to say that the Lord hasn't forgiven them, but as they begin to understand the full meaning, the full significance of that which they once did, they may find it unfortunately difficult to forgive themselves. And perhaps this is ultimately the hardest part of repentance, being able to forgive one's self in light of the seriousness of the transgression. Certainly in this, as in all other things, we need the help of the Lord.

### "Wickedness never was happiness"

Alma told the truth when he taught his son, Corianton, that "wickedness never was happiness." (Al. 41:10.)

It is my testimony that the teachings of the Church of Jesus Christ are for the purpose of saving all mankind from the remorse of wrongdoing; that time is on the side of those who hold to these principles and is working against those who do otherwise.

May the Lord help us to appreciate the eternal nature of the laws which he has given us and their purpose, which is to bring joy, happiness, and peace of mind to man. And to this may I add my witness of the truthfulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I know that God lives and that Jesus Christ is his Son. I know this. I know that this is the Church of Jesus Christ and that it is led by revelation, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen. ○

### President Hugh B. Brown

Thank you, Elder Dunn. We will hear from Elder Alma Sonne, Assistant to the Twelve. He will be followed by Elder Sterling W. Sill, also Assistant to the Twelve.

## ELDER ALMA SONNE

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve

● My brethren and sisters: The Latter-day Saints are a chosen people. Their mission is to teach the restored gospel to the world. They feel that responsibility keenly. Their missionary endeavor is evidence of their sincerity and determination to make known truth.

### Relationship to God

They realize that the souls of men are precious in the sight of God. They know their relationship to God, and they are rightfully called the children of God. He is their Father and is vitally concerned about their welfare. He will hear and answer their prayers. He will come to their rescue in times of

need and he will sustain them when they put their trust in him.

### Belief in the prophets

The Latter-day Saints believe in the prophets, each one of whom has left a vital message to the world. Joseph Smith, called the founder of Mormonism, is the prophet of the last dispensation. Like Moses, the lawgiver of Israel, he spoke with God face to face and received from him revelations concerning man's destiny and his possibilities. He taught that God is a person, and that he rules in the affairs of men and nations, and that he is the Father of his children who live and have lived upon the earth.

## Religious foundations

Our country was founded in a religious atmosphere. The original colonists who came to America laid their foundations in that background. They came with deep religious convictions. They built churches and schools and worshiped God in their own way. Their quest was religious freedom, and although unknown to them, they prepared the way for the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ, which, according to James, is the perfect law of liberty.

I have found in most people a deep religious sentiment. Many of them go to church to satisfy their religious longings. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is building churches and chapels at a rapid rate. Most of them are crowded with worshipers on Sunday, where the gospel is being taught and righteous living encouraged.

## Prophetic calling of Joseph Smith

Joseph Smith, the Prophet, was the man selected to open a new dispensation of the gospel. He announced to the world a restoration of divine truth. There are many incidents in his life supported by eyewitnesses who testify of his prophetic calling. These eyewitnesses responded to his greatness and his leadership in a way to prove their loyalty. Strong men like Brigham Young, John Taylor, and Wilford Woodruff followed him with a devotion seldom seen in human affairs. They were men who were not easily deceived or led astray.

Men of reknown saw in the Prophet a force to be reckoned with on the pages of history.

A knowledge of Mormonism is necessary to understand this prophet of the latter days. He cannot be ignored by the conscientious investigator; neither can he be disposed of by the old-fashioned methods of ridicule and abuse. His name is secure in the history books already written. Speaking of himself, he said: "You don't know me; you never knew my heart. No man

knows my history." (*Documentary History of the Church*, Vol. 6, p. 317.)

Who, for instance, knows Jesus Christ? No one except those who understand his gospel of salvation. Joseph Smith came to prepare the world for the reign of Christ. The Church teaches the second coming of the Savior, at which time he will appear in glory and splendor.

## Early history preserved

The Prophet did not write his autobiography, but the history of the early days of the Church is well preserved. The Prophet, wise and farseeing, kept records. "For the last three years," he said on one occasion, "I have a record of all my acts and proceedings, for I have kept several good, faithful, and efficient clerks in constant employ; they have accompanied me everywhere, and carefully kept my history, and they have written down what I have done, where I have been, and what I have said; . . . and my enemies cannot prove anything against me." (*DHC*, Vol. 6, p. 409.) The Prophet believed he was a man of destiny, that this work was an important event in history, and that it should be preserved for future generations. He had been told by an angel that his "name should be had for good and evil among all nations." (Joseph Smith 2:33.) That prophecy has been fulfilled.

## Reliable history kept

We are grateful today for the fragmentary history of the early Christian church, for the records from which the four gospels were assembled, and for the teachings and testimonies of its early leaders. They have been a source of inspiration and guidance to the generations that followed. Without those precious records, darkness would have prevailed. The Church has kept and is keeping a faithful record and a reliable history of its growth, its development, and its expansion since it was organized on the sixth day of April 1830; and it will move forward in the future as it has in the past. I so testify sincerely, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen. ○