Abstract: This article testifies that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the answer to all the world’s problems. We can “look to God and live” (Alma 37:47). Alma knew the consequences of running counter to that advice. There are three requisites for looking to God: a true knowledge of God, a knowledge of his commandments, and obedience to the commandments.
heart of victors as of the vanquished.

"As leaders in Israel, we must seek to dispel fear from among our people. A timid, fearing people cannot do their work well. The Latter-day Saints have a divinely assigned world mission so great that they cannot afford to dissipate their strength in fear. The Lord has repeatedly warned his people against fear. Many a blessing is withheld because of our fears. He has expressly declared that men cannot stop his work on earth, therefore, they who are engaged in the Lord's latter-day cause, and who fear, really trust man more than God, and thereby are robbed of their power to serve.

"The key to the conquest of fear has been given through the Prophet Joseph...

Sunday Morning Session, October 7, 1962

LOOK TO GOD AND LIVE
Marion G. Romney of the Council of the Twelve

My beloved brothers and sisters and friends, seen and unseen: My spirit is subdued by the potential of this occasion. There must be eight thousand of you within my vision, and I am advised that the radio and television audience is worldwide and may be numbered in the millions if I thought of you in mass, I should be overwhelmed. But I am not thinking of you in mass. I want the relationship between each of you and me to be a personal one, for I bear a divine message of the greatest significance to each of you. Fully accepted, it will bring to each of us the abundant life of Jesus spoke. Widely accepted, the rivalry and contention among nations would cease and peace would flow down as dew from heaven upon all the peoples of the earth.

This great consummation will be realized when and only when men catch the meaning of and live by the full implication of Paul's great statement in his sermon on Mars' hill: "God that made the world and all things... dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord... and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; For we are... his offspring." (Acts 17:24-28).

I have chosen for my text Alma's final charge to his son Helaman—"... look to God and live." (Alma 37:47.) Alma, an American prophet-statesman, was speaking about 93 BC. He was well qualified to give this charge because he had experienced the consequences of running counter to it, and he had enjoyed the blessings of obeying it. Through terrifying suffering he had learned that the penalty for not looking to God is pain and death. Through a subsequent life of righteousness he had learned that the reward for looking to God is fulness of life.

"...From the records from people who had inhabited America between 2200 BC and his own time that they had been utterly destroyed in a fratricidal war resulting from their re-fusal to "look to God."

He had learned from the history of this vanished race the word of God to their prophets, the word of God to the prophets of his own people, and from revelations to himself and from his own experience, that the only way his people could escape the consequences of their predecessors was for them to look to God. As chief of state he had learned the limitations of civil government and the inability of political power to bring the abundant life of the capita. So sure was he that his people could not live and he must look to God that when he saw them departing from the ways of God, he relinquished his office as chief of state... that he might go forth among his people... [and] preach the word of God unto them, to stir them up in remembrance of all things pertaining to the Lord, might pull down, by the word of God, all the pride and craftsmanship and all the contentions which were among his people, seeing no [other] way that he might reclaim them [from their wickedness]." (Alma 4:19.)

It was against this background that Alma so earnestly sought to impress upon his sons the message of our text—"... look to God and live."

Six thousand years of human history attests to Alma's wisdom. Every chapter thereof teaches that the uninspired wisdom of men cannot build a lasting stable civilization, and that peace and happiness are not within the reach of men. All the evidence teaches that man would live abundantly and preserve his civilization, he must look to God. Generation after generation has learned through sad experience that... cursed is he that putteth his trust in the arm of flesh. Yea, cursed is he that putteth his trust in man..." (2 Nephi 4:34.)

Nor are the prophets the only ones to be persuaded that "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it:..." (Psalm 127:1.) Josephus, for example, introducing his Antiquities of the Jews, says that: "Moses, our legislator,.... deemed it exceeding necessary, that he who would conduct his own life well, and give laws to others, in the first place should consider the Divine nature,..." [No did Moses think that] any thing he should write [would] tend to the promotion of virtue in his readers;... unless they be taught first of all, that God is the Father and Lord of all things,... [He therefore] did not begin the establishment of his laws after the same manner that other legislators did; [i.e.,] and I am still quoting from Josephus, "upon contracts and other rites between one man and another, but by raising their minds upward to regard God, and his creation of men, and by teaching them that we men are the most excellent of the creatures of God upon earth... when he had once demonstrated that God was possessed of perfect virtue, he supposed that men also ought to strive after the participation of it;..." (The Works of Josephus.)

In an exhaustive treatise on The God Society, a modern author, Hugh Evander Willis, A.B., A.M., LL.B., Emeritus, Professor of Law, Emeritus, Indiana University, concludes that the best and only remedy to the present problems and the evil dispensation of the age, "The religion of Jesus." He makes a great point of the fact that the only motive strong enough to induce men to exercise that self-control required by the religion of Jesus is love. "Jesus," he says, "proposed," (he uses the word proposed because he does not accept Elohim and Jesus as actually Father and Son) "to extend this love to the entire human race through teaching [not as a fact, mind you, not as a reality, but as a device] the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

Here we have a man who is so convinced that men must look to God in order to live in a good society that he deems it necessary to teach the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man even though he does not believe it. The hope for a good society of this man and millions of professing Christians and other men of good will who adopt this thesis is doomed to failure.

The world crisis we now face is upon us precisely because men have been and are seeking the abundant life, for men, and peace among nations—the fruits of looking to God—by preaching the doctrine of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man without actually believing them. Of such, the Lord says, "... they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me,..." (Joseph Smith 2:19.)

The fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, taught as mere devices, never have and never will, worlds without end, promote in men the love which inspires transforming self-control. The one and only motive...
Smith," Brother Widtsoe continues. "If ye are prepared ye shall not fear." (D&C 38:30.) That is a message from the Doctrine and Covenants, and Brother Widtsoe says in conclusion, "That divine message needs repeating today in every stake and ward. Are we prepared to surrender to God's commandments?... If we can honestly answer yes, we can bid fear depart. And the degree of fear in our hearts may well be measured by our preparation by righteous living, such as should characterize Latter-day Saints."

God bless us to eliminate fear and to meet every challenge which the priesthood of God places upon us, I pray humbly, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

strong enough to do this is a divinely given, moving, living witness that God is our Father and that Jesus is his divine Son, our Redeemer. Consequences of these choices are of the all-or-nothing sort. There is no way for him to escape the influence of these opposing powers. Inevitably he is led by one or the other. His God-given free agency gives him the power and option to choose. But choose he must. Nor can he serve both of them at the same time, for, as Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters... Ye cannot serve God and mammon." (Matthew 6:24.)

"To every man there openeth To every man there openeth A way, and ways, and a way. The high soul climbs the high way The low soul gropes the low. And in between, on the misty flats The rest drift to and fro. And every man decideth The way his soul shall go."

"... the Spirit," meaning the Spirit of Christ, "giveth light to every man that cometh into the world with agency and a sure guide—a guide which will lead him unerringly through the world if he will but hearken to it. Listen to this tabernacle in a physical body. Endowed with agency, he is placed here in mortality between opposing forces. The influence of God on the one hand inspires, pleads, and urges him to follow the way of life. On the other hand is the power of Satan tempting him to disbelieve and disregard God's commandments. The consequences of his choices are of the all-or-nothing sort. There is no way for him to escape the influence of these opposing powers. Inevitably he is led by one or the other. His God-given free agency gives him the power and option to choose. But choose he must. Nor can he serve both of them at the same time, for, as Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters:... Ye cannot serve God and mammon." (Matthew 6:24.)

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