



# Insights: The Newsletter of the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship

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## Alan Ashton Delivers Annual Neal A. Maxwell Lecture

Testifying of the purifying power of Christ in an address entitled “Oh How Surely Christ Sanctifies His Own,” Alan C. Ashton, cofounder of WordPerfect Corporation and Thanksgiving Point, gave the seventh annual Neal A. Maxwell Lecture on April 12, 2012.

Among those in attendance at the Gordon B. Hinckley Alumni Center were Sister Colleen Maxwell (widow of Elder Maxwell); BYU president Cecil O. Samuelson and his wife, Sharon; and university officials, faculty, and students.

Ashton opened his remarks by explaining what it means to be “owned” by Christ. He cited the experience of King Benjamin’s people entering into a covenant with God to be continually obedient. That mark of discipleship enables them to become the “children of Christ” (Mosiah 5:7), members of “the Savior’s owned family,” Ashton said.

Personally acquainted with Elder Maxwell, Ashton shared stories highlighting the apostle’s exemplary discipleship. “When we surrender our



own will to our Savior, he owns us, we become his children, and he sanctifies us,” Ashton said.

In true chiasmic form, Ashton’s key message—“the atonement of Jesus Christ is at the center of the lives of all those who belong to him”—came precisely at the midpoint of his remarks. (Striking examples of chiasmus, an ancient literary device in which emphasis is achieved via inverted parallelism, appear in Alma 36 and elsewhere in the Book of Mormon.)

Ashton went on to discuss how the number seven is “especially sacred in the scriptures” and is clearly associated with “sanctification, purification, and cleansing,” as many passages attest.

Christ is so central in the sanctifying process, Ashton said, that many of the names and descriptive phrases associated with Christ in the scriptures reflect his sanctifying power. These include

Sanctification, Tower of Life, and Mediator of Life. Ashton’s addendum to the printed lecture lists more than a thousand names representative of Christ, his attributes, and his mission.

The lecture will be available for free in booklet form at the Maxwell Institute offices and will be posted online at [maxwellinstitute.byu.edu](http://maxwellinstitute.byu.edu). ♦

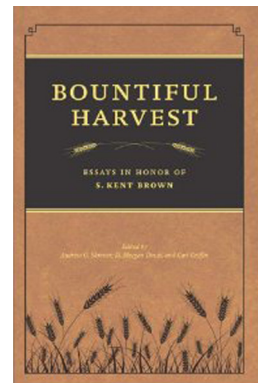
## Volume Honors Professor’s Legacy of Scholarship, Faith

*Bountiful Harvest: Essays in Honor of S. Kent Brown* compiles recent studies by two dozen scholars who respect Professor Brown and his scholarship and whose own research in this Festschrift is worthy of its honoree. A recognized expert on early Christian literature and history and a past director of Ancient Studies at BYU, Brown has devoted his career not only to expanding the scholarly literature in his field but also to building the faith of believers through more popular works

such as his literary/historical study of the Book of Mormon entitled *From Jerusalem to Zarahemla* and the seven-part TV documentary *Messiah: Behold the Lamb of God*.

A sampling of articles from this volume shows the breadth of research that has gone into its production. The article “Joseph Smith’s Interpretation of the New Testament Parables of the

*continued on page 4*



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