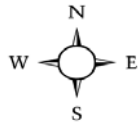


# The Divine Paradox

Wherein Resides the Truth of All Things

Roger Ladd Memmott



A COMPASS BOOK  
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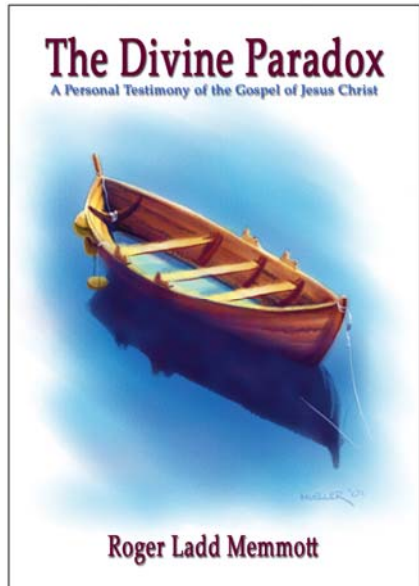
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AS NOTED IN THE PREFACE to this *tour de force*, "It is virtually impossible to read the scriptures without considering the multitude of contraryisms if not the profound if only 'apparent contradictions' that embody divine truths."

*The Divine Paradox* gives consideration to a few of the remarkable and deeply profound paradoxes that lie within the scriptures, paradoxes given and revealed by divinity, given not only to increase our understanding, not only to assure us of the reality of our existence, but to assure us of the nature of our reality and more importantly the nature of our relationship to the Father and the Son.



As we come to understand the Divine Paradox, we come to more fully appreciate the principles that lie behind our free agency, the atonement, and eternal life. We come to more fully appreciate what the Lord means when, in Moses 1:39, he tells the ancient prophet, "For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man."

**Chapter Titles:** Introduction: The Wisdom of the Paradox; 1. Lehi's Logic: The Paradox of Being; 2. God Won't: The Paradox of Deity; 3. More Joy: The Paradox of Time; 4. Alma's Promise: The Paradox of Faith; 5. Self Honesty: The Paradox of Redemption; Conclusion: The Divine Paradox.

As a college professor of literature and as a Gospel Doctrine and Melchizedek Priesthood teacher, Brother Memmott has spent countless hours in the classroom teaching the wonders of the paradox. "It is the deep and abiding wisdom of the paradox in scripture," he says, "that patterns and structures my testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ and, together with the

whisperings of the Spirit, strengthens my grip on the iron rod. I hope nothing more than for this testimony in some small way to benefit the reader's."

### FROM CHAPTER 1 LEHI'S LOGIC: THE PARADOX OF BEING *Without Agency We Aren't*

RICHARD L. EVANS ONCE SAID, "A person soon learns how little he knows when a child begins to ask questions."<sup>1</sup> Several years ago, my second child, Aaron, then age 5, kept me disarmed and forever in a sweat by asking such questions as, "Dad, why can't I see my eyes?" I would let my tongue limp about in my mouth, all garbled and tied, like a brain-dead aphasiac's, ultimately exasperating him until he lost interest. When, one day, he asked me to tell him again about the "fight in heaven," I felt my tongue limber up and confidently kiss at my lips in preparation for a lesson never too late. Halfway into the story, I realized I was attempting to explain to him the paradox of Satan's Plan to save all mankind which was contrary to the Father's Plan in which many would go astray and forever be lost. That's when my tongue again thickened up and limped over the words, now hard as pebbles rolling about in my mouth.

I determined that, at age 5, he wasn't quite up to Lehi's exposition in 2 Nephi 2, which is as much about the nature of existence as it is about the agency of man. I supposed I would wait three or four years to tell him why both he and the world exist.