

The Faith

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Contending earnestly for the faith once delivered unto the saints.

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MY APOLOGY

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"I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one above another, doing nothing by partiality. . . neither be partakers of other men's sins: keep thyself pure."—1 Tim. 5:21, 22.

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye not be partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."—Rev. 18:4.

I wish to make this apology to the members and ministers of the Salem and Stanberry and German branches of the Church of God, for certain misrepresentations in the organization work of 1933. While I was not the originator of these discrepancies and misrepresentations, and even raised my voice in protest against those things I then thought to be unfair, yet I went along with the leaders and continued to be used in these deceptions, thinking that perhaps God would overlook the wrongs, knowing our hearts and would bless the work we were trying to do for Him. Later, when I saw mistrust, envy and strife grow rampant in the ranks, I knew that God was not blessing a work founded on rank misrepresentation, even though it was done to honor Him and advance His truth. I, therefore, in the spring of 1937, resigned from the Salem organization, but have continued to work with God's people in the three branches even until now. However, I have not made my confession, nor have I asked forgiveness of those

deceived, which I do now, that things may be rectified on my part.

First, let me say that at the time of reorganization, I thought that the plan was to get the church on a higher plane, to have the members live holier lives, to have an organization free from partyisms and politics, to study and grow in advancing light—to get ready to meet Jesus. About a year afterwards, however, I concluded that we had been deceived, as I saw favoritism and respect of persons shown in the ruling clique, saw old time politics played as aforesaid, members allowed to live as before, and ministers forbidden to teach new truths, and told that, "We have a saving message. What we have is enough." I thought God could overrule this, and so remained silent until this time; but now I wish to apologize and ask for pardon.

Second, it was made a selling slogan, and still is, that the Salem organization is the only church in the world with Bible government, "Apostolical Organization," if you please. I had a part in that too. At first I thought it was true, but later I saw that we did not have the real thing; in fact, we never did have Twelve men, Seven men, and Seventy men — and the church does not even today. We did not have and do not have Bible organization. I thought God would work this out and give us "Apostolical Government" since we believed in it, but I helped to pass it out that we really had it. I'm sorry too that I helped make people think that the real auth-

is governed by a one man rule, the power exercised over the body by the "General Overseer." I'm sorry for my part, though I was deceived for awhile, and now apologize.

Third, when the reorganization was formed in 1933, another selling slogan was, "World Headquarters in Jerusalem." This made a big hit with many sincere people who love and revere the Holy Land and Jerusalem. This slogan helped much in getting the work to move as rapidly as it did. While I did not originate this piece of deception, and thought at the time that it was right to use it, since we planned to have headquarters there, yet I was a partaker of another's scheme, and continued to tell people the world headquarters of the church are in Jerusalem. Yet, it was also planned, and I helped execute the deception, by having credentials of ministers, printed here in America, sent to Jerusalem and remailed from there to the ministers over the world, with the credentials headed "Jerusalem", and postmarked "Jerusalem". For my part in helping carry out this piece of deceptive strategy I sincerely apologize.

Fourth, at the time of the reorganization a new church denominational organ was launched. It was planned and adopted that it carry the same name of the Stanberry church paper, "The Bible Advocate," so that the members would not think it was a new magazine launched or a new organization being formed but the old merely undergoing a reorganization. To further this deception, the old serial number and volume number of the original Bible Advocate were carried over on the first issue of the new Advocate, and this continued until the postal authorities advised that it must be changed for such procedure was unlawful and unethical. Although I

apologize, and for my part I humbly apologize.

Fifth, while acting as Treasurer with the Salem branch, some of the smaller-paying tithers objected to the fact that tithes paid by ministers showed that some of them were receiving larger salaries than others and to this these tithers objected while so many people were on relief and many ministers were not able to be out in the work because of lack of support. To remedy this it was put into practice that ministers, receiving these salaries objected to, should not report all of their tithe under their own name, part being under some other name or designation, and in this way the tithe payers would not really know just what the ministers were drawing each month. While we did not advocate this plan, yet while we were Treasurer it was carried on through our books by certain ones, and we thus became a partaker of others mistakes. We simply apologize for our part.

Finally, while I was not the author of these deceptions upon the people, yet in some of them I at first thought the practice lawful and was a partner in them and upheld the one responsible; yet, since seeing things in the proper light, I feel I have been guilty of misrepresentation by not telling the people these facts before this, and for that reason I now apologize for my part in the whole transaction. Heartaches and pain and disappointments, past, present and future could have been spared us, had everything been above board and straightforward, and the Bible way followed in all things. We can do nothing more than try to rectify these matters now, to make our effort at restitution, confessing our part, even though we were honestly mistaken in the beginning and ask God's people to pardon us, and the Lord to forgive.

God will not work where deception and dishonesty is practiced. Every hidden thing shall be revealed. Things done in the corner shall be proclaimed from the housetops. We can keep nothing covered, so why try? Sin in the camp keeps God's blessings away. Let's clean up the camp and go God's way.

Written in love for all my brethren and sisters who are earnestly striving to "keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."

—C. O. Dodd.