

HWAPP # 7622 304

Bassett, Nebr., Oct. 27, 1936.

Dear Brother Armstrong:

I received your two letters and note the contents carefully. I appreciate very much what you say about Brother Edd Severson remaining there in Oregon, and also that you know his wife and family want him to remain there. This is the right Spirit on your part, yet, you know the statement of the Lord, that two cannot walk together unless they be agreed. Brother Severson stands 100% with the belief of the church. If there are any exceptions he is not aspiring to making converts on these points, and finally bring the whole church to his opinion, but he is being moved to Oklahoma, which I believe is best, for they need him.

The Church of God, does not believe in keeping the yearly Sabbaths which were a part of the Mosaic law, because on each of these days they offered animal sacrifices. The Sacrifices came to an end consequently the Sabbaths, holydays, new moons etc. ceased. Col. 2: 14 to 16. These were the yearly Sabbaths, not the weekly Sabbaths as you well understand. The greek words from which they are rendered show this clearly.

Now as far as I am personally concerned, I do not believe it would cause people to be lost if they kept these yearly Sabbaths, but some of our ministers are just as sincere as can be that the closing verses of Col. 2nd chapter teaches that all will perish who go thus back under the Mosaic law. If these yearly sabbath are pushed, and you are teaching them to be binding on your newly raised up churches out there, it is just as sure to finally bring a big division in the church as anything can be. I know just what I am talking about, for I know the impossibility in bringing anything new like this before the body without sides being taken one for it, and the other against it. I am perfectly powerless to stay it off, just as you or anyone else. We can keep unity on the coast, and enjoy many more wonderful camp-meetings together out there, and everyone go along peaceably, if you will co-operate with me. Peace is what I long for, and peace we must have. "Blessed are the peace-makers" etc. I am sure you are going to co-operate.

We have had many men come in among us, and use the Church of God to build them up a company of their own, and then break away taking just as big a division as they can with them, and some are suspicious that you are of this type. This is why it did me so much good to note in your letter where you positively and plainly assured me that this was not so in your case. I did not think it was and never have thought so. Furthermore I hope I shall never have to change my mind. Time is too short, Brother Armstrong to let the devil score such a victory on the pacific coast, or any where else. Many precious souls will be lost as a result of this if it goes on, and someone will be responsible in the day of judgment.

Now the point is this, Brother Armstrong, you gave us assurance out there over a year ago that you were not

teaching this point in which you differed from the church. As far as the Eugene church is concerned, as you said they kept these feasts, we could not tell you or them, they would have to cease. This would be radically out of order, but you now say that the Jefferson church is united on keeping them too, and that soon, or in a few years the whole body will be. This statement I would like you to further explain, as I may misunderstand you.

I am receiving letters from leading brethren in Oregon opposing this doctrine, and expressing fear of just what will come, if you are really burdened to ~~teach it~~. It means division, and many would be discouraged and lost. Surely, dear Brother, you will lay this matter on the shelf, and not further advocate it in public or in the homes, seeing where it will finally lead to. If it were a matter of vital consequence upon which salvation rested, I would urge you not to compromise. It would be wrong indeed to withhold some vital truth from people, and allow them to be lost. But there is more reason, it appears to me, that the others have for believing the keeping of these Sabbaths will cause disfavor with God, than there is to believe they will better assure salvation.

Remember how we have the texts repeated in the New Testament ~~that the "commandments of God, and faith of Jesus"~~ constitute the road to eternal life. These yearly Sabbaths do not come into either one. In-as-much, then as they do not, and our work is to direct the people to the gated of life-eternal, let us love one another, dear Brother, and show that love by co-operating together to bring peace and perpetuate peace. I believe you will do this, and if you will, a great burden will be rolled off of my shoulders. I have had nothing to do with conditions out there, I am an innocent person, but I am much hurt. I feel it deeply, and will have to act with others, in some way, to bring about unity. I am therefore dear Brother making this earnest appeal to you, and it goes to you with earnest prayer, that you, as I believe you to be a man of God, will sense the danger, and co-operate with me to save the flock out there, and preserve unity until Jesus comes, which will not be long.

May God bless you is my earnest prayer.

Your Brother

*A. H. Dreyer*

P.S. Elder Severson is going to Oklahoma to look after the work there as Elder Barnes is leaving for Chicago. I think this is the best way to preserve peace there too, and I hope and pray that ~~things~~ everything will be in a way out there that we can freely grant your request of consulting you, as to who goes there for the work. Elder Zoller is planning to locate in Idaho, and if he goes to Ore. it will only be for the winter, and until he gets his family fixed comfortably there, then he is going to work this side of the mountains. He is overseer of the district this way, and therefore must ~~work~~ work in that territory.