

HWAPP# 2920 424

Box 111, Eugene, Oregon, May 24, 1937

Dear Brother Dugger:

Your letter of May 19th just received. You say you have not had a reply from your letter. Did you not receive the long letter, containing reply, that I sent to you at Detroit? I understand the other mail I sent there, including the two manuscripts on the Holydays, and the letter to the Twelve, were received.

Frankly, Brother Dugger, I am rather surprised at some of the things your letter contains. I have received letters from members of the twelve and the seven telling me they did NOT oppose, but are favorable to the holydays, and furthermore that not many attended, and not near all the Twelve. I hope you will not give out the impression that after carefully studying every point of this manuscript, that it was unanimously opposed and rejected, for it was not, and I praise God it was not, and that the Church as a whole has not rejected TRUTH, for if it did, God would stand BOUND by His Holy Word to reject the Church.

You say: "All the Church has ever asked and all they ~~now~~ ask now is that you do not make division on these questions, and that you give those who do ~~not~~ not believe them the same loving fellowship as we shall give those who do." Why, Brother Dugger, that is exactly the spirit, and the stand, I have taken all along, and shall continue to take, and have urged on the Church as a whole. That is the stand I urged in my general letter to the Twelve. I'm sure you well know I have tried humbly to be guided by the Holy Spirit---which is the Spirit of LOVE first of all---and have tried to seek for and use wisdom, even in preaching the truth of the Word of God, so as NOT to cause any strife or division. My stand has always been that DOCTRINE is not a right test of fellowship (beyond basic fundamentals), and that ~~we~~ we must love and fellowship those who may disagree with us on some of these other points just as much as with those who agree. You surely have my pledge that I shall abide with that

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request. If ALL will abide by it, we shall ALWAYS have peace and harmony and unity in LOVE. I sincerely believe, Brother Dugger, that what we ministers need to begin to preach is more LOVE, and less doctrines, for awhile at least.

I'm sure you know well that nothing I have ever done or preached has in any manner, shape or form, caused any strife or any division in the Church. My work has BUILT UP the Church, and has resulted in bringing more new members INTO it than all others combined, in Oregon. Nor has any division of any kind ever resulted from my work. There have been times when the Lord has used me to PREVENT division, restore love and tolerance and patience, and hold the brethren together. You know I am not and never will be a "trouble-maker." It is only when ministers come to Oregon in a carnal spirit of strife and contention, utterly devoid of that Spirit of LOVE and PEACE, saying, for instance, to lay members including new converts of a fellow minister that they are going to "show him up,"--and going to members behind this minister's back and telling them he is not loyal, is not WITH the Church, when he is loyal, holds credentials, and has done more to build up and add to the Church than all others combined---it is when these things are done, that the seeds of division are sown. It is, I believe, largely because I have tried to return good for evil and to act with love and meekness and charity and kindness, and to preach this spirit to the brethren, that there has NOT been any division here. The Devil is the accuser of the BRETHREN---those who are trying to do RIGHT. And it is natural it seems, that those in the wrong, themselves the real cause of division, turn the accusing finger on the innocent who merely are humbly trying to serve their God, by preaching His truth in meekness and in love, and in a way to bind the brethren closer together, not separate them.

You say again, "I wish to hear from you and be assured that you are standing with us in co-operation for unity and love." You surely do have my assurance of that, Brother Dugger. You continue, "and that you are not in sympathy with any effort



such as that begun by Brother Dodd, to divide our ranks." I cannot pass judgment on Brother Dodd, Brother Dugger, one way or the other. I cannot speak for him. I can only speak for myself. I have taken no part in his paper. I have co-operated with you fully in NOT preaching the truth regarding the holydays outside the local churches where I am pastor and where it already had been preached and accepted before this issue came up. I have continued to do this, even when you yourself have freely taken the side against this truth before the entire membership in the Bible Advocate. I have not, in other words, done, nor am I now doing, anything you can in any way criticize me for. Now I have never made an issue of the holydays. It is not a hobby with me. And, while I am absolutely not muzzled, nor do I look to MEN for orders as to what I may believe and ~~preach~~ preach, nor do I believe anyone can take any such orders and serve the Lord or go according to the Scripture, yet I do, with all my heart, want to be led of THE HOLY SPIRIT, with all the wisdom God will give me, and in LOVE. And I do not feel that God will lead any of His own humble children or servants to use even a TRUTH in a manner that would cause any division, or bring in a wrong spirit, with strife and confusion. I love the Church, Brother Dugger. I have tried to BUILD UP the Church, to co-operate with the organization, to preach and have LOVE, and to work for PEACE, and HARMONY, and UNITY. Now I assure you that my efforts will continue to be a labor of LOVE altogether in that direction, and not in the direction of discord, dissention, or division. I am loyal to the Church, and those who accuse otherwise are not telling the truth. I have never caused any trouble or any division, or brought in any spirit of contention or strife. I always have worked for LOVE, and harmony and unity. These are simple facts, and I have a record of RESULTS that speaks for itself. I have been, I have suspected, feared, but there are absolutely no grounds for fear in my direction. You have absolutely nothing to fear from me, Brother Dugger. I have no ambitions. I do not desire leadership, nor play politics. I want to keep humble. I want to serve my Lord, and preserve and build the Church. I cannot, will not, reject truth. But the same Spirit who reveals and opens WILLING minds to truth also is capable of giving



wisdom in the preaching of that Truth, and the same Spirit is also, first of all, the Spirit of LOVE, and will never lead ministers really Spirit-led to cause any strife, or division, or anything that need cause church leaders any fear whatsoever. I just want to make myself clear on this question you have put to me regarding Brother Dodd's paper. I am NOT in favor of or sympathy with any effort to cause contention and split up the Church, whether that effort come from one possessing the truth or rejecting it. But I do NOT judge Brother Dodd, nor impute motives to his work. If you insist that I do that—that I judge him—that I judge his motives—that I condemn him, then, frankly I cannot do it. IF his motive was to cause dissention and to split up the church and to pull off a following for himself as has been inferred, THEN I am not, most certainly, in sympathy with such motives. I am not in sympathy with such purposes, nor will I ever have part in such a purpose. But I do not judge him nor his motive. I am not trying to dodge or avoid your question, but to answer it fully and completely. You finally ask for assurance that I will "go along with the Church as I have been doing before" and I do most sincerely give you that assurance.

The thing that surprises me, Brother Digger, is that you should be so suspicious of me that you should feel it necessary to demand such assurance. Where is there anything in my past record of what I have ever done to cause any suspicion, or any fear, or any question, or any cause for demanding such an assurance? I'm sure I cannot understand, nevertheless I willingly and freely give it. I CANNOT understand why, when I have labored day and night FOR the Church, been used of God to build it up and do more FOR it and bring more new members INTO it than all the others put together in Oregon for ten years back, I should continually be accused, as I have been by various ones, of being out of harmony, of opposing the Church, of not being one of you. Why is this discrimination, Brother Digger? I have never caused any trouble, yet there seems always to be a fear that I will. I have tried to