

(Temporary Address)  
Crow Stage Route,  
Eugene, Oregon,

January 18, 1934.

Dear Bro. Keisz:

I have been thoroughly and prayerfully looking into every angle of the new movement I could, and I think there is no doubt but I shall sign acceptance as one of the "70", and jump into it with my whole heart.

But before finally taking action, I want a few of the "12" and some of the leaders to know exactly my views and where I stand on one or two points, to know whether these are acceptable, and so as to avoid any possibility of any views of mine being a cause of trouble or strife later on,

I believe we are all very tired of all this bickering and strife, and now want to see PEACE and HARMONY. And it is to that end, and to further it, that I now write this to you, as one of the "12," who alone can decide all points of doctrine, and who will have spiritual oversight over the work.

It seems to me that, if the ministers in the organization differ on major points vital to salvation, this can lead only to trouble and confusion. On all such points it is right that we should have certain definitely stated points of belief, based upon the Bible, and, in these, all speak the same thing. This is done in the 40 points. But, on the other hand, to go to the opposite extreme and insist that ever minister must preach ever little minor point on non-essentials exactly as he is told by others, contrary to his honest belief and understanding of the Scripture, then we either make parrot hypocrites out of our ministers, or we again bring in strife and confusion.

Now I do not want to be a cause of strife or confusion. So I feel it is better to know what stand will be taken in this regard, and to inform you, as one of the "12", of some of my convictions on minor points not stated among the 40, and if I come in I want it to be with this all known and acceptable so no one can ever accuse me of being a trouble maker.

The most important points are two---the pork question, and the TIME to baptise candidates. I am sorry to have to say it but there is one man in this state, not on the 12 or the 70, whose personal hobby is the pork question, and who has taken issue on this water baptism question, and he has assured me he reserves the right to try to enforce his views on me, and even to carry these matters up to the 12 for decision, to force me to do things his way, even tho I would be a liar and a hypocrite and disobedient to God in my own mind and heart in so doing. He is a crusader on such points, and the only way I know to avoid trouble is to tell you frankly my position, and ask you whether, as one of the 12, you consider

be acceptable under these conditions.

1, the pork question. I practise and teach abstinence from pork. It seems to me this ought to satisfy this brother, but it does not. I believe it not fit for food, and have caused many to give it up, yet I do not believe it is a SIN question, for sin is the transgression of a law that is SPIRITUAL (Rom. 7:14), and this law came direct from God, and not thru Moses, Deut. 5:4-22. This constitutes a law, and to it God ADDED NO MORE. It is COMPLETE. Other laws, some pertaining to meats and drinks, the people received thru Moses, a different law entirely. The law of Moses is done away, Acts 15:5, 24, 28-29. The only MEAT restrictions imposed under the Gospel was meats that had been offered as a sacrifice to idols (and here the sin is breaking the 1st 2 commandments of the SPIRITUAL code), and things strangled. Paul, in the 14th of Romans, plainly says THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT IN MEAT AND DRINK, and in verse 19 shows that this meat question is only a trouble-maker, by telling us to follow those things that make for PEACE. The Gospel we are commanded to preach is the Gospel OF THE KINGDOM, and Paul plainly tells us there is no meat or drink in it. Meat and drink matters involve only the PHYSICAL laws of health, not the SPIRITUAL laws that define sin and righteousness. Jesus said plainly that NOTHING WHATSOEVER entering into the mouth can defile the man, as it all goes out in the draught, purging all MEATS. Surely this includes pork. He then makes clear what does defile the man--adulteries, fornications, thefts, murders, covetousness, etc., violations of the SPIRITUAL code of the Ten Commandments. Some say the body is the Temple of the Holy Ghost, and not to defile it with pork. But Jesus says NOTHING entering IN can defile the man, which surely includes his body, and in telling us how to keep the Temple of the Holy Ghost clean, Paul, in I Cor. 6:12-20, tells us what kind of uncleanness defiles this temple, and it is fornication and adultery.

Now I happen to know of a case where this same man was asked about a certain elder living in adultery by having two living wives, contrary to the qualifications for an elder plainly stated in I Tim. 3:2, and he replied, and read his letter to me, that he did not feel we should pry into a man's personal private life, and rather that we should take a charitable attitude in such matters. Now just how will the Church of God stand on this matter of adultery, and this plain requirement in the qualifications for an elder, that he be the husband of ONE wife? I am willing to take just as charitable an attitude as the "12" will decide for us to take and abide by it, and I always have taken a charitable attitude on it, but I feel this should come up at the proper time for ~~and~~ discussion, and I should like at that time to submit a scriptural outline for study. But will the church take a charitable attitude on this, admitting elders plainly, according to the Scriptures, disqualified and living in adultery, and then take a harsh attitude regarding a man's private affairs as to what kind of meat he has on his table at home? Can we do that? If we are to have a CLEAN Church, the only UNCLEANNESS taught in the New Testament is that of fornication, adultery, and violations of the SPIRITUAL code of the Ten Commandments.

Now I believe the so-called unclean meats are just as unfit for food now as ever, but I believe it is a health matter, not a spiritual matter, nor a Gospel matter. I frankly feel the "12" should study this question and then strike out that pork clause from the Constitution, and I hope and pray they will see that it