

HWAPP #2409 5/24

Box 111, Eugene, Ore.  
April 11th, 1937

Dear Brother Dugger:

Grace and Peace, in Jesus' name: Your letter of the 8th was in the box this morning before the Radio broadcast, and I will answer it this afternoon.

Brother Dugger, my heart has been heavy lately, because I see the Devil playing his hand to cause a split in the Church. The Devil works deceitfully, often influencing us to really do his bidding when we ourselves honestly think we are serving God. For that reason, I see that the LEADERS need to be VERY MUCH IN PRAYER---more than ever before in their lives---during these next few weeks. Our LEADERS, especially, need to search their OWN hearts, and to BE CAREFUL for their every move, praying constantly for divine guidance, and being sure that they themselves are wholly yielded to God and His will. If we will all do that, no split will come, for God will over rule. But I can see that already matters have come to a place where nothing but the supreme Almighty, intervening Hand of God can prevent it. And then, ONLY if all of us are willing to be led of HIM, not acting on impulse, freeing our own minds of every prejudice and our hearts of every jealousy.

I believe I know some facts that even you do not know. It grieves and burdens me. A split is now inevitable, as the facts that have come to me indicate, unless we will all yield ourselves all the way to God. Now if some do NOT do that, of course they will CLAIM they are doing it---we must actually DO it, or Satan will win a victory.

I have seen for some time that the Church is not on the sound foundation, in some respects, which it must be on if it is to endure and withstand the attacks of Satan. I have ~~felt~~ wished strongly that I might speak freely of some of these things, and bare my heart about them, to you and to other leaders---but conditions have been such that I feared that if I attempted it I would be misunderstood, my motives misinterpreted, and would only end ~~up~~ up by causing damage and not good. Now I want you to believe me, Brother Dugger, when I say that ~~I~~ with all my heart I want to help preserve PEACE, and HARMONY, and I want to do NOTHING that will in any way cause strife or contention or division. I am sure you know that I have tried my best to conduct myself in that direction. But there are some fundamentals that are now actuating our organization that are not sound---not according to Scripture---that are basic principles, and which are going to be the real cause of any division. These feast days are not the cause---only the immediate event bringing the real issue to a head. We must be BIG enough, broad enough, and enough in tune with God and guided by His Spirit to discern this real underlying issue. If the holy days were dropped and put in the back-ground entirely, now, some other matter would pop up soon inevitably that would bring the same real issue to a head. It can't be dodged---it must be faced. And the solidarity of the organization, and, perhaps, souls for eternity, are at stake. As leaders, those of you at the helm must face this grave issue, and realize its terrific responsibility.

And I want right here to make one other point clear, and that is that personally I have no ambitions whatever for any leadership in the organization in any general sense. I want to see politics entirely purged from our body. I have feared that perhaps some have had the impression that perhaps I was ambitious for some kind of political power, but if so that is a grievous mistake. I know God has called me to His ministry. I know He has fitted me specially for the radio work, and I have no ambitions further than submitting wholly to HIM, fitting into my own niche where it is His will to place me, going on with the Radio work as far as God Himself opens the way and makes possible, and doing such personal evangelism besides as I may be able to do. That is all I feel called for---not for any position of leadership in any general sense, or any executive sense. I am not an executive. It is a wise man that knows his limitations, and I know mine. I want to serve where God has given

me talent and power to serve. I do NOT want to be a "Mussolini" as was once suggested.

Yes, of course I received Bro. Dedd's paper, and also your letter which I presume was sent generally to brethren out here---the only one so far has mentioned receiving it---and also I have read the statement and the article on Feast Days in the B.A. I do regret deeply that these things have gone out. But I am not ready to say that I criticize Bro. Dedd for sending out his paper, for I have come into an understanding of the circumstances under which it went. I just say I do not know whether he acted wisely or wrongly. I have written the same to him. Personally, as you know, I have felt it better for me to not spread this truth past the two churches where I act as regular pastor, and both of which are already keeping these days anyway, until after the matter is presented to the Twelve. The real truth is, Brother Dugger, I did NOT promise you I would not do this when you were here---you will remember you pressed me two or three times to ~~send~~ commit myself on it, and I was not sure whether I should do it, and each time I hesitated, and did not answer. I did not commit myself. However, I saw that you left here under the impression that I had, and no doubt told others I had so committed myself, and under the circumstances I would not go contrary to this impression without first writing you and frankly telling you what I was doing, since I have permitted you to leave feeling I had so committed myself. And, as things have developed, and feeling I want to do all in my power to preserve peace and harmony, I have felt it better to do just what you asked me to do, and not spread this truth further until it has come up before the Twelve. I am sincere in wanting to do as my heavenly Father would have me do, for the good of all concerned.

But if Brother Dedd acted hastily, and blundered in sending his paper out at the time he did, I will be frank in saying, too, that I feel you have acted as hastily, and as ill-advised, in the letter that was sent out and in the statement and article that appeared in the B.A., giving all the membership the impression that there is already a division, and discrediting Bro. Dedd. If he acted prematurely in preaching a definite stand on this question before the whole body PRIOR to its consideration by the Twelve, then the Bible Advocate surely did the same thing by way of retaliation, when it came out with an article taking an absolute definite stand AGAINST the Holy Days, ---BEFORE THE TWELVE HAD DECIDED AGAINST THEM. I am being frank and plain, and I am speaking from standpoint of PEACE, and HARMONY for the whole organization. Even if Bro. Dedd was wrong in sending out his article, if you had ignored it, and nothing had appeared in the Advocate, I am sure NO HARM could have come, so far as causing a split or division among brethren is concerned. But that article and statement, and your letter, Brother Dugger, have given all the brethren the idea that a FIGHT is on---a SPLIT and DIVISION has come, and their impression is that you are urging members to stick with the organization, and not consider what a private individual has sent to them, whether or not it is Bible truth. That, frankly, has been the reaction here in Oregon.

I have watched it, and personally taken no part further than to try to STABILIZE things, and hold the brethren together in harmony and unity. But the reaction was this: When Bro. Dedd's paper came, they read it and considered it---and considered it, of course, as his personal presentation---and as I believe the Oregon brethren consider all things, looking to the BIBLE to see whether those things be so. There was no thought of strife or division or dissension that I could see. It was just like getting a paper on a certain Bible subject from any other writer, whether in or out of the church. But no thought of division without the church. But when the Advocate came out, right away, everyone has caught the idea that a split and division is in the air. That is a bad condition. It has had a very unfortunate reaction, so far as peace and harmony is concerned. If you had entirely ignored Bro. Dedd's article, and he was wrong either in his stand on the days, or in sending it out when he did, GOD WOULD HAVE DEALT WITH HIM, but no harm would have come to the church. Now you will understand I am speaking from the Oregon viewpoint, and of the situation here. I do not know the reaction elsewhere. I imagine it has been about the same, but I hope not.

No, Brother Dugger, I had not been notified that this matter was to be presented to and decided by the Twelve at Pentecost-time, but I had heard it thru another source, and I wondered why I was not notified. However, I have written a complete exposition of the subject to present to them---except that I want to re-write certain parts of it this coming week. I do not believe it will be possible for me to leave here to be there myself, and if a split and division is in prospect, and strife over the subject, then I do not WANT to be there or have part in it. I can present all I have to say on the subject on paper, except that of course I cannot in this way have opportunity to explain any points that may be misunderstood, or where I have not made myself as clear to others as I have supposed. But I will submit my position for the very earnest and prayerful consideration of the Twelve, and if their minds are open to light and truth, and they are, as you say, guided and led of the Holy Spirit, I am sure they will see it. I am sure many of them, at least will, anyway, for I think you will find that more of our ministers than any of us have known or realized have already seen this important truth, and already are actually keeping these days, the many have been doing it quietly and privately and it is not been generally known. That includes members of the 12, the seven and the 70. On the other hand, I am afraid there are a few---altho I know of only two---who are so bitterly prejudiced against this truth that they will refuse to permit the Holy Spirit to open their minds to it, and will bitterly fight it to the last ditch even tho they break up and divide the whole church in so doing. We need to PRAY, as earnestly as we know how, that G<sub>o</sub>d will DEAL with any such men, who have such a spirit, regardless of whether they are FOR or against the holy days. They are the ones and the only ones who can cause a split. But such men will be there, and they will be there to FIGHT, and to fight harder AGAINST this truth than those of us who believe and accept it are going to fight for it, for we do not want to cause strife or division. I hope that all the rest of our leaders see that spirit, and MARK those men, as the Scripture says, and prevent them from splitting the church wide open.

Since it has come to such an issue I feel it better for me to take NO ~~MY~~ PART, further than to submit in the best spirit I know how, an exposition of this Truth for the consideration of the Twelve. If some who are possessed of a bitter, fighting, debating, harsh spirit do manage to split up the church at this meeting, I do not want to be there. But I can say this much---the Oregon brethren---the overwhelming majority, at least, ---and I know I can speak for both Jefferson and Eugene churches---will feel that we must OBEY GOD, rather than men, and we believe we must be united together IN THE TRUTH, not in error, and since we SEE this truth, we will feel bound of course to continue to obey it. That simply means, Brother Dugger, that if any harsh or drastic stand is taken FORBIDDING any of us to keep these days, or making it a test of fellowship, that Oregon will be virtually thrust out of the church. We are not going to pull out, and we hope and we are praying we shall not be PUT out. We want peace and harmony. We will do all in our power to preserve it. But harmony at the cost of TRUTH is the Devil's kind of harmony---and that is just the real fundamental issue, as I will discuss a little later.

But I will say here and now that I HOPE, and PRAY, with all my heart, that 1st, the Twelve will permit the blessed Holy Spirit to lead them into this Truth, and accept it. Of course, in the very remote possibility I am in error about it, and it is not truth, I pray they will be given wisdom and understanding of the Spirit to ~~make~~ explain this, and we will all be willing to see it. However, when you have studied a matter as I have studied that, and anything is as PLAIN as this is, you just KNOW it is truth, and there is no doubt. I just mean, that no matter how certain I may be, I'm sure my mind is always open in case anyone could show me I'm wrong. But, failing in that---and one or two will have to be dealt with somehow if such a decision is adopted---I am praying that, second, the next best decision will be this: That the whole matter will be left OPEN, each individual member left free to keep or not keep the holy days as he feels led of the Holy Spirit to understand his Bible, and those ministers of us who believe it---provided the "12" cannot convince us we are wrong---left free to preach these days. In that case I would agree, and know others like Bro. Dodd would, to do this in such a manner as NOT to cause strife or division, or lack of harmony, but to do it peaceably and in love. Now we can do that, PROVIDED THOSE WHO OPPOSE THESE DAYS can likewise control and govern themselves in a

peaceable and loving way, if they wish to present their side of it to various brethren. This is not one of the FORTY POINTS. As long as we are all in harmony on the 40 points which we have pronounced ESSENTIALS, this could be officially considered a "non-essential", and not made a test of fellowship, and some could keep the days if they feel led, and others who do not see it refrain from keeping them, and ALL LOVE ONE ANOTHER JUST THE SAME. Now if you say this is IMPOSSIBLE, Brother Dugger, then it simply means there are some UNCONVERTED MEMBERS in the church not led of the Holy Spirit, and who do not have LOVE in their hearts, for if we have it, we can love another brother and walk with him, even tho he keeps certain annual days and we do not, or vice-versa. If some do not see it, and yet show a spirit of love, I know I for one am perfectly willing to go right along with them in the Church. While both Eugene and Jefferson churches keep the days, we never thought of making it a test of fellowship, or refusing to fellowship a brother or sister who might now see this. If the others cannot have this same charity in their hearts, then they ARE NOT IN THE TRUE CHURCH anyway, and we certainly cannot lose what we do not have.

However, unless I can be shown that I am in error on this---and I would have to be shown, NOT by the kind of twisting and wresting of the Scriptures that a Sunday preacher would use in showing me I am wrong in keeping the Seventh Day Sabbath, but by an HONEST presentation---as I made plain to you personally when you were here, I shall never permit my mouth to be muzzled from preaching THE TRUTH. I am for the time being voluntarily restraining myself from preaching this outside our local churches, because I believe it right and in the interests of peace and harmony. IF I still felt led of God's Spirit to take this attitude, and not spread this truth further than the local territory, even if, and after, the "12" should decide against the days, I would still do it, VOLUNTARILY, but I will never be commanded or ordered not to preach anything that is truth by any men or body of men on earth. I must be free to be led of God. I am sure others who see this truth will take the same stand. And I find I have a great deal more company in this truth than I realized---and those who have accepted it are among our most spiritual men, and men who I am sure will try to handle this matter in a right spirit.

I think it best to face these things IN ADVANCE, and to know exactly where we stand. The third possible decision that can be made at Pentecost time will be to reject this truth, without any real true argument against the days. The only arguments I know that could be used against them are the same identical ones the Sunday preachers all use against the Sabbath, and if our organization is going to deny these arguments when defending the weekly Sabbath, and then turn around and borrow these same Scripture-twisting arguments from them to refute the Holy Days, that will not of course convince those whose minds are open to be led of God's Spirit into TRUTH. So, the third possible course will be to reject this truth, making it a point of doctrine, a test of fellowship, and forbidding us to keep or preach these days. There will be one or two there who will fight for exactly that decision. If they are permitted to have their way, and others follow them in it, then THEY WILL HAVE SPLIT UP THE CHURCH. They will have virtually divorced Oregon from the present organization. They will find a larger number of the ministers than they have realized stand for this truth, and they will be putting them all out of the organization. If they do that they will surely be serving Satan the Devil.

Now Brother Dugger, I do not want to mention names, but I'm sure you know who I mean, and I'm sure you know these ministers who are BITTER against the Holy Days are not in a right spirit, and God cannot use them until they repent. I believe I know your personal attitude, and if I understand it, you are inclined to oppose these days, but your mind is not closed on it---but you are influenced pretty largely by the belief that the big majority of the ministers and brethren of the organization as a whole would be opposed to these days, and that to accept them might lead to many members or ministers not seeing it, and you have feared that even tho it is truth, to accept it would cause a division, and therefore you are opposed to accepting it. Am I right? I speak frankly and candidly, Brother Dugger, because THE CHURCH IS AT STAKE---and because you are recognized as the natural leader of the whole church, and have perhaps more influence than any other one man---and I

know that several of the 70 and 12 will be influenced pretty largely by your stand. I know you CAN influence several of them either way. And therefore you are the one man, more than any other, IN POSITION TO SO HANDLE MATTERS THAT THERE WILL BE NO SPLIT! A great responsibility rests upon you, Brother Dugger, in this matter.

Now that brings me to the REAL ISSUE. This issue HAS to be faced sometime. I have seen it for a long time. Personally I would do anything in my power to keep it down, but it will pop up and no one can prevent it. One thing I CANNOT do, if I am to serve my God and my Saviour, and that is to preach errors, or suppress truth. That is impossible.

The real issue--the very shifting sand FOUNDATION of the present policy of the organization--is summed up in the private personal conversation you had with me just as you were leaving the Camp Grounds at Jefferson last August. You will remember we were standing just outside the big tent, just before you went to Albany to catch your train home---and you asked me if I did not feel that the Church of God had at least a SAVING message---and when I replied that of course I did, you said, at least to this effect: "Well, then, Brother Armstrong, den't you think we had better just continue on with the doctrine and the message we now have, and not seek for any more new light?"

Now I know, or believe, that you have been absolutely sincere in this conception, Brother Dugger. But you will remember I disagreed with you then, and I disagree with that stand now. You have felt that to accept new light, EVEN THO IT IS BIBLE TRUTH, might cause a division, or lose some members, because some mighty not see it. In that I feel you have been sincere, but I feel you are absolutely WRONG, and I feel that you are taking MOST DANGEROUS GROUND---ground that sooner or later will split up the church---and a stand that, unless you can see it and change, will absolutely ruin your own great personal usefulness in God's service. Now PLEASE, Brother Dugger, understand me. I am coming right straight to you, privately and personally, with this, and in the kindest and most loving spirit I know how. I do not want to criticize, not to hurt you, nor to oppose you. BUT SOULS ARE AT STAKE! The Lord's true CHURCH is at stake. You are a leader, the leading leader. And on YOU, more than on any other, rests the responsibility, so it is to you I must come. Without going into detail, Brother Dugger, in our personal correspondence for years past, and in what has appeared in the Advocate, etc., I have seen more and more, thru the past several years, that you were ~~far~~ coming to feel that the Church must STAND STILL, and refuse to GROW in KNOWLEDGE, and must not accept any new light, or admit or purge out error, at least where doing so might cost the church some members who would not see the new and truthful stand. I feel sure your only motive has been to PRESERVE THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH. I qualify that by saying I feel you would accept new light as readily as anyone IF you felt it would not cause any division or loss of members in the Church. But where the possible loss of members has been concerned, your stand has been to put the holding of members first, and the accepting of TRUTH from God's Word SECOND. Is that not right? If I am mistaken, then I beg you to forgive me and to put me right on this. I am speaking plainly, for it is the only way to come to this.

Well, Brother Dugger, that is a wrong, a false, an UNScriptural, and a mighty DANGEROUS stand to take. If taken, it becomes the underlying, basic PRINCIPLE and FOUNDATION on which the church is built, doctrinally. Now of course I understand perfectly that it is the 12, and not you~~self~~, who finally decide doctrines for the church as we now stand, but I also know, as you must, that you have very great INFLUENCE. And I have felt that this has become more or less of a general church policy, and I am simply coming to you with it because I feel you have more influence than any other, and will be fair and open minded in it.

In other words, I believe we have assumed an-entirely wrong, erroneous, and DANGEROUS conception of HARMONY, and UNITY. The Roman Catholics are the best example I know of THIS kind of harmony and unity. They have harmony and unity better than any organization on earth---but it is almost wholly in ERROR, and not in TRUTH. They are ONE---~~the~~ but not one IN THE FATHER---not one in the TRUTH. The S.D.A.'s

also offer a perfect example of this kind of harmony, unity and oneness. Now all their members have been led to BELIEVE that they have unity IN THE TRUTH. They are taught to look to the CHURCH, not to the Bible, for TRUTH. They are taught NOT TO LOCK AT any other teaching, for it is in error unless their church teaches it.

Notice the SCRIPTUREAL picture of unity: "I am the Vine, ye are the branches." It is the VINE that joins the various branches together. One branch has NO CONNECTION whatever with any other branch, direct. Each branch has a DIRECT connection with the VINE. And, all being joined to the VINE, each is, in THIS manner, joined together in perfect harmony and unity. Now the FATHER is the husbandman, and if any branch does not bare FRUIT---does not accept the TRUTH, or bear the FRUIT of the Spirit, the very first of which is LOVE instead of bitterness---the FATHER TAKETH AWAY! It is CUT OFF. Brother Dugger, should we try to HOLD ON to such branches? Should we compromise with God's TRUTH, because of a fear that some unspiritual members might become bitter, refuse to accept it, not be sufficiently led of the Spirit to see it, and would therefore be purged out of the Church? God the FATHER does cut off every branch of this type that does not bear the true FRUIT.

Here at Eugene Church we have put the policy into effect I am now submitting as the only SOUND and RIGHT, and SCRIPTURAL, and SAFE policy for the Church to follow. We have followed the policy of WALKING IN THE LIGHT as the Lord GIVES the light. We are open to ADVANCE in light. And I submit we have been the FASTEST GROWING church we have in the country! Yet, this policy has cost us members from time to time. Your fears of that have been of course well-founded. This policy DOES cost us members. But this has proven a healthful cleansing and pruning-out process. I suppose we have brought in over a hundred altogether in the three and a half years I have been laboring in this field, yet we have a church of around 60 members are present. Now who have we lost? We lost one family old in the Church of God---a family of TROUBLE-MAKERS, contentious, bitter, always plotting trouble, not led of a spirit of LOVE. They have gone with Stanberry. We lost a tobacco user, who incidentally, never was taken in as a real member, but who came regularly and was taking a leading part, and who even broke completely down once and asked the elders to pray that God would remove the tobacco habit from him. But later he rebelled, let a bitter and wrong spirit come in, and went back to his tobacco stronger than ever. He was a constant source of trouble, always going around privately to members trying to lead them off. We lost his good wife from the church with him, which we all regretted, but if she is not strong enough in the Lord to stand with HIM in spite of her husband, it cannot be helped. We have lost one or two other such contentious trouble-makers. Some new truth would be revealed to us---all the Church would see it and accept it instantly who were really LED OF THE SPIRIT, but some of these contentious, carnal-minded trouble-makers have stumbled on these advancing truths, and the FATHER has TAKEN THEM AWAY from our midst. Are we not better off without them? Now they have been tithe-payers. One of these went out just before he received \$750 soldier's bonus, and we lost his \$75 tithe, besides his regular monthly tithe. But the Lord has given us other really converted, SPIRIT-LED members to take their place. Are we not better off? We have lost one or two by death, and a few by moving away, which is inevitable under any conditions. And we have of course lost several of our newest converts, some of whom had come fully into the church, and others who never had been taken into actual membership---who were the STONY GROUND, where the seed had no depth of soil and could not take root, but withered up and died---thru backsliding. This is pitiful, but cannot be helped. Some of these, I suppose, have stumbled on advancing light and truth that was too strong for them to take. But if they do not have the real depth of Christian CHARACTER, are we not after all better off without them, even tho it grieves our hearts to see them fall off? Now what is the net result? We are gaining new members faster than we lose unprofitable ones. This less slows up our growth as to NUMBERS, but it enrichens our growth as to real Spiritual QUALITY. We are gaining continually in numbers, but we are gaining, too, in substantial, spirit-led, really converted members. And that, I submit, is the ONLY kind of progress that is REAL!

Consider again, Jesus' prayer for our unity. He prayed that we "may be ONE, AS WE ARE." He prayed, "Sanctify them THROUGH THY TRUTH: Thy WORD is TRUTH." Not thru human organization, or any other kind of unity, but thru the TRUTH! So we are to be set apart from the world, and therefore brought together THRU THE TRUTH, not thru the bond of human organization. "That they all may be ONE; AS THOU, FATHER, ART IN ME, and I IN THEE, THAT THEY ALSO MAY BE ONE IN US." One IN THEM--which means one IN THE TRUTH, for God's Word is Truth, and Jesus IS the Word.

Now, Brother Dugger, suppose we have MORE TRUTH, as I certainly believe we have, than any other organized Church in the world. Suppose we have the true Church name, the Commandments, the truth on the Lord's Supper, baptism, clean and unclean, etc. But suppose we do NOT have some OTHER truth, BECAUSE WE REJECT IT. Suppose we say, "We have ENOUGH truth. We do not want any more Truth. We will now REJECT this new truth, and hold to only what other truth we already had." What does God say to us? That we are to be DESTROYED for lack of knowledge--"because thou has REJECTED KNOWLEDGE I will also reject thee," saith the LORD--Hos. 4:6. Now just because we have 40 points of truth, and reject one or two other points of truth, we cannot get around this sentence on the ground of have the 40 points of truth. If we reject even ONE point of truth, Brother Dugger, WE REJECT KNOWLEDGE, just as surely as the sun rises and sets--and just that surely will Almighty God reject us. I say frankly, and in all the love God gives me, Brother Dugger, that if you, personally, for instance, will reject ONE RAY of the light of God's TRUTH, God stands BOUND, by this Scripture to REJECT YOU. There it is in His Word, and we cannot alter it. That is why I am pleading with you now, in Jesus name, Brother Dugger, DO NOT REJECT ONE RAY OF THE PRECIOUS LIGHT OF TRUTH, even for the purpose of holding members who would not follow you in it. If you do, God will not only cut THEM off, He will cut YOU off, and your days of usefulness in HIS hands, as a real LEADER in His true Church will be at an end. If you reject one particle of truth knowingly and willingly, even from a motive of preserving unity and harmony, which would be harmony in ERROR, any further accomplishment you might achieve would not be of God, but an human power alone. You would stand rejected of God.

God's Word commands us, "GROW in grace, and IN THE KNOWLEDGE of our Lord." He is the WORD, and the WORD is TRUTH, and it is the TRUTH that is to make us FREE. We must GROW in it. Brother Dugger, we shall spend ETERNITY digging more precious gold nuggets of TRUTH we have not previously had, out of God's precious WORD. We cannot stop advancing in light now. The individual MUST do it. The Church must do it. Its leaders must do it. If YOU stop growing in knowledge of the TRUTH, because you take the stand you urged on me at Camp Meeting, Brother Dugger, you will encourage many, many other ministers and members into the same stand, and be responsible for having them all cut off and lost! IN II Thes. 2:10-12, we find the fate of those who do not LOVE the truth, and do not love any PART or POINT of the Truth as to NOT LOVE TRUTH--it's like the law, which, after all is only the heart and center of all Truth--if we break or reject ONE POINT, we are guilty of ALL. If we reject it, and do not LOVE TRUTH, and WALK in it, God will send us strong delusion, and we will come to actually BELIEVE a LIE, that we may be damned, and not saved. We must WALK in the light as God gives it to us, WHILE WE HAVE THE LIGHT, lest DARKNESS COME UPON US--John 12:35.

No, Brother Dugger, we CANNOT COMPROMISE WITH LIGHT AND TRUTH. The minute we do God will reject us. The minute the CHURCH organization does it, that minute will God REJECT that organization, and it no longer will be the true CHURCH in God's Sight, no matter what claims it may make for itself. And "every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, SHALL BE ROOTED UP. . . they are blind leaders of the blind . . . both shall FALL IN THE DITCH." (Mat. 15:13-14).

Now, then, shall we summarize the TRUE POSITION? It is this: The true SPIRIT-led minister, individual, and Church, will, first of all, SEEK FOR TRUTH, being WILLING and always keeping willing, to receive it. He will ACCEPT IT. He will WALK IN IT. It is the LAMP UNTO OUR PATH, and as God gives a little light, and we walk as far down the true path as that light carried, He will shed forth more light, and we must

WALK in it, and then still more will come, until finally it will lead us clear out of the woods of confusion, sin, and degradation,---but if we walk in it, following the true path for quite a ways, and then say we have ENOUGH light, and will not step on in the further light, we get off the true track, and into darkness, and we get lost in the woods of confusion and sin. To walk ALMOST out, and then refuse to go on the REST of the way will not lead us on to safety. So, first of all we must be willing to accept and to advance in LIGHT and TRUTH. But, being filled with God's Spirit, which first of all is the Spirit of LOVE, and charity and patience, and kindness, we will suffer LONG, and REMAIN kind toward the brother who does not YET see all the light we have seen. And if HE has the Spirit of Love, he will still love us, and having that Spirit, it will eventually guide him, too, into the Truth.

That is the ONLY SOUND AND SAFE COURSE the Church can take. If we take it, we will lose some members and some tithes, WHY?---Because we are always confronted with the sad fact that we have some UNCONVERTED people among us. They are IN our organization, but they are NOT in the TRUE Church whose names are written in Heaven, for they have not the Holy Spirit. Brother Dugger, it is ONLY SUCH MEMBERS that this policy of the OPEN DOOR TO TRUTH will cost us.

Now if we value SUCH members more than we value and love God's Truth, then I say, God have mercy on us---we are rejected and overthrown of God, until we repent. Let us labor with such members in love, and try to win them. But if we cannot---if they will not---we are better off without them.

Brother Dugger, SOMETHING HAS BEEN WRONG, with the Church of God. It has not GONE FORWARD with the P O W E R it should. Why? There is a REASON! Could this be it? Are we carrying so much DEAD WOOD, in the form of members, and perhaps even a few ministers, who have a bitter spirit against TRUTH---who become ~~JEALOUS~~ JEALOUS of other ministers whom God has blessed with a greater harvest than they? Could it be that THIS is the ball-and-chain around the feet of the Church of God that is holding it back? WHY have we been declaring the Third Angel's Message with such a pitifully weak whisper, instead of the LOUD VOICE with which the prophecy says it shall go? WHY is the last warning Gospel Message being carried by us to only dozens here and there, as a rule, when IT SHOULD BE GOING TO THE MILLIONS, all over the world? W H Y? When Jesus comes, we will be called to accounting. Before I got actively into the ministry in Oregon, we had had several Church of God ministers and evangelists here---Unzicker, Stith, Dailey, Taylor, Oberg, Ray, etc. They had labored here for years, between them. Yet perhaps not fifteen people in all of Portland's 300,000 had ever so much as HEARD their message. Perhaps not a hundred in the city of Salem, where Unzicker, Stith, Dailey, and Taylor all had held efforts, had ever so much as HEARD their message, or even come to hear them, and perhaps not 250 of Salem's 50,000 people so much as ever KNEW those men were there. I supposed we just had some weaker men out here, but I have been informed by some who have toured the country and know all our ministers that we have had some of the best out here. I don't say this to criticise---but I say it because it is a FACT, and one that should cause us to blush for SHAME, and one we ought to GET TO OUR KNEES BEFORE ALMIGHTY GOD, and FACE, and FIND THE ANSWER TO! And when, at last, the Lord did begin to bless the work here and people began to hear the Message by the tens of thousands, we have been confronted with the sad spectacle of jealous ministers fighting and opposing the only successful work this state has ever seen! And I have heard that this same condition has happened elsewhere, and successful ministers whom the Lord has blessed have been opposed and hindered by less-successful JEALOUS ministers. And the ministers who do this opposing appear to be those whose minds are closed to new light or truth, and will fight it bitterly, and who are showing a wrong spirit which is not of God!

The Church of God IS AT THE CROSSROADS! The REAL ISSUE is, whether the doors shall be kept open, or CLOSED to further light and truth from the Lord. I had hoped this issue could be put off, but I see it is being brought to a head right now, and I have had no personal part in bringing it to a head. I am not saying these things as an argument that you should accept the Holydays---I have that proposition written



in a manuscript setting forth the Scriptures on it---but merely because I see there is a far BIGGER ISSUE than the Holydays at stake, and that is whether we are to be even FREE to honestly CONSIDER such a question, or whether it is CLOSED before it is considered.

Perhaps you may remember that nine or ten years ago, when I was first coming into the truth, I sent you a very exhaustive exposition of a certain MINOR point where I was convinced that the Church was in error. You replied that you agreed with me, but you feared that if we made that church doctrine many members, especially the ones of older standing, would refuse to accept it, and it would cost us some members, therefore you felt we had better not accept this truth, or permit the Scripture to correct us, but proceed as we had been teaching it. Immediately after this, this very point was brought up repeatedly in the Bible Advocate, taking a strong stand against the position I had submitted and which you had acknowledged to be truth, and as I remember it you were editor at the time. Now, please do not be offended, or misunderstand me, Brother Dugger. I have always felt that you took that stand believing it was best for the church, and I do not impute any wrong motives to you in it. Again, later, I sent you the manuscript of a complete book I had written, on the ISRAEL question, then entitled "The Third Angel's Message," I believe, (and which book, re-written, is now being finally published, incidentally,) and I repeatedly wrote you asking, "AM I RIGHT on this question?" After you had finally finished reading the last installment of it, you wrote me, late at night, on a train, saying I surely WAS RIGHT, and that you saw a purpose in the Lord revealing this truth to me at the time. Yet nothing was ever done with this truth, and ---may I say this kindly, and without offense,---I have heard you, on your three trips to Oregon the past three years, repeatedly call the JEWS by the title "ISRAEL," and apply Scriptures speaking of the HOUSE OF ISRAEL, as ~~xxx~~ contrasted to the HOUSE OF JUDAH, to the Jews. Now the one great central point this whole book brought out time and again, was the DIFFERENCE between the HOUSE of Israel, and the JEWS---two separate nations altogether. Even though you did not fully accept the conclusion that the white English speaking people are the true HOUSE OF ISRAEL, as your letter written on the train that night surely indicated you DID accept,---yet I will be frank in saying I could not understand how you could, after reading and accepting the truth brought out in that manuscript, apply Scriptures referring to the HOUSE OF ISRAEL, to the Jews who are the HOUSE OF JUDAH.

Perhaps I should not write these things. But the Church has come to a CRISIS, and its fate will be decided in about five weeks, and souls are at stake, and the fate and future of the Church we both love, and want to preserve in harmony and unity. And you are the leader among its leaders. This has become a Church stand, I believe, not merely your personal stand---but I have become convinced from these several incidents that you have taken the stand that we must CLOSE THE DOOR to advancing light and truth, or to purging out any possible error in present teachings, because of the fear of losing some members. I grant that you have been sincere in it. I do not impute any wrong motives. But I feel you are mistaken---that it is a most unwise, unscriptural and DANGEROUS foundation for the Church, and that this very stand will split up the Church, and if you do not turn from it completely, cause your own personal rejection at God's hands. And Brother Dugger, such a result would be a tragedy too great to contemplate. IT MUST NOT HAPPEN! So I beg of you---I plead with you, IN JESUS NAME, for the sake of the Church, for the sake of souls, for your own personal sake, will you not now COME OUT BOLDLY WITH THE STAND THAT THE CHURCH WILL KEEP THE DOORS OPEN TO ADVANCING LIGHT AND TRUTH? I understand perfectly, however our Constitution provides for these matters being put up to the 12. But I know, too, that as long as at least some members of the 12, other leaders among the 70, and yourself with your INFLUENCE, hold to the policy of the CLOSED DOOR, that that is, IN FACT, the Church policy, even though ostensibly these things may be presented to the 12. Unless the 12 is open to consider these things, and willing to accept what is really TRUTH, and advance in light, then the doors are closed, and God, who knows our hearts, knows it! Many, even some of the 12, will look to you for guidance. When Stanberry folks have said we had a POPE, etc., and that the 12 were your personal puppets, I have denied it and defended you, for that is not true. But I know and you know that you DO have a very considerable INFLUENCE, at least on SEVERAL of the 12. I feel sure that some, it may be a majority, of the 12, would go right ahead in spite of your heaviest

opposition, if they felt you were wrong. So we do not have popism, and they are not your puppets, but on the other hand you DO HAVE INFLUENCE over all, and a very considerable influence over some. That is inevitable, and certainly you are not to be criticised for that---it is only natural, for you have been the executive leader, and the best qualified man to be the executive leader. BUT IT DOES PLACE UPON YOU A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY! And so I come direct to you, and present these things direct to you, FOR THE SAKE OF SAVING THE CHURCH!

Another issue that is fundamental, that must come to a head and be threshed out is this: Are our ministers to be MUZZLED? Are the 12 to decide what is truth and what is error, and are ministers to be commanded to preach what the 12 tell them to preach, and FORBIDDEN to preach what the 12 reject? Are we to take the stand that the TWELVE, and they ALONE, are led of the HOLY SPIRIT, divinely inspired and guided, in being LED INTO TRUTH in the Bible? Must the other ministers, and the lay members look to the 12 for what is truth, or are they, individually to be led OF THE SPIRIT into what is TRUTH from God's Word? If you are going to interpret Acts 15 to mean that other ministers and the lay members must just receive what the 12 hand to them, ready-cut, and memorize that as truth without question, and then never even read, hear, study, or consider any other conceptions of certain Scriptures or questions, then we take the stand that our organization, and our 12, are INFALLIBLE, and that all people must look to THESE MEN for the truth that is to bring them eternal LIFE. Then we are all staking our eternal salvation on WHETHER these 12 men are what they claim, led of the Spirit, and infallible. Then we are putting our trust in MEN, not in God.

Now this letter is already much too long---but these issues are so absolutely important that no length is too great. So I just ask if that is our stand. If so, I want to present the Scriptures that show it is a FALSE stand, and just as DANGEROUS and unscriptural as the CLOSED DOOR policy. We tell members of other churches to QUESTION what their preachers have taught them, and to LISTEN to us, and search the Scriptures, being led of the Spirit, WHETHER these things are so. Can we deny our members the privilege we ask of others? I always say in my preaching, whether in our local churches, over the air, or in evangelistic meetings, DO NOT BELIEVE WHAT I SAY BECAUSE I SAY IT---SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES WHETHER THESE THINGS BE SO---and if you are willing to be led of the Spirit, HE will show you whether I preach truth. I never discourage our members from HEARING other preachers. In fact, the more they hear others, the more solidly grounded they become in the TRUTH, and the more disgusted with the erroneous preaching that fills the air and pulpits today. Each must be left FREE to search the Scriptures for himself. Yet we must have some basis for harmony of doctrine. The only wise course is to adhere to our 40 Fundamentals and leave ministers and members FREE outside those points. If THIS course is adopted at Pentecost on the Holy Days, the Church can be saved. Even the the 12 accept this light and declare it, in their opinion, TRUTH, still I feel they should leave members and ministers free to see or reject it, and not make it a test of fellowship. We can all love one another JUST THE SAME---all who have God's Spirit. Those who can't had better be purged out. And I hope you will PRAY, Brother Dugger, as never before, over this, and take this stand, and use your influence to have this course adopted, regardless of whether the 12 accept or reject the Holydays as true doctrine.

The only reason that I have been personally opposed in the organization by other ministers---I have always felt that the rest of you never fully accepted me, but regarded me more or less as an outsider, and perhaps wished I was not in the organization---is because I have insisted on keeping OPEN for advancing light and truth, and advancing BEYOND what the others have so far accepted,---and, in one or two cases, jealousy because the Lord has blessed my work. Now I do not for one moment consider I am called to be any leader, or that God has selected me to reveal truth to me more than any other. On the contrary, I feel He will reveal the SAME truth to any and every other individual and minister just the same, IF THEY ARE WILLING and will make as much effort to GET light and truth as I have. That's all. But we might as well be frank about it, and not hide these things---the Church has been afraid

of me, and distrustful of me, simply because of this. I have never had your full confidence and co-operation, and this is the main reason. You know that is so, Brother Dugger. I have sensed it, known it---but I have tried earnestly to so conduct myself that you would have NO CAUSE to fear any harm from me, or that my sealousness to be willing to accept light and truth would be used to cause any division, lack of harmony, or trouble. I want to glorify the Lord in it, not destroy. I have tried, every way I could, to co-operate, to BE CAREFUL, and to preserve peace and harmony. I'm sure you will admit that. I have been trying to always show the right spirit. I do not feel I need to apologize for being willing to let God lead on and continue to reveal more and more light and precious truth. I know, and you know, that I would have been asked to have gone to Jerusalem to ~~take~~ take charge of the publishing work there, and prior to that, would have been asked to edit the Bible Advocate,---because I am the only one in the organization that has had a thorough trained magazine experience, and is fitted by talent, experience and training, to produce the most effective kind of printed literature---had it not been for this one thing. Under these circumstances, I could not be trusted with such a job because of the fear I would get ahead of the accepted teaching---not that I would preach contrary to our 40 points, but go on beyond and ahead of them. ~~in~~ And for exactly this reason, I could not, of course, have accepted such a responsibility even had it been offered to me---for I would not accept it unless I had an absolutely FREE HAND, and were free to write and print articles containing advancing light and truth,---altho I would do it in a way that should never tear down, but always BUILD UP.

It has been difficult for me, laboring on here, knowing these things---knowing you know them, yet we never dare talk about them---knowing there has been opposition because of it, and because of this fear a tendency to want to hold me down, at least to a place where any of these advancing truths would come out before the whole body. I think, too, I have been misunderstood in another way. Some have felt perhaps that I aspired to some big position or bigger one in the church, in a more general or national sense---but I have not. In fact, knowing this situation, and desiring with all my heart to keep harmony and peace, I have deliberately kept myself localized right here. I have no ambitions. I just want to serve the Lord wherever He puts me. As I said, He has not fitted me for any executive task. That is one thing I can't do. You can. You are our natural and best executive leader. God has a place for each of us, and I want to stay in my own place. Perhaps it is best for these issues to come out, and to be settled. And always remember, that while I am taking full freedom to talk absolutely FRANKLY to you, I want to still CONTINUE to follow a course that will co-operate as fully as possible, and preserve peace and harmony. I MUST accept, and preach truth. I cannot serve God if I don't. But I could not serve Him if I preached it IN SUCH A WAY as to cause strife and division. So I shall always try to use all the care, and tact, and wisdom I can in how and when these matters are preached. I want you to know that, and know you can rely on me to do that.

Now before I close, one bit more about Bro. Dadd. I want to quote to you part of a letter I just received from him, for I do not want you to feel hard toward him or bitter---and I want to bring us all together in LOVE. When a man ACKNOWLEDGES that he is, or may be wrong, and is sorry for it, my heart goes out to that man. Bro. Dadd acknowledges he may have been hasty and wrong in sending that paper out at this time. He gives circumstances which I believe he honestly felt warranted him in it. He had received a letter from one of the 12, very friendly to the holy days, but Bro Dadd adds: "However, he felt grieved that I had got the paper out, feeling that I had got in too much of a hurry, before the matter was decided at the Pentecost meeting. . . This may be so. Perhaps I have run ahead of the Lord. If I have in this, I feel sorry." He then explains why he did it, and that he had felt FREE to do it under circumstances he outlines, and felt impressed of the Lord he must do it. Yet he admits he may have been mistaken in this, and if so is sorry. He has shown a very good spirit thruout. He may have been hasty. He may have made a mistake of judgment. But there has been no harsh spirit, no mud-slinging, none of that "Stanberry spirit." Let us have charity for this brother. Let us pray that, if harm has been done by this, that God will overrule it, as Bro. Dadd says he is praying. Let us LOVE ONE ANOTHER, even the we do not---yet---see some points outside the 40 points alike. And let us

get to our knees, and spend HOURS there, PRAYING, P R A Y I N G, that God will SPARE HIS PEOPLE, (Joel 2:17), and with FASTING, and WEEPING, and rending our hearts, and submitting ourselves fully to HIM---that the Church may be spared---that God will overrule the power of Satan by His great POWER---that out of this matter bringing a still bigger ISSUE to a head, will come a far better foundation for the Church, a far better working co-operation and harmony among the ministers, or at least among all who are willing to have the Spirit of love, and be led of the Lord---and that we may now, as on that Pentecost the year Jesus ascended to heaven, receive such an INFILLING of the HOLY SPIRIT, that the CHURCH OF GOD may now leap forward with a NEW POWER we have not previously possessed.

Brother Dugger, we must declare the warning message---the Good News of the coming KINGDOM---the warning of the Plagues and the DAY OF THE LORD---not to a few dozens, but to THE MILLIONS of people, as a witness---and not only in the United States, but in EVERY NATION! The time has come for the Message to GO. We haven't been carrying it with the POWER God is able to give us. He has held back the funds, but He will supply that when WE permit Him to put more of the real power of His Spirit in us---when we get down to dead earnest and SEEK it. But we must remove these things that stand in the way. We must OPEN the doors to truth. We must GROW in grace and in KNOWLEDGE, walking in the light as God shines it forth. The Church of God has come to the Cross-roads. The next six weeks will determine whether we are to be split up, broken, our usefulness ended---or whether we are now to LEAP FORWARD on God's power in a way we never dreamed of. Pray over this. ~~Especially~~ ~~that~~ God save the Church! I will co-operate and do anything in my power. But to compromise with TRUTH would not save the Church. The true Church will press ON in the TRUTH!

You have not answered my last letter about Claude Ellis. I am planning a big tent campaign for the very near future, and need to ordain him as an elder before that time. I would much rather the suggestion came from you. Won't you write me by return mail what you think about putting him in the work?

With love,