

July 6, 1968  
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Brother Cogdill:

44.

The Arlington meeting served to confirm what many of have believed for quite some time--THE CHURCH IS IN DEEP TROUBLE--ALL of it--not just a faction. And part of the concern which we have over this serious problem in our midst is that the conservative brethren are seemingly oblivious to the fact that we also, in many respects, have not stayed faithful to God's word. This was never more clearly demonstrated than when some of the brethren, men of renown and high-repute, met with the factionists, those who have for years done little else but sow seeds of discord and division amongst us, and who have taught and practiced that which is not according to the gospel of Christ. Paul says such men are "accursed" and if we believe Paul we must agree with him; he knew what he was talking about. One of the results of this meeting was to disturb and weaken the church; and to lessen the respect and trust for those involved in a secret meeting with known factionists.

The Arlington meeting was and is positive proof of the weakened and divided condition of Christ's church in this generation. The division amongst the conservatives is indicative in their reaction to the Arlington fiasco; some were utterly bewildered, some thought it meaningful and good would come of it and would help to heal the breach between the conservative and the liberal (how wrong could they be), and some saw it as a deplorable and unfortunate incident. Possibly there were many who saw and understood it for what it was--a transgression of the law of Christ and therefore sinful. The lack of wisdom and foresight of those who met with the hypocritical and unbelieving brethren was accentuated by the secrecy involved. However, differences of attitudes and misunderstandings about the whole matter can be understood when we realize that the conservative brethren do not agree on hardly anything anymore and in many instances they seem totally unaware of the scriptural procedure in matters of faith. Ignorance is due to lack of study and sound teaching. There is a famine of the word of God today.

God's word is plain and positive relative to our position towards the wicked and divisive in our midst. A false teacher under Moses law was taken out and stoned to death so that all "Israel might HEAR and FEAR" be warned of their dangerous malfeasance. God's word teaches today that the factionist is to be rejected and that he is self condemned. This is after ONE OR TWO warnings. The Jimmy Lovells, the Thomas and those like them have been teaching and practicing and dividing the church for years and there has been no indication in the past nor now that they were ready to repent, confess their great transgressions, and ask the brotherhood for forgiveness. Perhaps this was the reason for the secrecy? How can we be so inconsistent as to warn, condemn and to expose on the one hand and then transgress the word of God by fellowshiping them in meetings. How can we warn against and at same time fellowship them?

All of us know that God's word teaches unequivocally, "with such a one DO NOT EAT," Mark them which CAUSE DIVISIONS and do OFFENSES contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned and AVOID THEM. "If any man OBEY NOT OUR WORD, NOTE that man and have NO COMPANY WITH HIM." When men depart from the faith as have those who were at the Arlington meeting they are to be left alone until they repent and (who) turn from their wickedness and rectify their sins. In Acts 15 we find God's method in dealing with factionists and false teachers. The apostles and the elders MET WITH THE CHURCH (not the reprobates) to solve this problem and ALL of the church participated in solving the problem. This is the scriptural way. Those who met the liberal brethren in the Arlington meeting broke all of the commandments above; and there are no excuses nor explanations; nor can any books be written which can rationalize such an unscriptural meeting. The motive for this letter (not the only one) is to warn against the results which might ensue if the participants at the meeting do not repent and confess of their transgression of the law.

But the Arlington meeting may yet serve a good purpose. It could be the means of exposing our spiritual blindness and revealing our divided condition. It may help to open our eyes that we may see ourselves as God sees us, "that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see." The danger lies ~~that~~ in our unwillingness to see the apathy, the division, the lack of knowledge as well as the lack of zeal amongst the members of God's family. The church seems to be in the same state as that pointed out to us in the second and third chapters of Revelation. The spiritual condition of the church is quite often reflected in the conduct of its leaders. Under Moses law, when the priests became corrupt, the people usually followed suit. God held the priests responsible. But the people also were punished.

As Judah and Israel fought each other almost continuously for years and years, and lost their identity and forsook God--we have like them dissipated our time and strength fighting with each other and it would seem are almost on the point of losing our identity. In our zeal to try and stop the apostasy we concentrated seemingly upon the issues at stake and for years now have seemingly been oblivious (not all of us have) to the fact that any other kind of teaching or preaching needed to be done. With the result of course that sound and vital teaching has been neglected, growth impossible (because without meat one cannot stay healthy) and we have drifted away from the old paths. Some of these we will point out in this letter later. A church cannot stay strong and zealous (the lack of zeal alone is significant and evidence of what I'm writing) and be taught not much else than the first principles and related subjects and stay healthy spiritually. Its dying of malnutrition and in some cases has already starved to death. In trying to prove how wrong the liberal brethren were, we forgot to look and keep watch over our own spiritual integrity.

Peter said, "Look to yourselves" The battle against orphan homes--Herald of Truth and such like has long ago been ~~won~~ <sup>lost</sup> and lost. Unity is most desirable; and unity and understanding are inseparable. But compromise--opinions--peace when there is no peace--and boxes in the vestibule and things of this nature are not a part of truth. The only peace God will accept is unity upon the gospel of Christ. This is impossible with the wicked and the unbelieving of the church who long ago departed from the truth. The disagreement over "the box in the vestibule" is indicative of our forlorn and inept spiritual condition. When we can waste our time and efforts over a piece of business such as this, ~~at~~ a time when the church should be getting ready for one of the greatest battles of its existence, its time we examined ourselves to see if we are still in THE faith. When men of erudition and influence can advocate such compromising and inconsistent practices such as putting a box in ~~the~~ the vestibule so peace can ensue, it only proves how far we have drifted away from the truth. Its wasted effort when we have no time to waste.

The secret meetings of the influential and prominent men, from both sides, is suggestive of the Catholic hierarchy. The "box in the vestibule" also has a resemblance to a practice of these religious people. The likeness doesn't end here. The growing power of the preachers and in some cases, of the elders, in taking over the government of the church from the members of the body of Christ, is not only unscriptural but is inherently dangerous to the identity of the church. It also has sinister resemblance to the pope and his cohorts. The image of the Catholic priest as the last word in matters of faith is reminiscent of the attitude of too many of the members of Christ's body towards the preacher today. This attitude reflects itself in the ignorance of the people and the indifference to what is happening to the church. ~~This~~ It tends to make them dependent upon possibly one, or men for all of their knowledge and this is pernicious in its effect. man

The preacher--priest image is further carried out by the attitude of the people towards the preacher, leaving it to him and/or the elders to make all the decisions, do all the teaching (except perhaps the children) and their word is the law. They are usually considered above reproach and are not to be contradicted.

on any matter". This is demoralizing for both preacher and members, and has more than a tinge of the Catholic attitude towards their priests. The resemblance is further carried out by our involvement in and our concern over the pretentious buildings which we constantly spend the Lord's money upon and which seems in many instances to take precedence over the saving of souls. If even a small portion of the Lord's money which has been invested in unnecessary building of physical structures for the people of God to meet in, had been used in sending out EVANGELISTS to save the lost and BUILD A BUILDING OF GOD made of flesh and blood and spirit, the church today would not be in the deplorable spiritual condition so evident at the Arlington meeting.

with The great battle which looms so formidably before us today is not in trying to <sup>make peace</sup> ~~make peace~~ those who have gone into apostasy and long ago lost their souls, but to fight to keep the church from degenerating into a denominational concept and losing its peculiar identity, which it is now in the process of doing. Until we can see this and stop wasting our time in futile efforts to bring back the wicked and corrupt into our midst when they have shown no intention, before the Arlington meeting, or since, any disposition to repent or to turn from their corrupt teaching and practices, we are fighting a losing battle. The trend away from the truth and from the old paths is not solely amongst the liberals but the Arlington meeting proved its right amongst the conservatives also.

This unwarranted meeting, one forbidden by God's word and doomed to failure even before it was held, was the means of exposing to some of us at least, the lamentable and confused spiritual condition of some of the leading brethren amongst the conservatives. God's people in the past were usually led away by their bad priests or bad kings or leaders. Today is no exception to this rule. Those who have been the most active in preaching and teaching and trying to stem the tide of digression within the church have committed a sin which they seem unable to comprehend/effect upon them and/or the church. The sophistry and hypocrisy of the apostasied (its) brethren was never evident than at the Arlington meeting, and since exposed in their writings and their attitudes afterwards, yet the conservative brethren seemingly are unable to grasp this point or to see the meeting in its true light.

It is evident to some of us at least that the brethren tried to "make peace when there was no peace". A quotation from Floyd Thompson AFTER the meeting is indicative of what I mean. "Brethren when we came together in this meeting, there were CERTAIN THINGS between us. We have discussed how we can get together. As we are now about to leave, those same things are between us. When those things that are between us are removed we will be together, but not until then." What I'd like to ask here is did not the brethren know "the things which were between us" before the Arlington meeting, and which were still there AFTER the meeting would continue to be there until the liberal brethren had shown a disposition and a willingness to repent, turn away from their terrible sins of the past, and ask forgiveness from the brotherhood? If they did not there indeed is cause for alarm because they are not conscious of their sin in transgressing from the word of God, when they met with the enemies of God in fellowship.

"If a brother sin, rebuke him, AND IF HE REPENT, forgive him." When the prodigal son left his Father's house and went bkg into the world, he had to "come to his senses" and then he returned to his Father's house. The sinners in the church, especially those of long standing, and who are guilty of dividing the body of Christ, have reached the condition spoken of by Paul in Hebrews 6: 1 to 6 and Jude 18 & 19, "These be they who separate themselves, sensual, HAVING NOT THE SPIRIT." The tragedy so evident here in the actions of my brethren is that they seem, as of this date at least, incapable of comprehending their sin. Until the enemies of God turn away from their sins, and they seemingly have reached a state where they ~~are~~ are incapable of repenting and turning away from the path which leads to hell, then the righteous are forbidden to have anything to do with them. "Turn them over to Satan".

The church today is reminiscent of the condition of the temple of God in the time of Nehemiah and Ezra. The temple lay in ruins, the people scattered and their faith shattered and ~~the~~ all seemed hopeless. But it only took TWO holy and dedicated

men filled with faith and vision and zeal and with great purpose to begin the work of rebuilding the temple of God." The people of God "had a mind to work" (this is what we need today) and so the job was completed." They didn't try to make peace with the enemies; nor were they taken in by their cunning devices of those who tried to hinder them in their work." Before we can bring back New Testament Christianity to the church today we must be able to see what is wrong with practically our whole concept of our teaching and practices." There can be no building of God until we rectify the wrongs among us, get away from the stilted, inept type of preaching and teaching which is the order of the day, realize the ruins which lie around us, quit wasting our energies and time writing, preaching and teaching against the liberals, and begin building anew the church of Christ ~~am~~ on the teachings of the apostles." The MISSION OF THE CHURCH IS TO SAVE THE LOST. We've lost sight of this great mission in trying to point out to the liberals for years and years now, that they are wrong, that they are misled, that they must change, and on and on, over and over, and the church dies withering away from lack of gospel teaching and the vital food—sound and uncorruptable, which we have lost." We haven't ANY TIME TO LOSE. LET'S TURN THE FACTIONISTS, THE REBELS, THE REPROBATES AND THE UNBELIEVERS IN OUR MIDST OVER TO SATAN; TAKE THE MOTE OUT OF OUR OWN EYES, AND GET DOWN TO THE JOB OF BRINGING NEW TESTAMENT PREACHING AND PRACTICE TO WHAT IS LEFT OF THE BODY OF CHRIST.

First— One of the great blights of this generation is the rejection of the function of the Holy Spirit. We will acknowledge that the Spirit dwells within us but that He teaches us (without His help no man can learn the great truths of God's word) that He comforts us, that we have joy in Him, that He actually and literally inhabits our bodies (something which many deny in the church) is denied. Our concept of the WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT today is invested more or less in these words—"the Holy Spirit does nothing more or less than that which the word does." This is where we have gone off the deep end. Because the word and the Spirit are two different entities. The word (or gospel) saves us; the Holy Spirit does NOT SAVE US. We cannot grieve the word; the word cannot teach us. No Christian can be seduced away from the truth of God's word if the Holy Spirit continues to function in him as God has taught in the New Testament. Part of the Holy Spirit's work today is to keep us from wandering away from the gospel of Christ. When we do wander away; when thousands depart from the faith and stay in that terrible condition—then we know the Holy Spirit has left them. Jude 18 & 19. Heb. 6:1 to 6.

The Holy Spirit is a great power which dwells in all Christians to help them in the great work of converting the world. This power has been rejected by the church. When we teach the gospel we must of necessity teach that the Spirit functions IN US in the manner designed by God (and rejected by most Christians—the power ~~thereof~~ thereof at least) and He helps us in our attempts to live as God commands. Without His help no man could make it. The Holy Spirit has always worked in this capacity—with Elijah, with David—Samson, Moses, Nehemiah and Ezra—King Saul and ALL those of Old Testament times as well as of the New who followed and believed and practiced the commandments of God. John 4:4 "Ye are of God, little children and have OVERCOME THEM: because greater is He THAT IS IN YOU, than he that is in the world."

How many Christians believe that verse of scripture that the Holy Spirit functions in all Christians who are holy and righteous, and helps them in their battle to overcome the devil and his angels. Romans 8:13—the deeds of the flesh ARE OVERCOME BECAUSE OF THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. Without it no man could live the holy life. The Holy Spirit has always worked with the people of God. However, the GREAT GIFT was never given to those under Old Testament commandments; it was reserved for Christians; second to the great sacrifice of the Son upon the cross for our sins, the GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT was given as a gift to God's people to help, comfort and GUIDE them in the ways of righteousness. Without His help we could not kill the lusts of the flesh. Gal. 6:8. We cannot be raised upon the judgement day unless we died with the Holy Spirit still intact within us. The Spirit will be there to help in our resurrection. He IS AN ACTIVE FORCE WITHIN US and until we receive the New Testament teaching upon this VITAL AND POWERFUL agent in our life the church will not survive in this age.

As the devil entered Judas that there be no slip up in his bet rayal of Christ, ~~xxx~~ just so does the Holy Spirit functioning in Christians to help them in their struggle against sin. When man wills to do evil the devil or one of his angels is there to help them along. When holy people of God will ~~to~~ to do the will of God the gift of God—the HOLY SPIRIT—is there to help them in their endeavors, to comfort them in their evil times, to give them joy AT ALL TIMES. We can be filled with the Holy Spirit and when the Spirit is not rejected but is accepted as He was in New Testament in the full capacity of His work WITHIN us, we can win the great fight against sin down here on earth. The HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD'S AGENT, AS HE ALWAYS HAS BEEN, TO DO THAT WORK WHICH GOD HAS DESIGNED FOR HIM TO DO THROUGHOUT ALL THE AGES, AND IN THESE LAST AGES HE DWELLS WITHIN THE PEOPLE OF GOD, SO THAT GOD'S WILL CAN BE CARRIED OUT HERE ON EARTH AS IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST, TO HELP HIS PEOPLE TO OVERCOME THE WORLD. WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT WE WOULD ~~BEXXXXXX~~ ~~BE~~ FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE. That is why God sent the Holy Spirit down here to work within us and to guide us in all truth. As the devil and his angels is now confined to this earth Rev. 12:9) so is the Holy Spirit here on earth—dwelling in the righteous—doing the work which God designed from the beginning of time that He must do. God and Christ are in heaven but the Holy Spirit is here on earth WITHIN OUR MORTAL BODIES.

This last above we inserted here because some of my brethren deny that the Holy Spirit is here on earth. However, the New Testament teaches that He is here. He was very active in the New Testament but my brethren in this day at least have almost succeeded in making Him a ~~non~~ nonentity—unimportant—practically nonexistent—at least here on earth. Why don't we believe Acts 13:1 & 2; John 16:7 and 13 and John 14:16 and 17. The devil is here on earth—none deny this. And the Holy Spirit actually and literally dwells within our bodies 1st Cor. 6:13 & 19—2nd Tim 1:14. I do not know HOW the Holy Spirit dwells WITHIN our MORTAL BODIES anymore than I know that I am spirit and flesh is formed over me. I cannot explain ~~them~~ <sup>the</sup> perhaps to my satisfaction BUT I BELIEVE ~~THEM~~ <sup>IT</sup> BECAUSE GOD'S WORD TEACHES IT.

Might say here I have a lesson on the Holy Spirit (16 pages in all) which I believe to be the New Testament teaching upon this vital subject. If you would like to have it I will send it to you. As a matter of fact I would like you to read it and I would deem it a favor if you would read it and comment upon it. I believe that the Bible teaches we have a guardian angel and that angels are just as active doing God's work today—protecting and acting in the capacity which God has always designed for them. I believe in miracles because the whole Bible teaches of miracles. When did we decide to ignore the angels—the Holy Spirit and put miracles out of our lives. Of course I do not believe in the demonstrable activity of the angels ~~which~~ and demons which occurred in the Bible times, but angels and demons are spirit—therefore they are realities and must be considered in reading the Bible. I could not believe in prayer and God's answering our prayers without believing in miracles. I don't have to see the miracle to believe—but I can see the results in my own life as well as that of my brethren. We give lip service to a great deal of the Bible but in reality we do not believe it. Peter had an angel—the little ones have angels—angels have always been very busy agents of God and while we cannot see them we must believe that they are still busy and active in this generation. Why not? I just inserted this in here because little is taught upon this subject—and it should be. We seem to draw away from any discussion about angels or demons. Why? 1st John 4:1 to 4. Why do we not teach more often the Revelation letter. Why do we argue and reject the greater portion of it. I've never read but a very few commentaries upon this vital book. It is practically ignored in many congregations.

I'm writing a lesson on devils, demons and angels, and have found it one of the most fascinating subjects I've ever studied. In saying what I've said above about angels do not misunderstand me. I only accept what the New Testament teaches on this subject. My belief is that most of or a good part of it do not accept it. So it is my belief that the spiritual condition of this generation is due to a great extent because of the rejection of the Holy Spirit's work in this dispensation. There are however, other reasons for the forlorn condition of God's people today. God's people have always

believed in spirits God's as well as the devils and the Holy Spirit. We approach this subject most of us timidly (because we are afraid of being misunderstood) and ignorantly (in many cases at least because we have avoided teaching about it). Spirits are something you read about in the Bible but they don't figure in our lives. They should. We accept the fact (or do we) that the devil and his angels (spirits) are active here on earth (as they have always been) why do we reject the thought that God's angels and spirits are very active also? We are preparing for a world of spirits why is it that we draw away from any discussion of this kind, it seems. Why do we deny the Holy Spirit and His activity and work in this dispensation? THIS IS ONE OF THE VITAL REASONS FOR THE POOR AND INEPT CONDITION OF GOD'S PEOPLE TODAY. THAT IS WHY THAT PRACTICALLY ALL OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST HAS DEPARTED FROM NEW TESTAMENT TEACHINGS.

The church of Christ if taken today in its preaching, and practices and teaching and compared with that of the New Testament would be about as foreign in its concept as perhaps the Baptist and the Presbyterian. Let us look into another aspect of the church's rejection of the practical teaching of the Bible. We now come to the question of the women of the church. This great and vital force for good THE WOMEN have almost been disconnected with any real relation with New Testament teaching. They also have almost become a nonentity. Their work their abilities their great potential as teachers and workers in the church have been almost done away with by the attitude of the men (and of course the church as a whole) that they must do practically nothing but a little teaching amongst adults and of course the children. This is good of course that they teach children but why have they been rejected as members of the body their work is circumscribed their abilities overlooked and we are almost led to believe that a goodly portion of New Testament teaching is not for them. They have been denied their God-given right to participate in the business of the church.

Neither male nor female. My Bible teaches that the teachings of Christ are for women and men. Practically everything in the New Testament must be applied to the women as well as the men. "Contend for the faith", "They went everywhere preaching the word". Women and men suffered and were killed and were put in jail just as were the men. They must have been active. Go out in all the world and teach the gospel. While women are inhibited more or less from doing this because they must take care of the home and children they are not to be denied that they must fight the great fight of faith, they must spread the word they must teach and they must CONVERT THE LOST. THIS IS NOT JUST A JOB FOR THE PREACHER, or a few men or a lot of men, IT IS FOR ALL THE CHURCH. But are women allowed to function in their sphere as teachers workers and Christians FIGHTING Christians, the same as the men? The church should MOVE. Its stagnation when not busy and active and nullifying the activities and abilities of the women has been a great factor in making the church the inept spiritual force which it is in the world today.

The women have been denied their God-given right to participate in the business of the church and have a part in solving the problems of the church. This has been relegated, and accepted by practically all of the church, as the sole business of the men of the church. I have studied my Bible thoroughly on this subject but I have never found where God put the affairs the problems and the business of the church into the hands of a few men or a great many men, but I have found that the business and the problems and affairs of the church were ordained by God to be a part and a responsibility OF ALL THE CHURCH. Acts 15 teaches THAT ALL OF THE CHURCH CAME TOGETHER to solve the matter of false teaching it was not done by the elders or the apostles or the men of the church BUT ALL had a part in it. In the same chapter AFTER THE WHOLE CHURCH had made the decision to send Silas and Judas with Paul and Barnabas to Antioch the WHOLE CHURCH was again called together (not just the men or just the elders) and ALL of the church was made aware of the decisions made at Jerusalem. Today a few men would receive the apostles talk things over and if they thought it wise or useful the church might or might not be made aware of what had transpired at Jerusalem. Or they might if the matter was of a different nature call a secret meeting to discuss the affairs of the church and the church might or might not be made aware of what the meeting was all about.



In 1st Cor. 6:1 to 8 THE CHURCH is commanded to judge the affairs—the business of the church. How can women exercise this privilege unless they are allowed to participate in the matters of the church? If the men take charge of the meetings of the church as in Acts 15 and Acts 6 and in 1st Cor. 6 this does not preclude the participation of the women in a business meeting—as a matter of fact the scriptures absolutely teach the that the women share in the responsibilities of the church. The problems of the church are the problems of ALL concerned and certainly the women as children of God have the same commands from God to concern themselves in the problems, the judging and solving of the ~~church~~ matters of the church. as the men.

The women today are excluded from all business matters of the church unless perhaps it included the matter of money for building. If women can scripturally be included in business meetings some of the time and excluded at the will of the men of the church at others—where is the scripture for this? This is one of the great evils of the church today and has been for a long long time. We hear, "it might hinder the church" "it might hurt the church", women don't know how to act at business meetings (if they don't they should be taught—the same as the men are taught to act like Christians at all times) "it isn't right" for the women to interest themselves or be a part of the business affairs of the church", and so forth and so on— all of which is just excuses to practice something which is pernicious and unscriptural. Hebrews 5:11 to 14 has this to say in the 14th verse, "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, EVEN THOSE, who by reason OF USE have their SENSES exercised to discern both good and evil." Is this verse solely for the men—are they the only ones in the church who are to exercise their spiritual senses so as to differentiate between evil and good? How can women fulfill and obey this scripture unless they are allowed to use—employ—act upon—THAT WHICH THEY HAVE LEARNED?

THIS IS ONE OF THE ISSUES WHICH CONFRONT THE CHURCH TODAY and which is pernicious and unscriptural and ~~is a church issue~~ should be studied so that we might ALL RETURN TO THE NEW TESTAMENT PATTERN. In our attitude and practice towards the women of the church we have sinned and have gone away from the teachings of Christ. The church will take on a new vitality when the women are given their place in the church laid down in the Bible for them. In 1st Cor. 5:1 to 13 Paul is admonishing ALL THE CHURCH for their attitude towards sin in their midst; ~~and~~ as well as teaching them what they should do. He didn't tell the church to run after the fornicator and try to bring him back into the fold and work with him for weeks before withdrawing from him as is usually practiced in the church today in matters of this kind—but the church ALL OF IT, was to act immediately in taking care of this serious matter. When immorality or other matters which can effect the whole church (and in this case it had) need to be taken care of Paul did not set the example here in his teaching for a few men and the elders to get together and decide upon the issue but ALL the church were given the right to exercise their senses in taking care of this matter, so that all might be edified as well as taught what they should do.

The conclusion of this whole matter is that this is one of the serious departures of the faith in the church today and the Arlington meeting is the evidence that not only have we departed from it in the matter of the women—but we have gone steps further by excluding the church in matters of great import and concern for the whole Body. The gravity and the seriousness of the problems which confront the church today are not the business of trying to talk wicked and faithless brethren into returning unto the fold—but to getti ~~ing churches~~ of recognizing what is wrong with the conservative part of the church. When men supposed to be sound and faithful in the faith can be so blind as to even consider an Arlington meeting with reprobates (God calls them this) then we know the church has departed from the plan laid down in the New Testament. Seemingly the brethren cannot comprehend their sin. The exclusion of part of the body of Christ (the women) from the problems and affairs of the church (in most cases at least) has led to a further departure of the church in a few men attempting in an unscriptural manner to solve a problem which is the concern of the whole church and which under no circumstances could be solved by meeting with men who have devoted the better part of their life to causing discord amongst the brethren and have long ago DEPARTED FROM THE FAITH. All of the church is aware of their defection and I'm sure that most of us know what the Bible teaches should be

is the proper and scriptural procedue with brethren of this kind. "Withdraw from them", "keep no company with them", "with such a one do not eat", "mark them which CAUSE DIVISIONS and offences contrary to the doctrine AND AVOID THEM." All of these commandments were broken at the Arlington meeting. When we can see and understand this then steps perhaps can be taken to try and correct the departures from the faith amongst the conservative brethren such as the exclusion of the women in the affairs of the church, and the (in many cases) the unscriptural teghing about the Holy Spirit.

(11) The work of the church, benevolent, edifying and evangelistic is the work of all the members—they should all in one way or another participate in it. The government of the church is in the hands of the members of the church. The work and government of the church is to be overseen by the elders. They are to watch over the souls of all of the church to see that the work of the Lord is done scripturally. But they are not to do work of the members—their responsibility is to see that the men and women do that work which is commanded by God. They set the example before the church—they do their part in guiding it into paths of righteousness and keeping all error out of it. The church must if it does its work as of the New Testament be subject to their counsel and to their example and guidance. We are going to be tried upon the judgement day "by our works" and each one must have their own works and of course the works consist in obeying the commandments of Jesus Christ. The decisions of the church are to be made by the church under the guidance and counsel of the elders. This question of the elders is quite a big one and needs to be studied as the New Testament teaches rather than traditionally as too many congregations believe and practice. I cannot find in the Bible where the elders are too make all the decisions of the church. We are plainly taught that the church makes its own decisions and does its own work under the oversight of the elders. If they are overseers what do they oversee? *of doing the works*

The terrible condition of the world today with its violence, its lawlessness, the increasing immorality and depravity and licentiousness; the murders, increasing use of alcohol and dope and devastating and demoralizing wars are all indicative of the failure of the church in this generation. They have fought amongst themselves—they have practiced ~~unscriptural~~ and taught much that cannot be found in the Bible and are still doing it, and they have neglected to do the work of saving souls, and have become slothful, indifferent, complacent and rich and blind. THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH—THE SAVING OF SOULS—has been almost forgotten in our desire to be known of men—to educate ourselves and have "doctor" in front of our names. We have looked to men rather than to God and this is evident in our lack of learning and wisdom. Nations are apt to reflect the spiritual or lack of spirituality and the lack of militancy and zeal of the church and today is no exception. While we fought the same battle over and over and without much result as can be seen—the people perished for want of sound teaching and understanding. Our battle is not ~~amongst~~ with each other. There will always be base and corrupt men void of understanding and faith amongst God's children and we must ~~make~~ ~~not~~ not take up our time with them to the neglect of the saving of souls. Those who have seared their consciences who are unrepentant, incorrigible, and unbelieving are to be turned over to Satan instead of being placated and a way sought to unite with them in direct defiance of God's word—and our attention turned to keeping the conservative part of the church on the old paths—from which they have departed also. THIS IS OUR GREAT CONCERN AND UNDERTAKING NOW.

(12) Some of the traditional teaching amongst the people of God is their continued inability to learn that only the apostles were promised or given the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is taught that Cornelius had the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Why should Cornelius have it? It was never promised to anyone but the apostles and it gave them powers (which they needed in the great work of evangelizing the world) which no man has ever had before or since. Cornelius wasn't promised it—he didn't need it and he never received it. If he did all of his household received it to and what did they need with it? Could they raised from the dead—drink poison without fatal results, or let deadly vipers bite them without any harm to them? Was it needed by Cornelius so that he might go forth to preach and save souls. If Cornelius needed it then all needed it. Verse 44 chapter 10 of Acts reads, "While Peter yet spake these words the Holy Ghost fell on ALL THEM which heard the word." And we know from scripture that what *lay hands on*



happened here was God's means of making the Jews understand that "Then hath God ALSO TO THE GENTILES granted repentance unto life."

The word "pour" and "fell", when speaking of the Holy Spirit is used many times in the New Testament but doesn't always mean a baptism of the Holy Spirit. With the exception of the apostles it never does have that meaning. Acts 8:15 reads, "Who, when they were come down prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: FOR AS YET HE WAS FALLEN UPON NONE OF THEM:" Same word used in the 10th chapter of Acts relative to Cornelius. Acts 2:18- Acts 10:45. I just insert this because of the wrong and traditional teaching of the church about this matter. A careful study of this matter will bear out what I'm saying."

Again we come to the 13th chapter and 1st to 7 verses of Romans. For years it has been taught that God empowered or invested the worldly governments with their authority, ~~xxx~~ that He ordained that the worldly governments to rule in the world. Whatever the 1st verse means it does not mean this ~~xxx~~ that God set up the worldly authority. Their authority comes from the devil and they belong to him. There is only ONE kingdom on earth which was planned and established by God and that is the church. Only that which is IN the church or Kingdom of Christ is under the authority of Christ. 1st Cor. 15:24 "Then cometh the end when He shall have delivered up the Kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall put down all RULE AND ALL AUTHORITY AND POWER." Everything, man and authority outside of the church is in the DEVIL'S KINGDOM, and that includes the earthly governments."

When Christ suffering temptation from the devil in Luke 4 we find the devil of forcing Jesus the nations of the world which Satan said they were delivered unto him and he could give them to whomsoever he willed. Romans 13:1 teaches that God ordained THAT WE SHOULD OBEY THE POWERS THAT BE. He did not set them up the devil did that but God ordained that although the devil ruled them thru and by wicked and worldly men the children of God were ORDAINED to be subject unto them to realize that while they were not part of His kingdom nonetheless we were to understand that they were the ministers of God to suit His purpose IN EXECUTING HIS WRATH AND VENGEANCE UPON ALL THOSE WHO DO EVIL even upon His children if they did not obey His commandments. We obey our government always and only to the extent it does not interfere with our allegiance and loyalty and our faith and obedience to the word of God. "Whosoever resisteth the power resisteth the ORDINANCE of God;" So the ordination is not that God set up the governments of the world man was responsible for this but God ordained that for the sake of peace and so forth HIS CHILDREN SHOULD OBEY THE RULE OF THESE GOVERNMENTS. This is so plain and so in accord with the other scriptures of the Bible that it is amazing that my brethren keep teaching and preaching that the governments of the world were authorized by God. How could He authorize or favor that which belongs to the devil. The only government that God ever set up or authorized since the world began is HIS GOVERNMENT invested in HIS LAWS.

And this leads naturally into the question of why does the church teach that Christians can go forth at the behest of worldly and unrighteous men and kill other men. And this is generally taught in the church amongst both the liberal and conservative. There is not a verse in the New Testament which would uphold such an unscriptural and bloody and unrighteous viewpoint. When a government sends men out to kill other men it does it BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE DEVIL because there is not one word in the New Testament which authorizes a Christian to go out and kill men and women. Only time in the history of the world that men could kill that which God created in His likeness was when God gave the order. WHERE IS THE ORDER IN THE NEW TESTAMENT FOR CHRISTIANS TO KILL OR GO OUT TO WARFARE FOR THE DEVIL'S KINGDOM. We are under the authority of the kingdoms of the world in so far as it does not interfere with our obedience and loyalty to God's commands. "Love your enemies" "Do good UNTO ALL MEN" "Put up your sword" "WAR3 AND FIGHTINGS COME FROM YOUR LUSTS WHICH WAR IN YOUR MEMBERS. YE LUST AND HAVE NOT: YE KILL AND DESIRE TO HAVE AND CANNOT OBTAIN: YE FIGHT AND WAR, YET YE HAVE NOT, BECAUSE YE ASK NOT."

Are the wars amongst Christians more reprehensible than wars amongst the world?

There is not any teaching in the New Testament that commands or allows Christians to kill their fellow man. When a Christian obeys the command of the government (all of which are in the kingdom of the devil) he sins by transgressing the law of Christ. Such commands as, "love your enemies," "do good unto those who despitefully use you," "all wars and fightings come from the lust of the flesh," as well as the whole tenor of the teachings of Christ are inimical to killing and murder and violence. This kind of teaching in the church that Christians can kill and murder legally because the governments of the world demand it, is one of the traditions of the church and should long ago have been done away with. The teaching of Christ do not allow for opinions neither do they have two different meanings and God intended that we come into the knowledge of the truth. This would necessitate that we come into an accord on the word of God.

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"Entangle yourself with the affairs of the world" and if murdering and killing is not of the world then I do not understand my Bible. We obey the laws of the land only when they do not interfere with the law of Christ. We all know this. Where did Christ teach for us to engage ourselves in wars with our fellowman whom He has commanded that we give our lives to converting to the gospel. How can we kill him and at the same time save him. We are "to do good unto all men". This is a command and when a man is killed by a Christian the Christian has not done good unto him but evil. This type of false teaching has been a canker in our midst for many many years and when the members of the church who accept such worldly and unscriptural teaching have come into the knowledge of the truth by proper teaching, the church should take a decided step forward in the direction of heaven. Romans 13:1 has been too long twisted and perverted to ~~xxx~~ uphold the war mongers in their unbelief of the gospel of love. Besides this to teach man can kill his fellowman conflicts with James 4:1 to 6 and 2nd Cor. 10: 3 to 5 and all of the New Testament really. One of the rules of interpretation as we all know when a verse of scripture conflicts with others someone is in error and has not interpreted it correctly. So we know we are in error ~~xxxxxx~~ when we attempt to make Romans 13:1 teach that Christians must go forth and kill at the behest of a government which is under the jurisdiction of the devil.

Christians should be engaged in a warfare the war against sin and the devil. Our weapons are not carnal but the mighty word of God the gospel of Christ applied to our lives will win the battle against sin and the devil for us. And the gospel of Christ preached to the world will convert them and bring them into the kingdom of Christ where there is hope of heaven. THIS IS OUR WARFARE AND IF WE KEEP BUSY AT THIS JOB WE WONT HAVE TIME TO KILL OUR FELLOWMEN OR ENANGLE OURSELVES IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE WORLD. The world is ripe for conversion and we are frittering away our time with useless meetings, fighting communism (some of the brethren seemed quite concerned about it but it will fall along with all other worldly power), playing golf and running around the country holding meetings at the larger and more prosperous churches. This is the general picture as I see it.

There has never, in my lifetime, at least when mankind was more desirous more receptive more anxious more in need of God than now. AND WHAT IS THE CHURCH DOING ABOUT IT? It has not been my observation that our membership is increasing that our preachers out evangelizing converting training or using their time in converting the downtrodden the disheartened the frustrated the discouraged and those who are seeking God. If we all were working at the job we could convert by the thousands as was the case not too many years ago when we were not ~~fat~~ lazy and rich and complacent. The church needs sound strong, vital teaching the kind that will stir them up and get them on the move and doing the work of the Lord. But where is it? The body of Christ cannot survive cannot be strong and active on milk. There is definitely a famine of the word of God. One only has to read the average article in the average magazine put out by the brethren to see that learning and wisdom has departed from the house of God. Let's get busy brethren WAKE UP! Even the world has been made aware of our forlorn and ~~inane~~ inept spiritual condition and our division. We are also aware that

which are designed to make study easy. Study should be a joy for a Christian but there is no short cut to an understanding of God's word and there can be no easy way to acquire knowledge. Knowledge comes by study and it is dangerous and unwise to accept tracts, booklets, movies and tape recordings as a substitute for acquiring knowledge of the Bible. Search the scriptures is something all should do so that ALL should come in a knowledge of the truth. Accepting tracts and such will not bring knowledge nor wisdom.

Some of the serious aspects of our lack of sound and knowledgeable teaching is our attitude towards it. Free discussion—both women and men participating—a right to disagree and whole hearted exchange of ideas in an attempt to come to the proper exegesis of the scriptures is too often discouraged if not altogether stopped. If controversy starts (and it should be all right to disagree if participants do not become disagreeable) it is the common practice to stop it and/or put it off until some other time. And seldom is it referred to again. The teacher—especially if an elder or preacher—is not to be contradicted and if an exchange between two should start it is usually stopped and the atmosphere is such that usually it does not happen again. The teacher is not to be questioned and so a class does not fulfill its obligation. In Acts 15 there was disputation amongst the members of the church but after it was over all the church came into agreement upon the matter. And this is the way it should be. If we are to learn—if we are to exercise our spiritual senses and learn how to apply the lessons we learn from the word of God we must at times disagree and probably dispute but in the end the matter is settled properly and everyone has learned, the proper understanding has been attained and knowledge and growth is the result.

One of the criticisms of the kind of ~~learning~~ teaching the church more or less adheres to is that it is soft, compromising, and the members cannot grow thereby. This is one of the reasons for our adhering to tradition in our practices and teaching and never coming into a knowledge of the truth. The deep things of the Bible cannot be learned and progress in our thinking and in our lives spiritually attained ~~in seasons~~ when we are not fed properly. Interest is stifled and zeal stagnates. Where is the zeal of the church today? Where are the converted? How many baptisms does the average church have a year? Where is the ~~militancy~~ <sup>militancy</sup>? Where is our righteous judgement. The church should be on the move. How often do we see in our papers and on the boards in the church—the attendance and the record of HOW MUCH MONEY IS TAKEN IN—but no sign of HOW MANY WERE SAVED. Our concern is too much with numbers and money.

If we followed the pattern of the New Testament—OUR GREAT CONCERN WOULD BE IN HOW MANY HAVE BEEN CONVERTED TO THE TRUTH. IF THE CHURCH TODAY WAS ON THE MOVE—VALIANTLY FIGHTING SIN AMONGST ITS MEMBERS—GOING FORTH TO THE LOST WITH THE WORD—ESTABLISHING CONGREGATIONS HERE AND THERE AND EVERYWHERE AND TEACHING THE GOSPEL SO THAT THE MEMBERS WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO WORK—WORK—WORK TO THE SAVING OF SOULS—WE WOULD CONVERT THOUSANDS INSTEAD OF DOZENS. The fact that we do not convert many any more tells us more than words could do that we are not on the move—that we are not preaching and teaching as we should be. "God give the increase". Again I reiterate the conservatives or those who have not as yet gone completely off into apostasy need to look to themselves—they need to repent of their lack of zeal and their involvement in money and numbers and the fact they have left their first love and have forgotten that OUR MISSION IN THIS LIFE, BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY IS TO SAVE SOULS. The fields are white to harvest but where are the workers?

Today the church, if it can strengthen its spiritual legs, begin to study and learn and to work and to teach and MOVE, (go from place to place—both members and preachers) be filled with the Holy Spirit and with zeal—can convert by the thousands. But WHERE ARE THE MEN TO LEAD THE PEOPLE THAT "THEY MIGHT HAVE A MIND TO WORK"? Today we have a paid clergy in our midst—very little different from the denominations around us. Until men will preach because they must preach, until our preachers will encourage and put new life into the members that ALL MIGHT FORTH PREACHING AND TEACHING the church will continue to decline and the millions waiting to hear and obey will be eternally lost. Until the preachers in the church become evangelists the church

begins to move and to work and to put the Holy Spirit into the place God gave Him, and we realize that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is more than just an indwelling, but THAT HE FUNCTIONS WITHIN US in our struggle down here to conquer sin within our own members and helps us in our efforts to convert the world, until then we will be just as ineffective in spreading the word and converting the lost as we have been in the past.

The pattern of the New Testament for converting the lost has been almost completely lost sight of. Until our vision returns and our eyes opened and our paid clergy done away with and everyone taught and inspired with zeal by sound and effective teaching; until the church becomes militant and forgets big churches, large numbers and the amount of money taken in and CONCENTRATES ON THE SAVING OF SOULS, it will fail in doing that which the word of God commands. The preachers might ask their members individually, "How many souls have you saved?" and in the answer you will find the reason for this letter. It isn't the mission of the preacher only to save the souls of the lost but every individual in the church has a responsibility to do the same. When this is taught and when this zeal is aroused by constant study and by powerful and sound preaching and study and when members will leave their homes to go forth preaching; or when Christians will move from one city to another-perhaps from one state to another, in their eagerness and in their desire to save the lost-only then will the church of our Saviour return to the New Testament pattern. The dependency of the church members ~~for~~ the preachers to do all the saving is something which has been fostered by the preachers and which has become pernicious in its effect. When the preachers and leaders and teachers of the church will take time to encourage every member of the church to go forth preaching the word-only then will the church move forward in the great task before them of converting the world. If God's people can be made to understand if they don't work and try to save the lost that they themselves will be lost then perhaps they will be moved to get to work. Only TWO men, in the long ago, were needed to PUT THE PEOPLE TO WORK, and they succeeded with God's help in rebuilding the temple. Today the temple of God is in ruins and we must get to the work-for soon the night cometh when no man can work.

VI What about our attitude towards segregation? Do we believe that our colored brethren should be segregated? In San Diego we have three or four so-called colored churches. WHY? When we answer that we can know whether we believe in segregation of brethren. Philemon is the answer-"there is ~~neither~~ neither slave nor master", "God looks not on the outward appearance, BUT MY BRETHREN DO. This segregation of God's people because some are of a different race is I know an abomination to God. If we believe in segregation down here we must to be logical believe in it in heaven. And that my brethren just is not heaven. People are people and they are spirit; that which serves as a habitation for their spirit is not important but our treatment of the colored brethren has shown that we do think it is important, enough to reject them by not giving them FULL fellowship. Oh, a token fellowship perhaps to ease our conscience but we have not been deceived. And neither has God and for this we will have to pay."

A few years ago we had powerful and sound negroe brethren-some of them the best preachers I've ever heard. Where are the negroe preachers today? Why have they declined in number and one seldom hears of them anymore? Have we been busy amongst the negroes-preaching and taking the word to these down trodden, discriminated against, poverty stricken and rejected people? The answer is plain. This is another great task for us to get busy about. They are ready and ripe for the word of God. The violence and the riots and the rebellion against their lot is an outward evidence that we have NEGLECTED TO TAKE THE WORD OF GOD TO THEM. Have we taken the word to Mississippi, Georgia, Texas, ~~Texas~~ Florida and even over in this part of the country, in an effort to reach these people? When we do take it do we teach them to segregate themselves, "for the good of the church", do we ~~practically~~ teach them Christianity and that Jesus came to save all not just the white. Do they see the prejudice and the lack of Christian fellowship in our attitudes and manners. Do our preachers preach against prejudice and discrimination to the members of the church-especially in the south? Do they take their lives in their hands by trying to convert the negroe people and teach them the Christian way-preaching and teaching against prejudice and segregation?

So they take them into their homes and into their hearts and show them the

There is a great and formidable task set before us in this field and one which if we neglect it we will be held accountable for. <sup>14</sup>. One great and vital and powerful effort to get to these people with the word of God and help them to go to heaven, not only can and would save their souls, but it might also turn the course of history. All we would have to do is to use the money that we use to build church buildings with and all of us sacrifice and work towards teaching these people the Christ-like way. They are the RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHURCH NOT OF THIS GOVERNMENT. Our neglect of this great field for the conversion of the souls of these neglected and rejected people is a blight and a disgrace to the very name of Christian. <sup>15</sup> ~~AND~~ OH! THAT WE HAD SOME NEHEMIAHS AND EZRAS AND PAULS. However, ALL WE REALLY NEED IS CONVERTED PEOPLE-ALIVE WITH HOPE AND FAITH AND WITH THE DRIVING FORCE OF LOVE FOR MANKIND AND A GREAT AND LIVING DESIRE TO CONVERT THE LOST and we can in this age-in this revolutionary time, overturn the world and as 2,000 years ago convert people both black and white and Mexican and Mongolian by the thousands. The preachers have neglected to evangelize and they are still neglecting it. We practice segregation and blind our eyes to our sins. God will make us pay-not only here but hereafter. All those guilty will be held accountable.

<sup>16</sup> And prayer? Do we believe in miracles? Do we believe in prayer? We say yes with our mouths but our teaching and beliefs gainsay what we say. There could be no answers to many prayers without miracles. This goes without explanation. We accept Satan and his machinations and his agents but do we accept God's order of things and His agents as well. Do we really believe Hebrews 1:14. We'll perhaps agree that angels minister to us but the question which we would possibly disagree upon is HOW DO THEY MINISTER TO US TODAY? "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him and delivereth them." Do angels camp around Christians and do they delivereth them out of danger? I believe they do. I can't see the angel but the results can be seen. Our enemies-who can be robbers-murderers-cheaters and others who might harm us-are kept from harming us by the angels of God. Its been said here in San Diego- the streets are not safe at night. True I believe. But if Christians are in harmony with God the angels are there to protect us as we go about to teach the lost-to our Bible classes and the worship of God etc, they can feel safe from harm and evil because God will take care of that.

As in the past the angels of God are still active. From Genesis to Revelation we learn that the angels at the commandment of God ~~are~~ very active here on earth-helping and assisting and ministering to the saints and carrying out God's will here on earth in vengeance and other acts which God deals forth to the rebellious and unbeliever. "Let their way be dark and slippery; and let the angel of the Lord persecute them." The angel is active here. All through the Old Testament and the New the angels were very busy both amongst the enemies of God and amongst His children. 2nd Chron. 32:21. In this verse God protected His people from the enemy. In 2nd King 6:16 to 18. The angels could not be seen and then because Elisha prayed they were visible-but the teaching is that whether seen or not seen the angels help the people of God when in trouble.

God changes the minds of our enemies-2nd Samuel chapters 15 to 17. If then why not now? Did God change with the times? If the angels are not still being used by God to carry out His will here on earth-what are they doing? God used evil spirits in 1st Samuel 18:10. 1st Sam. 16:14 to carry out His will. Does He do this now? Or did He cease using His angels etc. when Revelation was written. Ps. 104:4 Heb 12:22-Matt. 18:10. It is commonly taught that in Acts 12:15 when the saints said, 'It is his angel', when they doubted Rhoda's statement that Peter was at the door, that they were superstitious. But I believe that the saints knew about angels-believed in angels; some no doubt had known many things about the angels not only first hand but as told and written by their brethren and that it was quite consistent with their thinking and their faith and in accord with the gospel that Peter should have an angel. The scripture Matt 18:10 means what it says.

The prayers of the saints could not be answered unless miracles were performed. When we pray for those ~~are~~ who are manifestly dying and they regain their health-was this a miracle or was it just one of those things and would have happened without prayer. If our prayers are answered then we must of necessity admit that a miracle has been performed <sup>or</sup> could have been.

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In James 4:13 to 17 we find scriptures relative to prayer ~~that~~ if they teach anything or have any meaning must of necessity be understood as conveying to us today that miracles such as that in answer to Elisha's prayer can be a ~~part~~ factor in the prayers of a saint today. If not why were they put there. If the prayer of faith can HEAL THE SICK then there must of necessity be a miracle performed. If we are helped by God to escape from our enemies-if the Lord fights on our side that we might be successful in our work of saving the lost-we must believe that in the course of ~~the~~ answering our prayers there must of necessity be miracles performed."

The Old Testament is living proof of how God deals with His people. The miracles, the help, the vengeance of God are all there for us to get lessons from. They did not cease in the New Testament and while God does not talk and direct us today as He did in times past He is just as active in our lives, ~~as~~ and the angels as well, as in times past. It is also apparent from the scriptures that when God answered prayers He used the natural means but this does not do away nor exclude the fact that all prayers cannot be answered by natural means. This is commonly taught amongst us. These thoughts as expressed on these pages relative to the subjects discussed are fragmentary-as they would of necessity have to be but they are basic. My point in all that has been said in these pages is to bring to our minds that there is much to be taught-much to be gained-much to be changed in our approach to God's word."

This letter must come to an end and I guess this is it. If you have been patient enough to read this through you will understand what my motive has been. It is clear to most thinking Christians-or should be- that we lack in many ways-and we have departed from the "old paths" just as much as our liberal brethren have. They don't see it and many of us don't see it. There are many other things taught in the Bible which are ignored and much that is taught wrong. Our approach to the commandments of the New Testament should be examined in the light of our teaching and practices. One only has to partake of some of our classes to see the lack of searching-the lack of knowledge and the lack of worthwhile discussion. This stultifies the thinking process-the inquiring mind is baffled when discussion is frowned upon and disputation practically forbidden. We, in the congregation ~~where~~ in Spring Valley, have discussion, ~~from~~ the word has ~~the~~ course, disputation is allowed-not disagreeable arguing (we don't have time for that) and it is not unusual for most of our classes, except on first day of the week, to last 2 hours and more. We don't stop because the clock reaches a certain time, but when we have finished studying the scriptures AND ALL HAVE COME INTO AN AGREEMENT. There is no learning without discussion. This attitude toward free discussion and disputation in our classes has nullified our learning process. To disagree in a class is essential with free thought-with learning and growth. ~~This is the~~ The lack of this has closed the door in many cases to growth and the church stagnates when learning is stopped. Growth cannot be attained without questions and answers and while questions may be asked it is not essential to always accept the answer and when this is so it is quite necessary sometimes to have disputation.

I have enclosed some excerpts from newspapers which are revealing and ~~and~~ <sup>expose</sup> our departure perhaps more than all the words in this letter. However, one of the reasons for our lack of zeal -our lack of conversions- our unwillingness to spread the gospel in every state in the United ~~States~~ States is apparent I think not only in our antiquated preaching methods (and the lack of time given for searching the Bible and discussing it) is the disinclination of our ministers ~~and members~~ to go from place to another-into hard fields-where suffering a sacrifice would be the order of the day. We have concentrated on a few states- to almost the exclusion of most of the others. Our preachers lie on beds of ease (and the members also) and the word is not taken out into the highways and the byways. Today the members are not encouraged to take the word-to have Bible classes in their homes- to be busy converting the lost. The preachers and the elders are more or less responsible for the lack of zeal and lack of interest in soul saving of the members. The reasons for this are many and some of them have already been discussed in these pages.

The newspaper clipping relative to the Baptist church enclosed therein is



is self explanatory. If the Baptists have classes in the summer why cannot the church have Bible classes both summer and winter—month after month and year after year. In Spring Valley (Lemon Grove is adjacent to Spring Valley) we have eight Bible classes per week—practically every day of the week (missing only Thursday and Saturday and having 2 and 3 classes on other days) for children and these will go on indefinitely in various neighborhoods where different members of the church reside. These classes are taught with one helper—engaging the time of two members to each class, which means that at least sixteen of our women are busy at the task of teaching children from practically every denominational church there is. They have been very successful—one of the classes having to be split because it was so large. The congregation at Spring Valley has a membership of about 36 to 38 members with about the same number of children. We have in this congregation approximately 25 women BUT THEY ARE ALL BUSY SPREADING THE WORD OF GOD. We have six Bible classes a week attended by all our members. One day per week we spend in knocking on doors and in the last two and a half years we have taken the word of God, inviting to classes and privately teaching, to thousands out of homes. Practically every member of the congregation with the exception of about five have been baptized from this work. Double that number have either fallen away or have moved away or gone to other congregations. The number baptized has never been counted but today you lost almost as many as stay faithful. The world is still enticing and like Demas some cannot resist its allurements.

These are only some of the work this congregation is doing. The reason for mentioning it at all is to show that even the Baptists as well other sects have the will and the zeal to spread their false doctrine and to take time out to busy themselves with the children of the lost—but I do not know of a Church of Christ in this area (and there is about 30 of them) that is doing anything like what even the denominations have time to do. Ours is not a summer project or a vacation—so-called—Bible class but our classes will go on as long as there are those who are interested and zealous enough to give their time to this profitable project. These childrens classes will go on after school begins. All that will be necessary is to change the time.

This is the kind of work the church should be encouraged to do and the women are capable—interested and love it. We have an alien sinner class also and most of our baptisms come from this part of our work. We had eight non members last week and ~~xxx~~ five Catholics were there. We have six ~~xxx~~ Catholics attending this class but one was missing last week. The week prior we had eleven alien sinners attending. This kind of work goes on summer and winter and has been for almost 30 years—wherever I have attended church. We don't have "meetings" so-called because they are not necessary. We attend about all the meetings we can attend combined with the work we are doing. 1st Thess. 1:8 is exemplified I believe in our teaching program. Every preacher worth his salt ought to have at least six Bible classes going a week where he is teaching the lost. He should be engaged in going to the small congregations and encouraging and helping them to get started and taking time out to set them in order so that they too can become zealous spreading the word of God and ALL THE MEMBERS busy teaching and preaching the word. Our personal contact with non members is done by the women (perhaps 6 in all) and yet it is extremely worthwhile and has resulted in many many baptisms.

The above is not boasting but to show that at least some of us are doing the work God intended. The preachers of the church today are far cry from what I have written above. The work of the Lord languishes and the zeal of the members is spent on their daily lives and in doing very little towards teaching the lost, but a lot of it on worldly pursuits and it is no wonder that the church of Christ does not grow and that it is divided and torn asunder by false teaching. When God's people are taught properly and put to work doing the work of the Lord the church will go forward and convert by the thousands. We have a great task before us and if we use our time to convert the lost we won't have time fellowshiping those have long ago lost their souls. THE WORLD IS RIPE FOR CONVERSION NOW.

The Catholics are in a state of flux—they are discouraged and frustrated by the dissension in their own religious body and they are ready to be taught. The negro people are torn asunder by all kinds of things but what they really need is God. Why

The world--all of it--needs God and WHAT IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST DOING ABOUT IT? Not just the preachers who have failed miserably in their responsibility in seeing to it THAT ALL OF THE CHURCH IS WORKING AT THE JOB OF SAVING SOULS-- but every member of the body of Christ should be a saver of souls. We know from our observation in our little world here at Spring Valley that there is an upsurge of interest amongst people today in the Bible and they are ripe to be taught and converted. This revived desire is apparent not only amongst the adults but the children are a part of this also. The condition of the world in the midst of a political and technological revolution has and is giving the church a great opportunity which it has not had for years to carry the word forth everywhere and anywhere "to all kinds of people and children." Let's pray and then pray some more that they don't overlook this opportunity and fail in the job of taking forth the word. The people are restless, insecure, afraid and the church is the answer to not only to all of this BUT TO ALL THE ILLS OF THE WORLD.

Let's arise and go forth as ministers of fire--encouraging and stimulating the church into the work which is so necessary to the life and souls of the lost as well as to their OWN EXISTENCE. Leave the big churches alone and go into the communities where the small churches are struggling along without much direction or zeal. Do as Paul did "go and see how the churches are getting along". And stimulate them into a revival of interest in the souls of the lost. This will of course help them to save their own. If the preachers of the church of Christ are awake spiritually--if they have a mind to work and CONVERT-- and will devote some of their time to putting the people of God into a frame of "they had a mind to work" THE CHURCH OF CHRIST COULD HAVE ONE OF THE GREATEST REVIVALS OF THE CENTURY. AN EZRA, A NEHEMIAH AND OF NECESSITY AN ELIJAH (TO AWAKEN THE PEOPLE TO THEIR SPIRITUAL CONDITION) COULD MAKE THIS GENERATION--THIS ERA--ONE OF THE MOST GLORIOUS AND WORTHWHILE IN ITS EXISTENCE. But where are the men? On my horizon they are not visible-- but I shall pray and hope that the church of Christ--the glorious church of our Saviour is not entirely devoid of a Paul--a Nehemiah or an Ezra.

We must become militant--not in fighting our brethren over a losing cause but militant in spreading the gospel. We must ALL--the whole church--go forth preaching the word. The ~~complacency~~ complacency, the smugness, the slothfulness, the satisfaction as we are--must give place to dissatisfaction, fire, zeal, and a great upheaval--a revolution if you please-- a turning away from that which hindered and stopped the gospel from being taught as it should be both within the church and out of it. That which has retarded our progress--that which has restricted and obstructed our purpose in this life must be done away with. We must open our spiritual eyes--and look at our shortcomings and our sins as well as our lack of zeal and begin teaching the New Testament and return to the pattern of the gospel as laid down in God's word and GET THE CHURCH IN MOTION. We have stagnated we have lost the Holy Spirit--we are inept and we are concerned too much with figures and money and soft living and the world lies around us hopeless, despairing, and lost. The preachers and the elders should be the motivating force in starting the church back into the New Testament way. We have been blind long enough. HOW MUCH LONGER WILL GOD TOLERATE THIS CONDITION--HOW LONG WILL IT BE BEFORE HE TAKES THE CANDLESTICK OUT. The picture of the church in the Revelation letter is a picture of the church today. CAN WE SEE IT/ If so we can we can get into WORK "EVERYONE" doing that which God designed from the beginning of time--CONVERTING SOULS.

The glory of a life of a Christian is his works. These must include saving the souls of the lost. WE MUST BEGIN NOW AND IF WE WORK GOD WILL GIVE THE INCREASE. Of course if we continue to practice birth control in direct defiance of His will our efforts will be hindered. What if the people of God in Egypt had practiced birth control. God blesses the womb but the members of His body have greatly frustrated His will and the church has lost perhaps millions because of it. Well, this is another subject but do our ministers teach against this tragic thing? Let's take what few members we have, those who are ready and waiting to get out and go to work, who have not as yet lost the Holy Spirit, and who have a great desire to suffer and sacrifice to save the lost, and let US GET TO WORK.

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and we can only hope and pray that it may do some good. The Brothers Puckett, Homer Hailey's and others who were with you on that little jaunt into enemy territory would do well also to read this. But to read it and not to understand my motive in writing it would indeed be unprofitable. I haven't taken time out of my busy life to write this because I wanted to appear as one who has all the answers to everything (although if we seek in God's word we can have them all) or as presumptuous, but because I am greatly disturbed and troubled by the condition of the church and its lack of progress and its lack of knowledge and wisdom. This was brought to a head and all the church is aware, I mean those who are spiritually alert, and are not yet blinded, by the meeting at Arlington. My prayer is that all those who participated in it (this does not include those who have almost wrecked the body of Christ and have long ago lost the Holy Spirit) may open their eyes to their sin, rectify it and then make up their minds to quit their jobs, get up from their beds of ease, and GET TO WORK, rebuilding the church along the lines of the pattern and PUTTING THE PEOPLE TO WORK. This great job will take men - spiritually alive, alive with faith and zeal and full of hope and of the Holy Spirit, willing to suffer and sacrifice and above all things TO WORK. Our mission on this earth must be fulfilled in our works and our works must consist of saving the lost.

May God help us all in the great task which is set before us. May you, as well as the others who I hope will read this letter, be encouraged to stimulate the people of God and to teach and preach the kind of gospel which is according to New Testament teaching; change our ways, our teaching and preaching and go back to the "old paths" from which we have departed. The departure is exemplified in our lack of conversions and the condition of the world.

If you should care to answer this letter I would appreciate it - if not at least I'm sure there are many things in it which could be of benefit in some ways. It is designed to and the motive behind it was to make those who read it THINK.

In Christin faith,  
 SINCERELY

Maria Weiss  
 148 W. Maple St.  
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