

Duluth, Minnesota,
April 20th, 1928.

To the Saints gathered to the
Name of our Lord Jesus Christ
in our various gatherings.

Beloved Brethren:

Our purpose in addressing you at this time is to acquaint you with our stand and action in regard to the doctrinal and moral issues that have risen in the assembly at 5917 Chestnut Street, West Philadelphia.

These issues have long exercised our hearts, and many assembly meetings have been devoted to their consideration. We have been made to feel deeply the shame and dishonor brought upon the name of our holy Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Beyond all doubt He has been wounded afresh "in the house of His friends". Zach. 13:6.

In seeking the Lord's face in this sad and painful matter, we have been further humbled on account of not being able to reach oneness of mind, which seemed impossible. At the close of our meeting last Friday night between twenty and twenty-five of us, realizing the hopelessness of further discussion, felt we could not do other than withdraw from the 5917 Chestnut St. assembly and those of our Duluth brethren identifying themselves with them.

As to the doctrinal issue, word received this week from Philadelphia contains the following extracts taken from a letter dated March 30th, 1928, issued by 23 brethren, "signed on behalf of the 5917 Chestnut Street assembly", "while we believe that Mr. Boyd was in error in stating that which was not revealed in the scripture, there is none of our number who believe that his teaching constituted a denial of 'Jesus Christ come in the flesh' or that it would be truly said of him, 'that he brings not the doctrine of christ', - "We could not at present refuse any who might receive Mr. Boyd, or bid him Godspeed, because we do not believe that Mr. Boyd is such a person as described in the Second Epistle of John". ---- "We do not believe that in the light of Scripture we were responsible to reject Mr. Boyd, and therefore, could not have done so". Such expressions produce in us the conviction that further labor with the 5917 Chestnut Street assembly is hopeless, and we cannot but view them in the light of 2d John verse 11, applying as we do 2d John verse 10 to Mr. James Boyd on account of his teaching as set forth in his tractate "The Incarnation of the Son".

As to the moral issue, we believe that the "Summary of Evidence" approved by twenty brethren (whose knowledge of the case we have no reason to question), and unimpaired by attack establishes the wickedness of Mr. C. J. Grant, and that he should have been dealt with according to 1 Cor. 5:13.

These being our convictions, to remain in fellowship with the 5917 Chestnut Street assembly after their refusal to judge these cases scripturally would, we believe, involve us in their guilt.

In taking this action we wish to make it understood that we are not severing our fellowship with any assembly except the one at 5917 Chestnut St., and other assemblies who have openly declared themselves in fellowship with them. As to the gatherings who have not yet faced the issue, we desire to show them all longsuffering and forbearance, assuring them of our prayers in the hope that God will lead them to judge righteously in the matter, and that our fellowship with such will continue unbroken.

We feel led of God to draw the attention of our brethren everywhere to the low moral condition existing not only in the 5917 Chestnut St. meeting, but among our assemblies at large. Is not the hand of God upon us on account of this condition? Neh. 1:8; and is not this condition the cause of the divided state in which we find ourselves? We believe that until this condition is owned before God and repented of, we cannot expect the deliverance for which we have long prayed. Let us not repeat the sin of Israel in a former day. Isa. 22:5-14, particularly verses eight and eleven.

The "day is both cloudy and dark", Ezek. 34:12, but that need not stumble us for we have been warned of it, "but this know that in the last days difficult times shall be there", 2d Tim. 3:1, (J.N.D. Trans.). What we find today therefore, is only what we have to expect, the thing is to know the path to take, and the part to act, in the circumstances in which we find ourselves.

Our lot is cast in these "difficult times" and a new and extraordinary phase of difficulty now is the corruption of that especial testimony for the day which God has raised up; but that is the very trial allotted to us by the Lord--and anything sent by Him brings with it, when taken from His hand its own peculiar joy, its own special blessedness.

How reasonable and searching are the words of one of our ablest guides commenting on 2d Tim. --- "We have seen the decline and all the confusion attending upon it increase only more and more up to the present time, the mercy of God coming in indeed to revive, but only with regard to a remnant which is more and more to be separated from the rest; even then to experience how the very movements which have been with God are prone constantly to terminate in the flesh and if there is to be anything, God has, to work still, as it were, from the beginning, and to separate, it may be, a fresh remnant from the remnant which has just failed". We cannot but believe that the Lord is calling afresh His people to go forth unto Himself "outside the camp".

May we each take this separate pathway in entire distrust of self and in simple but unswerving devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Signatures.

(Signed)

Mrs. McKenzie
Mrs. W. R. Carscadden
Mrs. J. A. Essen
Mrs. R. H. Andrew
Mrs. A. S. Page
Mrs. J. F. Nauffts
Mrs. A. Youngstrand
Mrs. Wm. Haigh
Mrs. W. R. Mathews
Beatrice M. Andrew

(Signed)

Emerson Hoyt
J. C. Smith
W. R. Carscadden
Jas. A. Essen
R. H. Andrew
A. S. Page
C. N. Bunn
Earl F. Bradley
A. Youngstrand
Wm. Haigh
H. S. Mathews
W. R. Mathews