

A LETTER OF APPEAL TO MY BRETHREN

(Read 1 Pet. 4: 17; Dan. 9: 8; Hag. 1: 7.)

BELOVED BRETHREN:

A crisis has arisen in our history as a professedly separated people. The hand of the Lord has gone out against us. He has a controversy with us, because of our sins—for we HAVE sinned and done grievously in His sight, and we are in a state of confusion and weakness.

The *world* has made sad inroads upon us, the *flesh* has been yielded to, and *Satan* has caused us to dishonor the blessed Name of the Son of God. Our strength has gone from us and we "wist it not." We have been shorn of our locks and blinded as to our true condition. God is holy, and holiness becometh His house, but we have not maintained it. We have not behaved ourselves in the house of God. We have sinned against light and truth, and have not obeyed His Word.

What an arraignment! What a shameful history to have to face at the judgment seat of Christ! As the rival Jewish factions at the siege of Jerusalem, A. D. 70, we have turned our hands every one against his brother, and thus have played into the hands of the enemy. What shall we say to this? What can we do to recover ourselves? Is it too late? Has God given us up as a testimony for His truth? Yet there *is one* remedy—and one *only*. Let us prostrate ourselves before Him, for He is a merciful and a gracious God, and confess with broken spirits and contrite hearts that we have sinned and done wickedly. "To us belongeth confusion of face," but to *Him* "belong mercies and forgivenesses." If we will take one step in the right direction God will be with us, as in the days of Haggai (1: 13).

Brethren, let us take this step! Let us draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to us. Let us humble ourselves under His mighty hand that He may lift us up, and restore our souls, and re-unite us in the holy bonds of love and fellowship. Could we not set apart a stated season for this as gatherings?—as the Jewish remnant will do, the houses of David, of Nathan, of Levi, and Shimei apart, mourning and repentant, owning their sin (Zech. 12:11-14), as it would be practically impossible for us to get together as a fellowship. In the meantime let us individually bow before Him in self-judgment.

May God stir up our hearts and consciences that there may be brokenness before Him, ere it is too late and the candlestick be removed. God is not dependent upon us.

There should, however, be preparedness of heart individually, each one owing to God his share in this sin and shame. *Merely* coming together would effect nothing. Simply acknowledging our failure would not suffice. Heart-broken confession and repentance alone will satisfy a holy God (2 Cor. 7: 10, 11). There must first of all be *self-judgment* ere there can be a united judgment.

Blessed indeed would be the result. Strife ended, fellowship restored, and we standing together; evil righteously judged and separated from, keeping rank, contending for the faith, exercising watchfulness, and strengthening the "things that remain, that are ready to die." Each one in his measure caring for and feeding the lambs and sheep of His flock, who are being distressed and fretted, scattered, and not led into green pastures.

The Lord stir up our hearts, beloved brethren, to seek to bring about this desired result.

Do not refuse this appeal as being impracticable. It *CAN* be done, it *should* be done, and if we take the lowly place before God, it *WILL* be done. The enemy will be put to confusion and his purposes frustrated.

May our God deeply exercise our hearts and stir us up to prompt action. Read this carefully, prayerfully, and with open and unbiassed minds.

Yours affectionately in the bonds of Christ,

F. J. ENEFER.