

## **AN OPEN LETTER** (Brother Leon Norby)

Dear Brethren in Christ: Greetings in the name of our PRESENT LORD!

You will perhaps recognize this quotation from Volume 3. It has proved to be prophetic; for all those of our fellowship who had come out of Babylon in the days of our Pastor have made at least ONE move since, and some have made two or more: “Though coming out of Babylon is one step, and a long one, in the direction of complete overcoming, it is by no means the last one; and we should be careful to guard against a disposition to rest after every advance step of the way. The step out of Babylon has generally been preceded by other steps of obedience, which have in turn exercised and strengthened the character for subsequent conflicts and victories. And it will be followed by various other tests and opportunities for overcoming, in view of which Paul (Gal. 5:1) wrote, ‘Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with a yoke of bondage’.” (C188). The Lord, himself, indicates that during His PAROUSIA many would be deceived along this line claiming that the Lord would be in a certain PLACE (CHURCH OR ORGANIZATION). This is obviously true from the Papacy on down to the J.W.’s who maintain that one must get in their “Ark” to survive Armageddon and have life. “Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, HERE is Christ, or THERE [Berean comment: ‘in any particular place’]; believe it not ... Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert [Isolation?—another PLACE or condition]; go not forth: behold he is in the secret chambers [another PLACE]; believe it not. [How then can we be with the Lord?] For wheresoever the CARCASE IS, THERE WILL THE EAGLES BE GATHERED TOGETHER.”—Matt. 24:23, 26, 28. Christ describes the work of the harvest, indicating that “one would be taken and the other left” from the three categories mentioned and when asked, “Where Lord? he said unto them, WHERESOEVER THE BODY IS, THITHER WILL THE EAGLES BE GATHERED.”—Lu. 17:23, 34-37. The Lord promised to serve this feast upon His return to His faithful watchers (Lu. 12:37); it was promised specifically to Laodicea (Rev. 3:20). AN ORGANIZATION IS USEFUL AS LONG AS IT IS EMPHASIZING THE HARVEST TRUTHS SERVED BY THE LORD. The chief emphasis must always be ON THE FOOD. The Pastor did not say that the “steps” would be coming out of BABYLON, but they are moves. The proper decision should be easy when we must choose between an organization and the Harvest Truth in its purity both in doctrine and in practice. I have made this decision—again.

In a letter of resignation I wrote in part: “The complexion of the Dawn membership itself has radically changed in recent years through deaths,

resignations and more particularly through election of new members with erroneous viewpoints. This trend is practically irreversible for the simple reason that the Trustees must now approve any nomination for new members before they are submitted to the vote of the membership for election. Also, the pattern of Church History argues against probable reform.” If even a very brief explanation for resignations were given in the minutes, a letter like this might not be necessary; but the Pastor taught us not to slip out the “back door”.

Fifteen years ago when some of us discovered most of the errors which our leaders believed, we were accused of imagining things; about eight years ago they admitted they had different views, but claimed they had the correct interpretation of the Bible and Bro. R.; now they admit that they differ with him but the subjects are not important, and say that the friends should exercise “love” and continue to support them as principal leaders. Of course, we are to tolerate slight differences of opinion on minor points, unfulfilled prophecy, Revelation, etc; but let us examine some of these errors and then evaluate them:

We are enclosing a sketch of the CHART OF THE AGES with these errors superimposed upon it. They are listed at the bottom of the chart with references to another sheet with more detailed description. Tabernacle Shadows are also seriously affected, and these lessons have been a “touchstone” for Bible truths from the beginning. Do you think brethren who cannot give a clear Chart Talk should be prominent leaders among us? We do not claim our sketch is 100% accurate, but if they think it would improve their position among the brethren, let them draw their own chart and thus illustrate their errors. At least a half dozen of the most prominent brethren, among them, hold these views either directly or through support, promotion and “bidding godspeed”, thus 2 John 11 would apply in principle. This is more than guilt by association. Recognition as “brethren” follows answering the 3 questions; qualifications for teachers are much higher: 1 Tim. 6:2-5; 4:16; 1:3,4; 5:22; Titus 1:7-14; Phil 3:15,16; Eph. 4:11-14; Matt. 5:18,19; F274; 275 top; 285; 323; 316; 327. The Pastor’s last advice is even stronger—R5982 col. 2. The Dawn has reversed itself on this since 1947.

Let us promote sound unity by “speaking the same thing that there be no divisions among you (1 Cor. 1:10)” “Continue in the things thou HAST LEARNED” (2 Tim. 3:14). Rom. 16:17.

Let us pray for one another. Yours in the Blessed Hope, Brother L. H. Norby.