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Berrien Springs, Michigan

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May 9, 1966

Dr. L. E. Froom
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Dear Elder Froom:

Thank you for your letter of January 23, which I have been a long time in acknowledging.

Recently I spent some time re-reading your correspondence to me, praying about it, and studying the Spirit of Prophecy. You have said some very serious things to me. No addressee receiving such correspondence, unless he were made of steel, could read it without falling on his knees before God to seek understanding about his duty. I am flesh, and very weak flesh at that.

Three convictions emerged from my hours of study and prayer: (1) My original research and the writing of my findings were motivated by an honest desire to discover and accept the truth. Therefore I can well afford to leave the consequences with Him whom David called the "Lord God of truth". He can do nothing other than to overrule it all for the good of His cause. (2) I am responsible for the Spirit of Prophecy evidence which God's providence has permitted me to see firsthand. So far, I find this voluminous evidence to be entirely consistent with itself. You say you have found unpublished material from the Vault that contradicts the conclusions dictated by a large amount of consistent evidence I have seen. I believe that my request to see this inspired evidence is the most reasonable request a man could make; and I believe that the church will eventually judge my request as entirely appropriate to the circumstances. Meanwhile, I cannot be honest and responsible for the faculties God has given me if I surrender inspired evidence for anyone else's appraisal of evidence I have not seen. That would be tantamount to putting his authority above that of the Spirit of Prophecy evidence God has permitted me to see. 1 Kings 13 presents a solemn warning against doing so. I remain ready, of God's grace, to revise or retract my positions as inspired evidence shall be forthcoming to require it. (3) Your correspondence emphasizes the grave seriousness of this issue, and points up the necessity for being careful to move cautiously, and especially to avoid the mistake of retracting truth under the motivation of fear.

You speak of a "positive, confirmatory emphasis". The Seventh-day Adventist conscience insists on knowing the full truth without inconsistencies or self-contradictions. Only such full truth can provide that "positive, confirmatory evidence" which will make possible the finishing of the work in our generation. The full truth of our history discloses God's faithfulness

and righteousness. Our hope must lie in His righteousness, not our own righteousness, for the latter is only a fiction.

I grant that the call for a denominational repentance does not glorify man.

~~Admit~~ the full truth of our denominational history does not glorify man. But recognition of it by the honest Seventh-day Adventist conscience glorifies God and His faithfulness. Only as we recognize the truth that the Lord has watched over us in our confusion, our indecisive wandering for many decades, can we appreciate and truly believe that He will watch over us in the glorious finishing of the work, "to build, and to plant", to the glorifying of His name before the whole world. This was the burden of Jeremiah's message to his people. Only through an honest recognition of the depth of their sin and apostasy could they ever be able to apprehend the full measure of the grace of God which much more abounds. Jeremiah 31:3-34.

You will pardon me, Elder, if I employ a crude analogy. If you had an incipient cancer, would you appreciate your doctor giving you an aspirin with the assurance that all was well? Would you not prefer that he tell you the full truth that you might seek surgery while there was still hope?

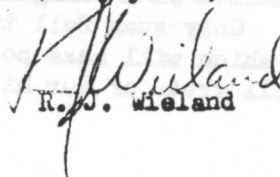
The cancer of sin lies deep within us as a people, the same sin, Sister White declares, that impelled the Jews to crucify the Lord of glory. The most hopeful, encouraging, uplifting and redemptive ministry our people can experience is to face the full truth of their position before God and the heavenly universe. As sure as day follows night, the honest Seventh-day Adventist conscience will respond to the truth in full and complete repentance, an experience parallel to and consistent with the "final atonement" our Lord is now ministering in the sanctuary above. Surgery for the removal of cancer is the most "positive, confirmatory" therapy possible.

Our manuscript says that our denominational history presents a clarion call for denominational repentance and humbling of heart before God. Not only is it an appeal for loyalty to God, it is also an assurance that the honest Seventh-day Adventist heart will respond loyally once the full truth is known and understood. I have done what I could; and I have the encouraging assurance that I am throwing my energies and influence behind a truly positive and confirmatory emphasis.

Your letters have impelled me to further study and prayer, and I therefore deeply appreciate each one.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,


R. J. Wieland