Sent to Bro Hunt

IT IS WRITTEN

CAVE JUNCTION, OREGON, JULY 15, 1946.

"NEITHER PRAY I FOR THESE ALONE, BUT FOR THEM ALSO WHICH SHALL BELIEVE ON ME THROUGH THEIR WORD; THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE; AS THOU, FATHER, ART IN ME AND I IN THEE, THAT THEY MAY BE ONE IN US: THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE THAT THOU HAST SENT ME." ST. JNO. 17:20-21.

NEVERTHELESS WHEREUNTO WE HAVE ALREADY ATTAINED, LET US WALK BY THE SAME RULE, LET US MIND THE SAME THING". PHIL. 3:16.

IN THE FIRST SCRIPTURE WE SEE UNITY PRAYED FOR BY OUR SAVIOUR, AND SUCH UNITY AS EXISTED BETWEEN THE SON AND FATHER.

IN THE SECCOND WE SEE UNITY COMMANDED. IF WE ALL WALK BY THE SAME RULE AND MIND THE SAME THING, THERE WILL BE NO DIFFERENCE.

THEN HE CALLS OUR ATTENTION TO HIS LIFE TIME EXAMPLE: "BRETHREN, BE YE FOLLOWERS TOGATHER OF ME, AND MARK THEM WHICH WALK SO AS YE HAVE US FOR AN EXAMPLE". PHIL. 3:17.

HENCE, WE SEE THIS GOSPEL RULE IS NOT ONLY IN PRECEPT, BUT IS LIVED OUT AND EXEMPLIFIED IN THE LIVED OF THE APOSTLES.

IN PHIL. 1:27; PAUL AGAIN LIMITS US TO THIS GOSPEL RULE; "ONLY", BRETHREN, THIS WORD, "ONLY", DOES NOT PERMIT US TO GO BEYOND; BUT TIES US TO THAT FROM WHICH EVERYTHING ELSE IS ELLIMINATED BY THAT WORD, "ONLY", AND WHAT IS IT? LET PAUL ANSWER; "ONLY LET YOUR CONVERSATION BE AS BECOMETH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST---".

THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM THE FACT THAT OUR CONVERSATION (WORDS AND ACTS), ARE TIED TO "ONLY" THAT WHICH "BECOMETH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST".

AND IN THE NEXT BREATH, IN THE SAME VERSE, HE TELLS US WHY; "---THAT WHETHER I COME AND SEE YOU, OR ELSE BE ABSENT, I MAY HEAR OF YOUR AFFAIRS, THAT YEC ALL STAND FAST IN ONE SPIRIT, WITH ONE MIND STRIVING TOGATHER FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL".

ONLY UNITY, "IN ONE SPIRIT WITH ONE MIND", IF WE WILL, "ONLY LET OUR CONVERSATION BE AS BECOMETH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST".

HOW EASY AND HOW SIMPLE; AND YET, WHAT AWFUL DIVISION EXISTS AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE.

"THOSE THINGS WHICH YE HAVE BOTH LEARNED, AND RECEIVED, HEARD, AND SEEN IN ME, DO; AND THE GOD OF PEACE SHALL BE WITH YOU". PHIL. 4:9.

AGAIN, WE SEE THE APOSTLE COMMANDING US TO OBSERVE BOTH PRECEPT AND EXAMPLE; "THOSE THINGS YE HAVE BOTH HEARD AND SEEN IN ME, DO".

AND, WHAT A WONDERFUL PROMISE FOLLOWED IT; "AND THE GOD OF PEACE SHALL BE WITH YOU".

YES, NO DIVISION, NO DISSENTION, NO TURMOIL, NO STRIFE; BUT PEACE, SWEET PEACE. AND IN ORDER FOR THIS CONDITION TO EXIST, ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS TO OBEY THAT LITTLE COMMAND. IT IS JUST THAT EASY; AND LOOK AT OUR DIVIDED CONDITION.

BY THE SCRIPTURES WE ARE MADE PERFECT, THROUGHLY FURNISHED-- 2 TIM. 3:17.

BY HIS DIVINE POWER, (THE GOSPEL ROM. 1:16), ARE GIVEN UNTO US ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN TO LIFE AND GODLINESS.---------2 PETER 1:3.

IF WE SPEAK; IT MUST BE AS THE ORACLES OF GOD.- - - - - - - -1 PET. 4:11.

IF WE MINISTER; IT MUST BE AS OF THE ABILITY THAT GOD GIVETH. 1 PET. 4:11.

IF WE TRANSGRESS, AND ABIDE NOT IN THE DOCTRINE, WE HAVE NOT GOD. 2 JNO. 9.

WE ARE TO MEDITATE ON THESE THINGS; GIVE OURSELVES WHOLLY TO THEM. 1 TI. 4:15.

IF WE DO THIS, WE WILL SAVE OURSELVES AND THEM THAT HEAR US. 1 TIM. 4:16.

IF WEC TEACH OTHERWISE AND CONSENT NOT TO WHOLSOME DOCTRINE, EVEN THE WORDS OF CHRIST; WE ARE PROUD KNOWING NOTHING; BUT DOTING ABOUT QUESTIOSNS OF WORDS--. - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - ------1 TIM. 6:3-4.

FROM THESE COMES; ENVY, STRIFE, RAILING, EVIL SURMISINGS, PERVERSE DISPUTINGS OF MEN OF CORRUPT MINDS. - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -1 TIM. 6:4-6.

IF WE ADD TO THE WORD OF GOD;GOD WILL ADD THE PLAGUES TO US.REV.22:18.
IF WE TAKE AWAY FROM THE WORD OF GOD;GOD WILL TAKE AWAYOUR PART OUT OF THE BOOK OF LIFE,AND OUT OF THE HOLY CITY, AND OUT OF THE THINGS THAT ARE WRITTEN IN THE BOOK. - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - --REV.22:19.
WE MUST SPEAK THE SAME THING;BE OF THE SAME MIND AND JUDGMENT.1 COR.1:10.
THE PREACHING OF THE CROSS WAS NOT IN THE WISDOM OF WORDS. 1 COR.1:17.
GOD WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE - - - - - - - - - - - -1 COR.1:19.
HE WILL BRING TO NAUGHT THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRUDENT.--1 COR.1:19.
THE WORLD BY ITS WISDOM KNEW NOT GOD.- - - - - - - - - - - --1 COR 1:20-31.
PAUL NEVER USED EXCELLANCY OF SPEECH IN PREACHING. - - - - -1 COR.2:1-3.
HIS PREACHING WAS NOT WITH ENTICING WORDS OF MANS WISDOM.- 1 COR.2:4.
THAT THEIR FAITH SHOULD NOT BTAND IN MANS WISDOM ,BUT IN THE POWER OF GOD. -1 COR;2-5.
HE NEVER SPAKE THE WISDOM OF THE WORLD NOR OF THE PRINCES OF THEC WORLD;WHICH ARE COMING TO NAUGHT. - - - - - - - - - -1 COR.2:6.
PAUL TAUGHT THE THINGS REVEALED BY THE SPIRIT. - - - - -1 COR.2:10.
AND HE TAUGHT IT NOT BY [illegible] WORDS WHICH MANS WISDOM TEACHETH, BUT WHICH THE HOLY GHOST TEACHETH. - - - - - - - - - - - - -1 COR.2:13.
FOR THE WISDOM OF THIS WORLD IS FOOLISHNESS WITH GOD.---1 COR.3:19.
GOD TAKES THE WISE IN THEIR OWN CRAFTINESS. - - - - - - - --1 COR.3:19.

BROTHER,WHAT COULD ANY ONE DO TO MAKE IT ANY PLAINER;THAN THAT THE GOSEL IS THE ONLY GROUNDS OF UNITY.AND THAT IN ATTAINING TO THIS UNITY,WE ARE NOT TO USE ANY OF OUR CLEVER DIVICES,NOR TECHNICAL DEDUCTIONS,NOR ANY FORM OF THE WISDOM OF MEN.HOWEVER WISE THEY MAY BE;BUT THE GOSPEL.

IN THE ABOVE,WE HAVE SHOWN BY SCRIPTURE AFTER SCRIPTURE,THAT GOD'S WORD IS THE PERFECT RULE BY WHICH WE MAY ATTAIN AND MAINTAIN THAT UNITY;AND THAT MANS WISDOM IS BUT TRASH AND HAS NO PART NOR LOT IN IT.

WE ARE NOW READY FOR ANOTHER PHASE OF THE SUBJECT;OUR "ATTITUDE"TWORD GOD,HIS WORD,AND OUR FELLOWMAN.
THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT;WE MAY HAVE A PERFECT RULE,BUT IF WE DO NOT HAVE THE "ATTITUDE" TO OBEY IT;IT WILL AVAIL US NOTHING.

WE ARE NOT TO BE HIGHMINDED,BUT FEAR. - - - - - - - - - --ROM.11:20.
GOD RESISTETH THE PROUD BUT GIVETH GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.1PET.5:5;JAS.4:6.
BEFORE DISTRUCTION THE HEART OF MAN IS HAUGHTY. - - - - - - PROV.18:12.
PRIDE GOETH BEFORE DISTRUCTION;A HAUGHTY SPIRIT BEFORE A FALL.PRO.16:18.
NO BROBER,THE ATTITUDE OF BEING HAUGHTY.PROUD,OR HIGHMINDED,WILL GET US NO WHERE BUT TO THE PIT.IT DOES NOT BEAR THE FRUITS OF UNITY.

WE MUST NOT BE WISE IN OUR OWN CONCEITS. - - - - - - - - -ROM.12:16.
WE MUST HUMBLE OURSELVES UNDER THE MIGHTY HAND OF GOD.---1 PET.5:6.
WE SHOULD TREMBLE AT GOD'S WORD. - - - - - - - - - -IS.66:2 AND 5.
IF ANY MAN AMONG US SEEMS TO BE WISE IN THIS WORLD HE IS COMMANDED TO BECOME A FOOL THAT HE MAY BE WISE. - - - - - - - - - - -1 COR.3:18.
FOR THE LORD KNOWS THE THOUGHTS OF THE WISE THAT THEY ARE VAIN.1COR.3:20.
HE SCATTERETH THE PROUD IN THE IMAGINATIONS OF THEIR HEARTS.LK.1:51.
AND BRETHREN,LOOK HOW THE RELIGIOUS WORLD IN GENERAL,AND THE CHURCH OF GOD IN PARTICULAR,ARE SCATTERED IN THEIR IMAGINATIONS.

LET US WALK WORTHY OF THE VOCATION BY WHICH WE ARE CALLED.-EPH.4:1.
LET US HUMBLE OURSELVES TO GOD. - - - - - - - - - - -1 PET.5:6.
LET US TREMBLE AT HIS WORD. - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - ISIAH 66:2.
LET US BE LOWLY AND MEEK - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - EPH.4:2.
WHY SHOULD A MAN FEEL CAPABLE OF IMPROVING ON GOD'S PLAN?
WHY SHOULD HE FEEL CAPABLE OF FINDING A MORE EFFECTIVE WAY OF DOING HIS WORK?WHY SHOULD WE FEEL HIS INSTITUTION WAS NOT ENOUGH?
WHY SHOULD ANY MAN HAVE SUCH A CASE OF BIGHEAD,TO SET HIMSELF UP AS ABLE TO IMPROVE ON ANYTHING WHICH GOD HAS DONE? HOW AWFUL!

AND IN OUR RELATIONSHIP ONE TWORD ANOTHER,WE MUST BE LOWLY AND MEEK. -EPH.4:2.

IN LOWLINESS OF MIND,WEE MUST EACH ESTEEM OTHER BETTER THAN OURSELVES. -PHIL.2:3.

WE ARE TO DO NOTHING THROUGH STRIFE OR VAINGLORY. -- ----PHIL.2:3.

WITH THE LOWLY IS WISDOM. - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -PROV.11:2.

WHEN PRIDE COMETH,THEN COMETH SHAME. - - - - - - - - - - - -PROV.11:2.

THE LORD HAS RESPECT FOR THE LOWLY. - - - - - - - - - - - PS.136:6.

MEEKNESS IS INCLUDED IN THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT. - - - - - - -GAL.5:22-23.

IN RESTORING ANOTHER,WE MUST BE MEEK. - - - - - - - - - - - - GAL.6:1.

AMONG OTHER GOOD CHARACTERISTICS,WE MUST BE MEEK. - - - - - COL.3:12-15.

A MAN OF GOD MUST FOLLOW AFTER MEEKNESS. - - - - - - - - -- -1 TIM.6:11.

WE MUST BE MEEK WHILE INSTRUCTING THOSE THAT OPPOSE THEMSELVES,2TI.2:25.

WE MUST SHOW ALL MEEKNESS TO ALL MEN. - - - - - - - - - - - TIT.3:2.

OUR WORKS MUST BE SHOWN IN MEEKNESS. - - - - - - - - -- -JAS.3:13.

TO EVERY ONE WHO ASKS US FOR A REASON FOR THE HOPE THAT IS IN US,WE MUST GIVE IT WITH MEEKNESS - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -1 PET.3:15.

THE ENGRAFTED WORD MUST BE RECEIVED WITH MEEKNESS - - - -JAS.1:21.

HENCE,WE SEE WHETHER WE ARE TEACHING OR BEING TAUGHT,OR RESTORING ONE, OR GIVING A REASON FOR THE HOPE THAT IS IN US,OR LIVING THE LIFE OF A MAN OF GOD,AND OUR LIFE BEFORE ALL MEN,WE MUST BE MEEK AND LOWLY.

IN MY LIMITED EXPERIANCE,TOO OFTEN THIS ATTITUDE OF MEEKNESS AND LOWLINESS IS WOEFULLY LACKING.TOO OFTEN WE FIND IN ITS STEAD,THE SPIRIT OF PRIDE,ARROGANCE, I AM HOLLIER THAN THOU,AND A BAD SHORT IN OUR PATIENCE.

NO WONDER WE FIND THE CHURCH OF GOD DIVIDED AND SUBDIVIDED INTO SO MANY GROUPS AND FACTIONS,WITH BUT LITTLE INTEREST IN THE SOULS WELLFARE OF ONE FOR THE OTHER;THE ATTITUDE OF MEEKNESS AND LOWLINESS IS SELDOM IF EVERDEMONSTRATED.

NO WONDER,WE HAVE MADE SUCH A HOWLING FAILURE IN DEMONSTRATING TO THE WORLD THAT UNITY COULD BE HAD ON THE BIBLE AND THE BIBLE ALONE,WHEN THERE IS SUCH A DROUTH OG THAT SPIRIT OF MEEKNESS AND LOWLINESS.

BUT WITHOUT THAT ATTITUDE WE CAN NEVER,NEVER,ATTAIN TO,AND MAINTAIN UNITY.

BUT PAUL CONTINUES IN EPH.4:2 BY SAYING; "---WITH LONGSUFFERING,FORBEARING ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE".

BROTHER,ARE WE LONGSUFFERING WHILE WE AREFORBEARING (RESTRAINING),ONE ANOTHER? AND DO WE DO IT IN LOVE?DO WE SHOW THESE NECESSARY ATTITUDES WHICH ARE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO UNITY?OR IS THERE SUCH A DROUTH OF, "--LONGSUFFERING FORBEARING ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE1,THAT WE COULDN'T EVEN SAY IT HAD SPRINKLED DURING OUR LIFETIME?

IF WE BEAR THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT,WE MUST BE LONGSUFFERING.GAL.5:22-23.

IF WE WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD UNTO ALL PLEASING; WE MUST BE LONGSUFFERING. ----COL.1:10-11.

IF WE PUT ON THOSE THINGS THAT ARE ESSENTIAL TO GOD'S ELECT; WE MUST BE LONGSUFFERING. - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -- COL.3:12-15.

YES,THE SAME SCRIPTURE SAYS,TO FORBEAR ONE ANOTHER. - - -COL.3:12-15.

BUT DON'T FORGET THAT PAUL SAYS IN EPH.4:2 THAT THIS FORBEARING IS TO BE "IN LOVE".WHAT IS MEANT BY FORBEARING (RESTRAINING) ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE?

IN ORDER TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION,TURN WITH ME TO 1 COR.13:-;AND SEE SOME OF THE THINGS LOVE (CHARITY) RESTRAINS US FROM DOING;AS WELL AS THE T THINGS WE MUST DO IF WE LOVE,OR HAVE CHARITY.

CHARITY (LOVE) SUFFERETH LONG. - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -1 COR.13:4.

CHARITY (LOVE) IS KIND. - - - - - - - - - - ------ -1 COR.13:4.

CHARITY (LOVE) ENVIETH NOT. - - - - - - - - - - - - 1 COR .13:4

CHARITY (LOVE) VAUNTETH NOT ITSELF. - - - - - - - -1 COR.13:4.

CHARITY (LOVE) IS NOT PUFFED UP. - - - - - - - - - -1 COR.13:4.

CHARITY (LOVE)DOETH NOT BEHAVE ITSELF UNSEEMLY - - - - - - -1 COR.13:5
CHARITY (LOVE) SEEKETH NOT HER OWN - - - - - - - - - - -1 COR:13:5
CHARITY (LOVE) IS NOT EASILY PREVOKED. - - - - - - - - - - -1 COR.13:5
CHARITY (LOVE) THINKETH NO EVIL - - - - - - - - - - - - - -1 COR.13:5.
CHARITY (LOVE) REJOICETH IN TRUTH. - - - - - - - - - - - - 1 COR.13:6.
CHARITY (LOVE) BEARETH ALL THINGS. - - - - - - - - - --- - -1 COR.13:7.
CHARITY 8LOVE9 BELIEVETH ALL THINGS. - - - - -- - - - - -1 COR.13:7.
CHARITY (LOVE) HOPETH ALL THINGS. - - - - - - - - - - - - -1 COR.13:7.
CHARITY (LOVE) ENDURETH ALL THINGS. - - - - - - - - - - - 1 COR.13:7.
CHARITY (LOVE) NEVER FAILETH. - - - - - - - - - - - -- - - 1 COR.13:8.

NOW,BRETHREN,LOOK THIS LIST OVER AND ASK YOURSELF;WHEN I WAS FORBEARING MY BROTHER WITH LONGSUFFERING;DID I DO IT IN LOVE?
OR DID I HAVE,AND DEMONSTRATE A SPIRIT OF SUPERIORITY COMPLEX?

IT IS AN EASY THING TO PREACH A BIG SERMON,OR TEACH A BIG LESSON ON THE FACT THAT GOD'S WORD IS THE ONLY PERFECT GROUNDS FOR THE UNITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE.
BUT WHEN WE DO ;DO WE HAVE THE ATTITUDE GOD'S WORD DEMANDS OF US WHILE TEACHING;JUST AS SURELY AS IT DEMANDS UNITY OF ALL?

ISN'T IT A FACT,THAT FAILING TO DEMONSTRATE THIS SPIRIT IS ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS WE HAVE MADE SUCH A MISERABLE FAILURE IN OUR UNITY AMONG OURSELVES?
AND OF COURSE IN FAILING TO LIVE THAT UNITY OUT THAT WE PREACHED FROM EVERY PULPIT;KILLED THE WEIGHT OF EVERY SERMON SO DELIVERED.

LOOK AT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST TODAY,IN ITS TORN CONDITION;AND ASK YOURSELF;HAS GOD'S WORD FAILED?
AND SINCE WE KNOW IT HAS NOT FAILED;LET US PLACE THE BLAME SQUARELY WHERE IT BELONGS.
FIRST;SOME WILL HAVE THEIR OWN WAY,REGARDLESS TO THE SURROUNDING CONDITIONS.
SECOND;ALL FACTIONS DID NOT SHOW THOSE REQUIRED ATTITUDES TWORD EACH OTHER THAT ARE ESSENTIAL TO UNITY.

BRETHREN,LET US ALL WAKE UP;AND NOT ONLY PREACH UNITY;BUT PRACTICE UNITY.
AND THEN AND NOT TILL THEN CAN WE DEMONSTRATE TO A LOST AND RUINED WORLD,THAT WE CAN HAVE THE UNITY TAUGHT IN GOD'S HOLY WORD.
WE MUST, " ----WALK WORTHY OF THE VOCATION WHEREWITH YE ARE CALLED, WITH ALL LOWLINESS AND MEEKNESS,WITH LONGSUFFERING,FORBEARING ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE;
ENDEVORING TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE."
EPH.4:1-3.
WE MUST DEMONSTRATE THOSE ESSENTIAN REQUSITES IN ORDER TO HAVE UNITY.

MAY OUR HEAVENLY FATHER BLESS OUR EFFORTS IN ATTAINING ,AND MAINTAINING THAT UNITY FOR WHICH OUR LOVING SAVIOUR SO EARNESTLY PRAYED ".

YOURS IN CHRIST,

J.S.BEDINGFIELD.