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1909-09-24, Letter from Lyman Stewart to Milton Stewart

Lyman Stewart

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September 24, 1909

[Written on Union Oil Company of California letterhead]

Dear Brother Milton:

Well, you have reached another anniversary, -your seventy first. I heartily congratulate you, and trust you may have many more. But we must admit that we, -you and I, - are now old men. We have been so busy, -so occupied with the affairs of this life, -that old age has crept upon us unawares, and it is time we were seriously taking up the real business of the true Christian life. Hence, I want to make this a real business letter, basing what I have to say on the infallible Scriptures. "Ittis [*sic*] appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Heb. 9:27. Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, is "the Judge of all the earth." He said, "The Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son." Jno. 5:22. This judgment will take cognizance of all our acts. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." 2 Cor. 5:10. It will also extend to our words, (Matt. 12:37) but it is in relation to our acts that I desire to call your special attention. As our great Teacher, the coming Judge, has given us certain instruction, which, if heeded, will insure His commendation and reward, (Lu. 19:11-27); but if disregarded, His disapproval and our eternal loss in "that day." 1 Cor. 3:12-15. Among our Lord's (the coming Judge's) instructions are the following, viz: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth***Lay up treasures for yourselves in Heaven." Matt. 6:19-20. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." Matt. 6:33. "Sell that ye have and

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give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not. Lu. 12:33. Through Paul, the Holy Spirit has given us this admonition, "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." 1 Tim. 6:17-19. There are also very gracious promises to those who rightly discharge the responsibilities of their stewardship. Jesus said, "Give, and it shall be given unto you." Lu. 6:38. "He that watereth shall be watered also himself." Prov. 11:25. "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord, and that which he hath given will He pay him again." Prov. 19:17. So much by the way of prelude. You and I have practically had our "day", and the time for accounting is near. We both, doubtless, have plans for accomplishing some good with the means which the Lord has so graciously entrusted to us. But two great dangers threaten defeat to our purposes. The first is that of delaying to inaugurate some work which will be enduring and hence count for eternity; and the second is, that the channels through which we may have expected to accomplish some good, may become so corrupted, through the malignity and great activity of Satan, as to become channels of evil rather than of blessing. We are already receiving object lessons along this line. With the exception of \$1,000 for Miss Plummer's salary, none of the funds which

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you and I pledged last winter for the Korean Propaganda have been called for. The plain Scriptural

conditions imposed by us seem to be in the way. Mr. Blackstone writes very sadly that he finds higher criticism and rationalism among the missionaries in China. W. R. Newell told me that he “broke some of the mission schools in China ‘right in two,’” his explanation of this statement being that “the followers of Huxley and Darwin were arrayed on one side against the evangelicals on the other,” and this in the missionary schools which we are helping to support! Think of it! I asked Dr. Maude Mackey if she had run across these modern heresies in her work in China, and she replied, “O yes, I know one missionary in China who is teaching that there is no devil.” Rockefeller’s millions are being used through the channel of the Chicago University, and the entire Baptist Church is becoming more or less tinctured with the influence of that institution; and what is true of the influence of the Chicago University on the Baptist Church, is doubtless also true of that of Syracuse University, backed by John D. Archbold, on the Methodist Church. Of our own Presbyterian Church we have nothing to boast over the others. One good brother, Dr. S. E. Wishard, has recently published a little book, “The Testimony of the Bible,” in which he proves from the Scriptures themselves the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch; but our Presbyterian Board of Publication refused to publish it on the ground that Presbyterians differed in their views, and the Board had to recognize both sides. Hence Presbyterians cannot have the full truth from its own

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Board of Publication. To offset this refusal in some degree, our Bible Institute of Los Angeles is arranging to publish 4,000 copies of this book for free distribution on this coast. Now as to a remedy. And “who knoweth whether thou art come to the Kingdom for such a time as this.” Esth. 3:14. If the channels, (the schools and teachers) are corrupt the streams of instruction must necessarily become impure. The fountain, -“the Word of Truth,”- is pure, but the channels need cleansing. There are doubtless thousands of good honest men today preaching error because they don’t know the truth. They follow, and teach the errors of the schools in which they themselves have been taught, and of the literature which these same false teachers have put into their hands. They don’t know that they are teaching error. Now as to the best remedy for this great evil. Give them the truth. Suppose, for instance, that a magazine of, say, 120 pages, to be called “Testimony,” containing the ablest articles of the best and most loyal Bible teachers in the world, (such as those named in the enclosed list, prepared by Dr. Dixon) were mailed every month for one year, free to all the (English speaking) preachers, missionaries, and Bible teachers in the world, a large number, -though possibly only a small percentage of the whole, - of these preachers and teachers would be reclaimed for the propagation of the old Gospel, and many who are wavering would be established. The names of the writers would insure the “Testimony” a hearing even by many of the higher critics themselves. Such men as Drs. A. C. Dixon, J. M. Gray, C. I. Scofield and

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R. A. Torrey favor this work, and will help to push it. It is proposed to issue the first number of “Testimony” in January, 1910. It is estimated that 250,000 copies will be required. I have put up \$300,000 in securities to cover the cost. The writers will work gratuitously, as a rule, out of love to Christ. This will be such a testimony doubtless as has never before been presented simultaneously to the English speaking churches, and will tend to temporarily check error and purify the streams through which the Gospel is to be given to the heathen. But the influence of this testimony would be much greater if it could be sent also to the Protestant preachers and teachers of the other leading languages of the world. Can you conceive of a greater and better work in which it would be possible for us to have a part? Will

you join me in it? We must act quickly, -we are responsible. See Ezek. 3:18-19. By the way, it is important that this work be done quietly, so do not mention it. I have said to Dr. Dixon that possibly you would join me in it. It has been my practice for years to offer you an opportunity to invest in the best things I knew of, but this is the best of all, by far. Praying that the Lord will give you “that wisdom which cometh from above,” in deciding this great question, I am, Sincerely yours,

[Unsigned]

[Letter written by Lyman Stewart]

[There are 2 copies of this letter]

[Handwritten in right margin on back of page 5 of the letter (in one of the copies)]

9/24/09 Letter from Lyman Stewart to Milton Stewart *[in ink]* concerning “The Fundamentals” *[in pencil]*

[Handwritten in right margin on back of page 5 of the letter (in the other of the copies)]

L. D. to M. S. 9/24/09 *[in pencil]*