

September 11, 1963

Mr. Vern B. Grimsley
2317 Le Conte Street - Apt. 5
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Grimsley:

I have just reread your letter and have given careful thought to your problems. I think from the study of Jesus' relation to the organized religion of his day and his final break with the synagogues, there are two ways of looking at your problem.

But more especially coming down to these days of the Urantia Book and its teachings, I am observing a number of ministers who are trying to go along with their regular work and gradually introduce Urantian teachings, but I think it is going to be exceedingly difficult for the average minister to do this. I think the experience of Dr. Sprunger is a good illustration of the difficulties of a believer in the Urantian teachings trying to hold an orthodox pulpit.

Dr. Sprunger thought he could do it. I told him I was pretty sure it would fail, as it did, and he went into the teaching profession, where he has great freedom as regards his activities with reference to the Urantia Book.

It is very difficult for me to try to advise you as to whether you should or should not enter upon your three years of seminary studies. I am probably greatly influenced by my observation of Dr. Sprunger's experience, but I cannot help feeling that a teacher in some college or university has a far greater opportunity to influence young people in behalf of the Urantian philosophy as compared to the opportunities that the average minister would have in the average church. And again I must say I am influenced in this appraisal by my observation of what happened to Dr. Sprunger, and the great liberty he has had since he gave up his formal ministry and entered the teaching profession.

I feel it is a very difficult matter to try to write a letter answering the questions you bring up in this recent letter to me. If I could sit down and talk with you, I feel we could deal with this problem much more satisfactorily; in fact, if we had two or three talks it would be all the better.

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I can think of two or three ministers who are at present believers in the Urantia Book, and I know how difficult they are finding it to, in any way, with much satisfaction to themselves, introduce the teachings in their work as ministers in Protestant churches.

I well know that a great many ministers are going to embrace the teachings of the Urantia Book in the near future and they will undoubtedly go right along ministering to their churches, at least until the churches reject their ministry. But I am greatly influenced by Dr. Sprunger's great freedom, and he is much happier since he found himself released from the restrictions of his denominational pulpit and was able to enter into the almost complete freedom and unrestricted field of operation provided by his new function as a teacher.

I do wish it would be possible for me to have a personal visit with you before you finally make up your mind about this important question. I will gladly give the time at any time you find it convenient to come to Chicago to talk these matters over more fully.

Interesting that you got hold of a copy of Piloting Modern Youth.

Let us postpone the final decisions on your many years of formal training until I can have a visit with you and your wife and feel that I have done my best in advising you, which I can never feel is the case in attempting to advise you in such important matters by writing a letter.

With best wishes from all of us at Urantia headquarters, I am

Sincerely yours,

WSS:eec