

Feb. 12, 1957

Dr. Edward W. Bruesseke
235 St. Peter Street
South Bend, Indiana

Dear Ed:

I enjoyed our discussion yesterday. The following is a quotation from the Urantia Book which to a degree summarizes our discussion: "The acid test for any religious philosophy consists in whether or not it distinguishes between the realities of the material and the spiritual worlds while at the same moment recognizing their unification in intellectual striving and in social serving. A sound religious philosophy does not confound the things of God with the things of Caesar. Neither does it recognize the aesthetic cult of pure wonder as a substitute for religion." p. 1114.

I stressed the first part of this statement and you are concerned about recognizing their unification in actual expression. Actually neither can be separated from the other.

I would like to suggest that you read this entire paper, "Real Nature of Religion," pp. 1104-17. Read it with the same open mind in which you would approach a chapter in any good book on theology. You will find it worth reading.

Because of your sincerity of heart and real concern for the spiritual welfare of the church, you have great possibilities, Ed. But I am certain that your theological and professional pride are shutting you off from some of the greatest wisdom of our day. I am not urging you to accept the Urantia Book for what it claims to be - but simply to read it carefully and critically and prayerfully.

More will I say, I do not think you are chairman of our Commission on Church and Ministry by chance. Nor were you one of the first men to receive a copy of the Urantia Book after its publication simply by reason of coincident. But you have not even given it the right which God granted to Satan: an honest hearing.

No one has asked you to believe anything. We have simply asked you to give this book a complete reading and evaluate yourself. Professional pride mingled with fear and the authority of tradition have prevented you from doing this. You know that arbitrary shutting the door to possible truth has its own penalties - the Jewish priesthood in the Judgment will know about this. I pray that you may be given the courage to honestly and objectively evaluate the Urantia Book.

If after you have given the Urantia Book a complete reading you think it is worthless or worse, I shall mention it to you no more. Until that time I feel partially responsible for the possibilities of your life - for I think they are great.

Cordially yours,