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Loyd Smith Followup Letter to Saunders's July 26, 1974 Letter Regarding Young Man

Loyd L. Smith

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*Exh under
"criticism"
no ans needed*

Loyd L. Smith

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ALLEN, TEXAS 75002

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August 22, 1974

Mr. Landon B. Saunders
Fifth and Highland church of Christ
Box Number 2439
Abilene, Texas 79604

Dear Brother Saunders:

Your letter of July 26 reached me in due time. My delay in answering is not due to unconcern, but to a lack of time. I hope you will forgive me for it.

I appreciate the time and interest that prompted you to write a rather long letter. The one from whom I received your letter told me that it was one in a series. I also understood that you were trying to convince this one of God's love. That is what the whole burden of the letter is about, so one has not difficulty understanding that. I don't see where there is any mis-understanding involved in it.

In the letter in which you told of this incident, you were telling of one who had almost died in sin, and was deeply concerned about it. Since he was concerned about it, it seems to me that it would be difficult to accept the idea that he was "not at an accountable age." Yet, according to your letter, you did assure him that ^{had} he died at that time, evidently before he obeyed the gospel, he would have been all right. I think that is false teaching, for if I know anything about the Bible, I am sure that one must believe, with all that involves.

You mention the response to this matter from others. The letter has had a rather wide circulation in these parts, and I know of not one who thought it was scripturally sound. The only defense I have heard of it at all, came when a preacher who knows you, insisted that you had not correctly stated your views. This is unfortunate, for you personally, and for The Cause we all love.

When talking about the love of God, we should use Biblical terms and concepts. Even in the "golden text" of the Bible, God did not just say that he loved us enough to give His Son to die, but included faith in it. Wouldn't we do well to pattern our approach on His? Just think of the many passages that speak of His love, yet include obedience to His commands. Surely this cannot be the wrong approach.

It is very easy for one to be influenced by the thinking and wisdom of men. But we must not allow this, if we are to be faithful. You have wonderful God-given ability. I pray that you will use it to His glory, by being absolutely true to the Book. May He continue to bless you.

In Christian love,

Loyd L. Smith
Loyd L. Smith