

Tazewell, Va.
Nov. 29th 1898

Mr. Wm R. Graham

My Dear Brother:

For some time I have been very anxious about your spiritual condition. I have seen repeated evidences of intemperance on your part. I have felt greatly hurt over it, and have hardly known what to do. I am aware that the habit of drunkenness grows very rapidly and its power is very great. So great is it that numbers of people once given to drunkenness never recover from it. It is the part of wisdom never to contract the habit for drink, and where it has been contracted to break it as soon as possible. We are informed in 1 Cor. 6:10 that drunkards shall not inherit the kingdom of God. The same is evident from Gal. 5:19-21. It is well to look this fact squarely in the face, and to ask yourself: In what

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is this to terminate? The devil is seeking to destroy your soul, your influence for good, and the peace and happiness of your wife and mother and children.

You need to be watchful and prayerful against the temptation, and to avoid as far as possible the places and persons liable to lead you into the sin. Will you not call upon God for help and with all your might resist the evil, desisting from the very taste of strong drink. I do not want to see you become a drunkard.

I have great love for you and your family and for the honor of the Church to which you belong. May the Lord

help you to live a godly life. I trust that you will understand my motives in thus writing to you and advising you. May the Lord bless you and yours and enable you to overcome through Christ.
Sincerely your friend & pastor W.W. Ruff

In what is this to terminate? The devil is seeking to destroy your soul, your influence for good, and the peace and happiness of your wife and mother and children. You need to be watchful and prayerful against the temptation, and to avoid as far as possible the places and persons liable to lead you into the sin. Will you not call upon God for help and with all your might desisting the evil, resisting from the very taste of strong drink. I do not want to see you become a drunkard. I have great love for you and your family and for the honor of the church to which you belong. May the Lord help you to live a Godly life. I trust that you will understand my motives in thus writing to you and advising you. May the Lord bless you and yours and enable you to overcome through Christ.

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