

Hopkinton Aug^y 28th 1832.

To the members of the Pine St Church & Congregation -
Dear Brethren & Friends

The invitation which you, through
to become ~~Pastor~~ your Pastor & Minister which you,
through you Committee have seen fit to extend to
me, has been made the subject of serious & prayerful
consideration, the ~~result of which is that it is my duty~~
to accept of it. ~~Permit me then hereby to signify my~~
acceptance of the same. ~~In~~ As a result of such consideration
permit me to state that I have come to the conclusion that
it is my duty to comply with your wishes & would therefore
humbly signify to you my acceptance of the same.

In coming to such a conclusion I cannot but believe
that I have interpreted the indications of Divine Provi-
-dence aright & that my labors among you will therefore
be crowned by the divine blessing. At least I am certain
that ~~no other~~ ^{with my youth, my wants & experience & it} ~~consideration~~ ^{it} would not dare to place
myself in a situation of such importance, had not God in
his Providence seemed to have plainly marked it out as
duty. It has ever been a maxim with me that God never
devolves ~~several~~ duties on his friends without intending at
the same time to give them all that direction & grace which
will enable them to discharge them to his acceptance & honor,
as well as with success & With this maxim therefore in view
& believing also that I ~~has~~ ^{am} plainly made it my duty to
come among you I feel ready to enter upon ^{my field of labor} ~~the discharge~~
of duties from which I should otherwise shrink, believing that

fully persuaded that the same God which I trust has called me to this field of labor, will give me all ~~the~~ aid & sustain & bless me in all the duties that shall devolve upon me in it.

~~I am aware~~
You invite me you say, "to take charge of a Missionary Enterprise" rather than "a large & wealthy ch^h" an enterprise therefore which calls for arduous labor on the part of the Pastor, both as it respects the business of preaching & Pastoral visitation. I trust I am fully aware of this. Whether I shall fully meet your expectations in this respect remains yet to be seen. Be this as it may, I have no hesitation in saying that you probably ~~have~~ do not feel the importance of incessant & untiring labor in both these respects ~~than~~ more fully than I do. This consideration alone has led me at times almost to shrink from the undertaking ~~to which you~~ but then I have remembered my mission - that with the duty God will give the strength & assistance necessary for its discharge. Besides, I have been not a little emboldened to enter upon it by the consideration th^t you do not invite me "to engage in this enterprise single handed"; but that you "pledge" me "your Cooperation & support & engage also continually to remember me in your prayers". In the hope ~~that~~ ~~this~~ ~~is~~ ~~not~~ ~~believed~~ ~~th^t~~ ~~this~~ ~~pledge~~ ~~will~~ ~~be~~ ~~most~~ ~~fully~~ ~~reclaimed~~, I cannot but believe th^t my hands will be stayed up & that the blessing of God our Savior will crown our ~~various~~ ~~labors~~ with abund^t success -

You further express your pleasure ~~in~~ the belief that I am "disposed to call no man master" in regard to my views of relig^{ion} ~~and~~ ~~your~~ ~~reference~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~authority~~ ~~of~~ ~~Scripture~~ ~~truth~~. On this topic, permit me to say that in the fullest sense, I do "call no man master" in this matter. But while I say this I do not mean to say that all ~~the~~ ~~deductions~~ ~~of~~ ~~enlightened~~

& unbiassed reason or wh^t is the same, of plain unsophisticated
common sense are to be set aside as useless or worse than
useless. On the contrary I regard them as of vast importance - not
indeed by way of authority, - ~~In this In this~~ for here the Bible
claims preeminence & stands alone; but as a means of illustrating
& explaining ~~& defending~~ ~~again~~ the authoritative doctrines of the
Bible & defending them also against the Cavils & objections of the
Sceptics & unbelievers.

And farther in saying that I call no man master in this
matter, I mean not simply, that I hold myself at liberty to
~~differ~~ ² from any man whose opinions seem to me to be error-
-ous, but that I equally hold myself at liberty to agree with
any man, whatever his name, or whatever the opinion of
others may be of him, ~~to~~ to agree with just so far as his
views seem to me to be according to the truth.

In conclusion then
In regard to the conditions of settlement, I wish to propose
no alterations. ^{I would however} ~~farther than~~ to request a resumption of
four weeks annually as a vacation from my labors
should my health or other Circumstances render it expedient
~~the pulpit in the manner which I am willing to see the~~
~~pulpit supplied~~ Should you be disposed to grant my request
it will of course be received with gratitude.

Praying that God our Savior will ~~sanction~~ ~~continue~~
~~second~~ ~~of~~ our anticipated connexion with the richest
spiritual blessings of his grace I remain
yrs in the fellowship of the gospel
Amos A. Phelps

Answer to the
Invitation to
Pine St Aug²⁸ 1832.