2-12-1970

From/To: David Davidson (Chalk's reply filed first)

David Davidson
February 12, 1970

Mr. David Davidson
Church of Christ
405 West 7th Street
West Columbia, Tennessee

Dear brother Davidson:

Brother E. R. Harper has just passed on to me a letter of yours written to him on November 13, 1969. Since your letter concerns me and my attitudes on two subjects, I thought it best that I write directly to you. Brother Harper also suggested that I do this.

I have not "repudiated the document." That "document" is attached to this letter. When you have read it as it was originally published and signed by those whose names are on the copy, you will see why there would be absolutely no reason for any kind of repudiation.

Secondly, I have never placed "undue emphasis on the racial matters," as you suggested in your letter. The sermons I preached on race during July of 1968 are public record. Those sermons were approved by the elders at the time they were presented on Herald of Truth radio and have the continuing support of the Highland elders. I have enclosed copies of those sermons for your consideration. Because of their Biblical content and because of the clear preaching of God's word to the idolatry of racism, I can see no reason for my making any change, or even considering any kind of "repentance" regarding my convictions in these matters. I believe exactly as I believed then and I stand by those sermons.

Third, you question my teaching regarding the Holy Spirit. I know absolutely nothing about the Holy Spirit except what the Bible teaches me. I have never sought nor experienced any kind of miraculous operation of the Holy Spirit that would either be a salvation experience, as taught by the denominations, or a mysterious message that would be an addition to the revelation in God's word. I do believe all the Bible teaches about the Holy Spirit.
If you want to know more of what I teach about the Holy Spirit, you may read one of the chapters in a new book of mine being published this month by Biblical Research Press, here in Abilene, this month. The book is entitled Jesus' Church, and can be purchased at your local Bookstore, should you desire the truth about my personal convictions on these matters.

David, I am deeply concerned about the way brethren take second and third-handed reports as a basis for deciding whether they will consider a brother "sound" or whether they will continue to support a ministry like Herald of Truth. I noticed that nothing in your letters suggest either direct information from my pen or mouth, nor information from the person who heard me or read something I wrote that is contrary to the truth. All of the sermons I have preached in the Highland pulpit since August 1, 1969, and even those I preached here during the three and one-half years I was on Herald of Truth radio, are available for any interested parties. It is absolutely un-Christian for my brothers to crucify me and destroy Herald of Truth on the basis of hearsay testimony.

Thank you for your continued support of Herald of Truth. Thank you for your deep personal concern for the program's continued effectiveness. Thank you for encouraging West 7th to not only continue supporting the program, but to increase that support. If you have further questions that I can answer, I will be glad to hear from you.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk
JAC:le
Mr. E. R. Harper  
2143 South 5th Street  
Abilene, Texas

Dear brother Harper:

As you know churches in this area dropped support to the Herald of Truth because of Brother Chalk's undue emphasis on the racial matters and his unfortunate signing of the Atlanta document. Brother Hardin Hill, one of our elders, is endeavoring to get support restored by those churches who had dropped the program from their budgets, but he is encountering some resistance. It seems that the problem is that John Allen is still employed by the Highland Church, and some are yet a bit suspicious as to what the elders might allow on the program in the future. It is thought that if Brother Chalk has repudiated the Atlanta document and has proven repentant of his part in promoting racial issues, more of the congregations in this area will restore their support to the Herald of Truth. To your knowledge, has he ever repudiated publicly or privately the above mentioned document?

Another question has been raised as to his ideas and teachings concerning the operation of the Holy Spirit. One of the elders of another congregation here in the city said that he had been informed that brother Chalk believed and taught that the Holy Spirit operates in some fashion upon man separate and apart from the Word. If you have any information concerning this matter, we would like a letter of explanation and clarification from you. Keep in mind that this information may be used publicly or privately to prove or disprove the matters mentioned. Possibly you wonder why these questions are raised about brother Chalk since he is no longer on the program. Elders of some of the congregations feel that if he is not sound on these matters, elders at Highland are not worthy of the confidence of the churches in the brotherhood to support this work, if they employ such persons for the pulpit. These questions have been propounded lately by one of the congregations that continues to be adamant in its stand against restoring support to the Herald of Truth.
I hope you will receive this letter in the spirit of genuine and beloved concern in which it is written. I, personally, have the utmost confidence in the elders at Highland, and certainly in the man that they now have speaking on the Herald of Truth program.

You will be pleased to know also that the support of West Seventh Street congregation has never been decreased, but rather increased, and the Lord willing, this support shall continue.

Yours in Him,

David D. Davidson

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