
John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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To: Charles Van Eaton

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January 15, 1971

Dr. Charles Van Eaton
Department of Economics
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Chuck:

What a thrill it was to talk with you just a few minutes ago. Thank you for continuing to remember me and especially for reaching out to me regarding the Park Street work. At this point, I do not see how I can really consider the move, and especially in view of my present confusion about continuing to work for the institutional church, but I am open to what the Lord does out of this and every other situation as well.

The materials I have enclosed regarding "Midnight Cowboy" may need some explanation. The original story appeared on Friday of our local paper. I had simply been asked by the newspaper movie critic to see the movie and to prepare a written statement regarding it. This I did and in an hour long conversation with the other two reviewers and the critic, discussed the movie. I had no idea that it would become a front page story with our pictures. Nevertheless the next day there it was. By Sunday I had determined the best thing to do was to make a statement to the congregation because of the immediate uproar it caused. Many honest souls were hurt and for that I was extremely regretful. That explains the first two pages of the sermon I have also enclosed, and it also explains why I attempted to help the congregation understand "the Christian's response to an immoral world."

The reaction throughout the brotherhood has been extremely heavy. I have enclosed a copy of that part of Ira Rice's monthly newsletter that deals with this matter and also a copy of the bulletin sent from ~~from~~ Port Arthur congregation all over the country. As a result of all of this reaction, the Highland Elders decided it would be best to make a special report to the more than nine hundred men throughout the country who help raise funds for the Herald of Truth. The questions and answers I have enclosed were prepared by the Elders and sent to this special mailing list of Herald of Truth workers.

Page 2, Dr. Charles Van Eaton

The controversy continues to be fanned by some of my enemies but I continue to feel the peace of God and the certainty of my relationship with Him through Christ. Out of it all, I am sure something good will come.

It was a pleasure hearing from you. I look forward to a time when we can be together.

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk

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