

5-3-1971

From/To: Larry Calvin (Chalk's reply filed first)

Larry Calvin

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May 3, 1971

Mr. Larry Calvin
Western Hills Church of Christ
8800 Chapin Road
Fort Worth, Texas 76116

Dear Larry:

I appreciated your response to my resignation. It revealed your usual deep sensitivity to the Lord and His leadership.

If one thing stands out in my recent decision it is that Sue and I came to a settled conviction that this was right and that the Lord's will would be worked through us and on through this decision. Our future is totally open. I have made no commitments that would dictate the designs of the rest of my life, contrary to decisions I have made in the past. I believe that the Lord is going to do some beautiful things in the days ahead. My only advice to you is to practice Colossians 2:6,7, and daily do what you believe His will for you in that day (Ephesians 5:17).

I will look forward to keeping in touch with you and treasure the times when the Lord may bring us together.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:lc

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LARRY CALVIN, MINISTER

Dear John Allen,

I can't express to you my emotional response to your letter. I had the typical "mixed" emotions that we hear so much about. I was saddened because I believe we are losing one of the greatest Biblical expositors of all time when you leave the pulpit.

But, I'm in total sympathy with you. In fact, your letter came right on the heels of what was almost my resignation here. I did agree to stay, but I feel like I'm postponing the inevitable. I'm certain that the Lord is leading me toward a "secular" ministry of some sort eventually. I just don't feel comfortable in the "pail Pastor" role, though I'm going to try to make it work for a while longer.

John, I wish you & your family God's very best in your future pursuits. I knew that He has used you mightily, and I know that He'll continue to do so.

I, too, am very concerned about the sterility and impotence among us, as you know from previous talks & letters. I'm convinced that God's ability to work in any of our lives is far greater than He'll ever be able to work as long as we're squeezed in by the brotherhood "paster" mold. I almost cry when I hear in the same day that you & Dwayne Evans have resigned to enter secular work. But I fully understand your reasoning.

I vacillate daily on this problem.

One day I think: "Hang in there! If you drop out, your voice will never be heard and there'll never be an end to the sterility, if everyone drops out."

The next day, I think: "Quit fooling yourself! You're not gonna be heard anyway. If you get to a point where you might be listened to, someone will ate you, and a lifetime of work will instantly be hurt immeasurably. Look at Jesus. He left the Pharisees who wouldn't listen and worked with the sinners who would."

As you see I'm a very mixed up young man as regards my ministry in God's Kingdom. I only know that whether preaching, teaching or picking up garbage, I want to do it for Jesus. What I will be doing for Him 6 months, a year, two years

from now — that's another question
altogether.

Anyway, you've got ample problems
of your own to deal with, without listening
to mine. I just wanted you to know that I
do understand your decision, and pray God's
richest blessings upon you & your family
in your pursuits.

I praise God for your past
and for what I know He'll accomplish
in and through you in the future.

In Christ,
Larry