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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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9-1-1966

To: Ellie Spencer

John Allen Chalk

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September 1, 1966

Miss Ellie Spencer  
1406 Seminole  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Miss Spencer:

It was a genuine pleasure to become acquainted with you during the recent Campaign for Christ in Madison, Wisconsin. I found my conversation with you one evening following our service highly stimulating and enjoyable. Your own frankness and willingness to talk about religious matters made me appreciate you and your depth of understanding.

I indicated to you, however, that you were without necessary and full information regarding the authorship and dates of New Testament books and indicated that I would send you the names, the authors and titles of books that you might want to consider to provide you better information about this important area.

One well-recognized work is by Edward Beaman, An Introduction to the New Testament, published by Westminster Press in Philadelphia. This book was written in 1931, and the author is considered a liberal. He, however, makes clear that the New Testament by the men traditionally considered the authors and during the time of the first century.

Another work that is conservative in nature is by Merrill Tenny, New Testament Survey, published by Eerdmans Publishing Company in 1961. Dr. Tenny is a recognized scholar of our day. He also assigns the authorship and dates to the New Testament books which are in agreement with Mr. Beaman's conclusions.

A more liberal work that in some cases, according to my judgment, errs, and would provide some support for your contention, is by Dr. G. W. Wade, The Documents of the New Testament. This is an older work, however, being published in 1934 by Thomas Murby Company of London. Dr. Wade is an Anglican and therefore would be acceptable to you. He does, in the majority of the books in the New Testament, assign the traditional authors and dates. In only a few of the books does he err. Especially I would suggest in regard to I, II, and III John and some of the pastoral epistles is this true. Otherwise even this work is in agreement with the suggestions I made to you during our conversation.

Unfortunately, in our day it is a highly popular thing to criticize religion, and especially the conservative belief in the inspiration and integrity of the

Miss Ellie Spencer  
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Old and New Testament scriptures. However, archeology and textual criticism, along with other scholarly pursuits of our day, have made it plainer by the day that we do have a book of integrity that can be accepted in the Bible.

Sincerely yours,

John Allen Chalk

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