

2-26-1969

From/To: John Dale (Chalk's reply filed first)

John Dale

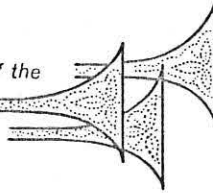
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February 26, 1969

Mr. John Dale
Christian Student Center
Murray, Kentucky

Dear John:

I appreciated so much your note of January 2 following the Campus Evangelism Seminar in Dallas. Your letter communicated a warm, Christ-like spirit that I have seen displayed on a number of other occasions as well.

Only within the last week has one of your statements come to have real meaning for me. I refer to these words: "If I can ever be worth 2¢ to you in any way, I want to."

John, you evidently have personal knowledge of what happened at the Freed-Hardeman College Lectureship Open Forum. Carl Holladay, Jere Hargrove and I have listened very carefully to the tapes of both the Monday and Thursday sessions. The charges made against me personally, as well as against the seminar in general by brother B.B. James, were highly unfortunate and untrue, according to all the information I possess. The band who played for the banquet was not a "hippie" band in any sense of the word. Only one of these young men had hair any longer than most of the men I see these days. He is a young man who was baptized into Christ only two months before the seminar. The songs sung by the band were brotherhood, love, peace, and good will songs, even though the words could not be heard by many in the audience. I do not see how we can reject this kind of message, especially in view of the use of pop music to push drugs, sex, and other illicit activities. The unquestioning way in which the fact that "an exceedingly well-known gospel preacher" introduced such a group denies the very nature of the church into which all people and all nations flow (Isaiah 2:2,3). I was deeply alarmed at the fact that evidently a "hippie" could not be a Christian, or else my introduction of such a group would not have been the kind of sin that caused men in the FHC audience to charge whether I should be "marked" as a false teacher or not.

Of course, I do not know all that went on in all of the sessions of the seminar. I did not hear any of the other remarks you say were said at the seminar. Would you please give class, subject, and name of the teacher which were involved in the specific errors brother James referred to, to Jim Bevis? Would you please do that immediately?

I deeply regret that the only things said by brother James and brother Woods about the Campus Evangelism Seminar were critical. I do hope that brother James' representation of the seminar did not arise out of your remarks to him; if so, I hope that in some way you can honestly relate to him the good things that were accomplished and the profound, Biblical teaching that was done at a depth level by the major speakers.

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John, this is a time when all of us must do everything we can to reach out to the lost with the gospel. I respect you and your work with students. I deeply regret the way that good men have had the doors of almost a thousand churches closed in their faces because of the FHC incident. I do not fear for a lack of opportunity to serve God; I fear for the judgment of God upon those who made judgments at the Freed-Hardeman Lectures on the basis of hearsay evidence. Anything you can do to help bring a more truthful view of the Dallas seminar to brother James will be appreciated personally by me.

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk
Radio Evangelist

JAC:hm

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1-2-68



Dear John Allen,

Just a note to let you know that we appreciate so very much your part in the C.E. Seminar, but especially do we appreciate your taking the time to meet with our group before the face-to-face evangelism. Just your presence meant a great deal & what you said meant so much by way of encouragement.

You will be interested to know that Don Karamanagh was baptized after we got back. James Gantt had talked at length to him in Dallas; others had talked and prayed and hoped. I wish you could have been there. We met at 11:30 P.M. (Dec. 31) at the 7th & Poplar church bldg. for the service. We sang, prayed, cried, laughed, shared our experiences with some

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who couldn't go and then Don was baptized. I've never spent a new year's eve like this one; I never want to spend one any other way.

The zeal is really alive here. I hope and pray it stays alive and grows and we are able to carry over and make practical use of our knowledge and zeal.

Thanks again for your kindness. Please plan to come see us. If I can ever be worth 2¢ to you in any way, I want to.

Best wishes for the New Year.

Saying So,
John Dale