
John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

4-10-1969

To: Dan Huffstutter

John Allen Chalk

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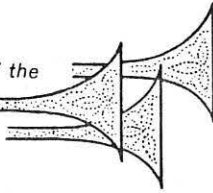
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HERALD OF TRUTH
Radio and Television Programs

April 10, 1969

Mr. Dan Huffstutter
248 North Fairground
Jackson, Tennessee

Dear Dan:

Thank you for asking me about the Atlanta meeting during the recent Youth Meeting in Trenton. I remember your asking the question regarding the "creed" and the "public apology for the Church of Christ concerning racists." Dan, you're aware that a creed concerns a statement of faith or a dogma that is considered to be doctrinally correct. This statement did not even discuss Biblical doctrines involved in the present race controversy, and there are many of them. Passages like Ephesians 2:11-22; Colossians 3:1-11; and Galatians 3:26-28 demand, as well as Matthew 22:35-40, that we take a more positive, constructive attitude regarding present racial tensions in America. In the second place, Dan, your information is incorrect regarding this statement being "a public apology for the Church of Christ." All of us who signed this statement are members of churches of Christ. This means that we can speak about conditions in churches of Christ. We spoke about the condition of the sin of discrimination. If you will notice carefully the statement nowhere mentions that this is a condition in "all" churches of Christ. Rather, it was a statement regarding the churches we know, and a statement regarding our own feelings of guilt about the present situation. The thing that puzzles me, Dan, is that so many people would have become upset about this statement when, if their own attitudes were right, and many of our local congregations were open to men and women of all races and classes who would become Christians, there would be no need for this tension. If you are in a church doing all it ought to be doing to preach the gospel of Christ to all men and receive all men who respond to the gospel, then that congregation has no need to fear or react negatively to the Atlanta statement. Third, your misinformation regards the Herald of Truth. I did not go as a representative of the Herald of Truth. The Highland church had two of her elders there. One of those elders has positively and repeatedly stated that he came under conviction of his own sin of racism to attend the Atlanta meeting. Both of those men approved the sermons I presented last summer on Herald of Truth regarding racism. A bound volume of those sermons is enclosed with this letter, as well as other material I am sending you.

Mr. Dan Huffstutter
April 10, 1969
Page 2

Enclosed you will find the actual statement signed at Atlanta by a number of us attending that meeting. Five of the conference participants did not sign the statement, including the two elders of the Highland church, because they were connected with ministries or good works of various kinds that would have made their endorsement sound like an endorsement by their particular ministry or association.

I hope that by reading the four sermons on racism in the "Three American Revolutions" volume I am sending you, and by reading carefully the statement, you will come to a more informed and Christian view of these particular matters. I consider it a privilege to share this information with you. I believe you to be a fair and spiritually minded young man who wants to be in absolute surrender to Jesus as Lord.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk
Radio Evangelist

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Enclosures