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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

2-25-1969

From: Tim Tucker

Tim Tucker

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David Lipscomb College

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37203

February 25, 1969

Mr. John Allen Chalk
Herald of Truth
P.O. Box 2439
Abilene, Texas 79604

Dear John Allen:

Brother, I appreciate still our brief visit while you were in Nashville. It appears that Hugh Trigg and I will not be able to arrange an exchange. His teaching dates at Abilene are July 13-August 22, and these do not fit into our other plans at all. I've talked with Bobby and Carole Demonbreun in Atlanta the last two nights and I'm very excited about your move there in July. Several of our seniors are trying to go to Atlanta for the fall, including Bob Holmes as well as Gary Hundley, Ron Kleine, and the President of the student body, Marty Rothschild.

The thing at Freed-Hardeman was unfortunate, wasn't it? The more I think about it the more I approach the conclusion that the part we will have the greatest difficulty in forgetting is the attack of the band. All the other allegations are impersonal--they are largely words and phrases--and any debate over them will remain in the area of the rational. But the attack on the band is something highly personal, totally irrational, and involves primarily the emotional in us. The Lord will probably judge us by our capacity to forbear the weaknesses of brethren with whom we disagree. We as young people are probably going to witness the true depth of Christ's love for the weak. Yet, of all the allegations made it seems to me that this one--the attack on the band--goes to the heart of a real "issue" the church--the lack of sensitivity to personhood. We must point out ^{in such cases} that something held most sacred has been profaned. Somehow we must be accepted as we are--all the scriptures about eating meat, etc., notwithstanding.

demonstrate more forbearance if we are

I appreciate your inquiry about sovereignty. Again, probably the best analysis of thinking about the political relationship in every historical setting is a political theory textbook, George H. Sabine's History of Political Theory (New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 3rd ed., 1961). Studies on the problem of sovereignty per se include at least Harold J. Laski, Studies in the Problem of Sovereignty (New Haven, 1917), Bertrand de Jouvenel, Sovereignty: An Inquiry into the Political Good (Chicago, 1957), and Robert H. Lowie, The Origin of the



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State (New York, 1962). The doctrines of freedom and responsibility are assuming an importance of major proportions in our present situation in the Church--especially the latter. I never thought seriously about the Christian doctrine of freedom until you and others called my attention to it last year. We are in need, I think, of more guidance from the scriptures on the doctrine of responsibility--how to discharge our burdens, which burdens to assume, etc. The critical need for this has come upon us (or at least upon me) almost before we were very much aware of its presence in the teachings of Christ. This entire problem in American history is treated ably in Ralph Henry Gabriel's, The Course of American Democratic Thought (New York, 2nd ed., 1956), which deals primarily with the doctrine of the free individual. To a lesser extent Eric F. Goldman's Rendezvous with Destiny (Vintage, 1956), shows how American intellectuals discharged their responsibilities. Stanley M. Elkins, Slavery: A Problem in American Intellectual and Institutional Life (Universal Library, 1963), interprets the response of American intellectuals to that institution in a unique way.

Paul Phillips sends his regards to you. We're praying for you, Brother, and pray for us, too.

Yours in Him,

Tim Tucker

Tim Tucker

P.S. Can you send me copies of the October-December sermons on these general themes? I hope you will get them bound as you did the summer sermons. Thanks for my copy of them.

TT/rp

sorry - bad secretary