

11-2-1970

From/To: James A. Coulson (Chalk's reply filed first)

James A. Coulson

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November 2, 1970

C
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Y

Dr. James A. Coulson
5051 North Central Park Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60625

Dear Brother Coulson:

Thank you so much for your stirring letter to the Highland elders of October 22. I appreciated the genuine concern revealed and above all appreciated your willingness to share this conviction. There are many people across the country who feel as strongly as you do, but most of them never seem to get around to expressing it. This often means that the loudest voices heard are those of the detractors.

The Highland elders are attempting to be faithful with their task. They never even suggested or hinted at my leaving the Herald of Truth radio program. I decided that more than eight months before I did officially terminate my work with the program, because of my desire to go to graduate school. At the last minute the elders prevailed on me to stay here and preach for the local congregation which, in itself, is a vote of confidence.

I do feel that I am being wrongfully accused in various parts of the country by people like Ira Rice. I regret this but realize this is not the first time it has happened, either to me or many others. I am sure you can understand the dynamics of such a situation. Pray with me that God will continue to work in my life and that God will continue to bring my spirit into subjection to His Spirit and that the beautiful truth, that is, Jesus Christ may be gloriously demonstrated in all that I say and do.

We continue to be concerned about the ministry of the Downtown congregation and send you our love and prayers.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:lc

Church of Christ Downtown

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October 22, 1970

Mr. A. L. Haddox, Elder
Highland Church of Christ
South Fifth and Highland
Abilene, Texas 79605

Dear Brother Haddox:

Your letter of October 9, 1970 concerning John Allen Chalk arrived while I was making preparations for my father's funeral; thus my delay in answering.

I have served (faithfully I trust) as a key man in the Herald of Truth ministry for some time. Thus, will you permit me, as one vitally interested in the Highland Church and the Herald of Truth ministry to speak frankly.

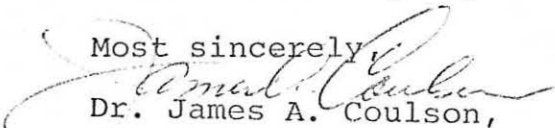
Your letter upset me a great deal. When it was presented to the Downtown Church, their reaction was the same as mine. We sincerely feel that the letter was completely out of place. We feel that the brilliant mind and abilities of John Allen have been abused. The series of radio sermons that apparently caused his dismissal as radio speaker were vitally needed thoughts for these times. Rather than bow to the wishes of a few why could we not continue to rely upon God and the fact that He could bless Herald of Truth even without some close-minded brethren's financial support.

It appears from your letter that John Allen is again being offered upon the altar to appease one "axe swinging" brother who seems to believe that he is the only salvation of the Church. It was in the "axe swingers" scandal sheet that I first read of John Allen's having seen "Midnight Cowboy." I completely agreed with the things that John Allen had to say. It is about time that men of God are making comments upon what millions of Americans are viewing. I am grateful that he saw "Midnight Cowboy" and made such remarks.

As for the marriage ceremony it seems to us that to even comment upon it is to give aid to the scandalmongers.

The Downtown Church agrees with me that John Allen Chalk is one of the most exciting and useful men in the Church of our age. May God give him the grace to rise above the petty little things that are being thrown in his way and may he and the Highland Church be used to the glory of our God.

Most sincerely,


Dr. James A. Coulson,
Minister

"THE FRIENDLY CHURCH IN THE HEART OF THE CITY"