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John Allen Chalk

11-14-1966

To: James Walter Nichols from Don Haymes

Don Haymes

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436 Williams Avenue, Apt. 16
East New York
Brooklyn, New York
11207

14 November 66

Mr. James Walter Nichols
Christian Chronicle
P.O. Box 1739
Abilene, Texas

Dear Mr. Nichols:

It seems that you and i have a problem. At least, that's what i hear. Dwain Evans related to me yesterday a conversation he had had with you, in which you indicated displeasure and concern over remarks about "continuing revelation," among other things, which i had made in what was supposed to be a confidential conversation with John Allen Chalk and Walter Burch.

First, let me indicate to you what should be plainly evident even to a three-year-old imbecile: neither Dwain Evans nor the West Islip church is responsible for what i believe, nor should they be. They should not be held accountable for it. Only i am accountable, and that was the context of my conversation with John and Walter.

The speculations and conclusions which i discussed with John and Walter are the result of vigorous study of the Scriptures. They are also very, very tentative; i prefaced my remarks by saying that much more study will be required, and this study continues daily.

What really concerns me at this point, Mr. Nichols, is your attitude toward me as a brother in Christ. If Matthew 18 is in any way normative, your duty in this matter was to come to me first with your complaint, rather than Dwain. i am, quite frankly, offended that you did not do so.

i will be willing to meet with you whenever you are in New York. i have nothing to hide, and i am willing to submit to your instruction if you find me in error. You, on the other hand, have an obligation to hear my views at first-hand and in their entirety before marching around the brotherhood complaining of my "error." If you want to complain about what i have in print, that's another matter--although i feel you should still communicate directly with me. But i resent your complaint on the basis of hearsay.

i look forward to a face-to-face conversation.

A fellow traveler on His way,

don haymes

cc; Walter Burch, John A. Chalk, Dwain Evans