

6-15-1966

From: Dwain Evans (enclosures)

Dwain Evans

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/hst-chalk-personal>

Recommended Citation

Evans, D. (1966). From: Dwain Evans (enclosures). Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/hst-chalk-personal/2970>

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the John Allen Chalk at Scholar Works at Harding. It has been accepted for inclusion in John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Scholar Works at Harding. For more information, please contact scholarworks@harding.edu.



THE CHURCH

IN WEST ISLIP

CHURCH OF CHRIST • 600 MONTAUK HIGHWAY • WEST ISLIP, LONG ISLAND, N. Y. 11795 • 516 JU 7-1155

June 15, 1966

Mr. John Allen Chalk
P. O. Box 574
Cookeville, Tenn.

Dear John Allen:

I thought you might be interested in this letter which Brother Harper sent me and my reply to him. I'm afraid that Brother Harper does not grant me even the slightest possibility of being correct in my understanding of the scriptures, but I pray that we can be able to search together the meaning and the significance of what Christ really says.

As I have said before, I firmly believe that this is no time to retreat. May God give us the courage to speak for Him. I am praying for you continually.

Yours and His,



Dwain Evans

DE/dh

Encl.

June 15, 1966

AIR MAIL -- SPECIAL DELIVERY

Mr. E. R. Harper
Church of Christ
Fifth & Highland St.
Abilene, Texas

Dear Brother Harper:

In accord with your suggestion, the elders have given me the privilege of meeting you in Nashville on June 24. I will arrive in Nashville on American Airlines Flight No. 33 at 11:10 a. m. I will be able to visit with you until 6:00 or 7:00 p. m. that evening.

I appreciate your love and your concern. I assure you that I have a very strong respect for the authority of God's Word. I am a searcher of the truth of my Lord. I want to do what He wants me to do and be what He wants me to be. I have no desire to say or teach anything except that which He has Himself revealed.

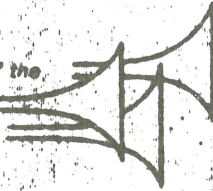
I will look forward to our discussion together. I would appreciate it if you could confirm this for me. May God's blessings be with you as you preach in Arkansas and in Tennessee.

Yours in the Way,

Dwain Evans

DE/dh

OR 4-5247 • BOX 2439 • ABILENE, TEXAS 79804



June 9, 1966

Mr. Dwain Evans
Church of Christ
600 Menauk Highway
West Islip, Long Island, N.Y. 11795

Dear Dwain:

Your good letter came today, and I was glad to hear from you. I am sorry you could not meet me in Nashville as planned. I was so anxious to be with you and to discuss some things.

You asked that I fly from Nashville there. I will be flying back to Lufkin, Texas, for a lectureship for three nights the week following my meeting in Nashville and cannot therefore make this trip.

Dwain, it was not my suggestion that I talk to you. It was the suggestion of the elders. They asked me to do this. They insisted that I should come talk to you to which I agreed I would.

Now, I do not care to come there and meet with all of you as though I am trying to tell you brethren what to do or how to run your affairs. I have been in most of the discussions of the church for the past 30 years when hobbies arose that would disturb the church. I made it a fight of principle and not an attack upon individuals until it was forced to a discussion of this kind involving them.

Dwain, I just wanted to sit down with you, as a young man whom I love very devotedly and just talk over some things that I feel are hurting you and will continue to hurt you in the great work you have so wonderfully accomplished. I have spoken of you in so many places, showing what you and those with you have done. You have been a great inspiration to me and many others. I just do not want to see this hurt and I believe it has been.

I believe just the two of us sitting down together without others around to cause the discussions to become "heated" could accomplish so much more. I do not want a tape made of it that I may say, "But here is what he said," or "Here is what Harper said," not at this point, Dwain. I am not

Mr. Dwain Evans

Page 2

June 6, 1966

hard. I talk with people kindly and this you and I could do, for I have profound respect for the kind of young man you are and the dedication that Barbara has as a young Christian girl, wife, and devoted mother. You two are the kind of young people anyone could be proud of in an age like this or any age. I united you in marriage, enjoyed the hospitality of your home on my trip to Europe, and I do not want the impression to go out that I am taking it on myself or that the church here is sending me up there to set you brethren right.

I feel you have made a mistake, but I want us to come together on these things and not to ruin young men dedicated to the Lord as you mean to be.

I am over the country and I know the lecture here at Abilene and Detroit, and other places is causing a little discussion. If we could all come together on this it would be such a great and wonderful accomplishment for the Lord's cause just now. We have had enough trouble and I hope this does not reach the point of dividing the church. Dwain, this bids fair to do more harm to the unity of the church than premillennials, or this anti-cooperation fight has ever done. I feel much caution should be manifested and the unity of the Lord's people be preserved if at all possible without having to compromise the truth.

I do not blame you for preaching what you honestly believe to be the truth, but Dwain, BE CERTAIN that this that you believe to be the working of what you call the "indwelling of the Spirit within you", that you are right on this and that you have not become over-excited in this affair because of the great success you and the brethren there are having. I could relate great victories for truth that I have seen, and I might make great claims of many kinds about it, but I must be certain that my claims can be substantiated by truth and by demonstrations of God's power if I am called in question.

I am wondering if you could yet meet me in Nashville and let us discuss this as a father would discuss these things with a son. I appreciate what you have to say about my ability in things of this kind, but Dwain, you younger men have had greater opportunity than have I to arrive at the truths of the Bible much faster than it was mine to do.

I leave here Monday of next week for a week in Arkansas and then on to Nashville for the meeting. You might write me by return mail if you can still come, or call me.

You see Dwain, I have never failed your inlaws in their requests for me to help them with their people who were not

Ar. Dwain Evans
Page 3
June 6, 1966

Christians, but have gone every time and have baptized them. I do not want them to feel I am trying to hurt you, for certainly I would not hurt a young man like you if at all possible not to do. Should this Holy Spirit issue come to the front as a battle in the church again, then of course we will have to deal with individuals in answering their lectures, books, and actions. THIS we do not want to happen. Please accept this as coming from a man nearing his seventies and one who is vitally interested in you and your future for the cause of our Master, for you have great ability to be used for Him. Give Barbara and the children my love.

Kindly yours,

E. R. Harper

P. S. Dwain, I called Brother Chalk in and read him this letter and asked him, as a young man, how this letter seemed to him. It is hard for a man my age to still remember how youth is, but I try. I wanted it to be in the right spirit.

Now when this was over he told me of his conversation with you and your fears regarding our meeting. This I can understand, Dwain. I asked him if he cared for my telling you that we had this conversation, for I appreciated getting your reason for wanting to change the meeting. I was afraid it might be that you thought I might use it to say, "This is what Dwain Evans said to me."

Dwain, you have this letter with my promise that I will not divulge our conversation, except to the elders here who have asked me to come. I have no motives in this meeting save to discuss these things with you as a Christian. Should I violate this promise to you, I feel you know it would but hurt me. If you can believe this and wish to come to Nashville, I shall be happy to see you.