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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

2-8-1967

From/To: Clyde Nealy (Chalk's reply filed first)

Clyde Nealy

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February 8, 1967

Mr. Clyde Nealy
P. O. Box 1297
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Nealy:

Thank you so much for your very kind letter of January 29. I deeply appreciated all the remarks made therein. It was a real joy to read your remarks based on God's word.

Thank you for the material you sent. I will be especially looking forward to the next in the series by Gordon Olsonabbat which I asked in my first letter. Until then, I wish you the very best.

Sincerely yours,

John Allen Chalk
Radio Speaker

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P
P.O. Box 1297
Chicago, Illinois 60690
January 29, 1967

Dear Brother Chalk:

"For God gave us not a spirit of fearfulness; but of power and love and discipline" 2 Tim. 1:7. How wonderful is our God unto us in all His ways. It is He "...who gives us richly all things to enjoy" III Tim. 6:17. The concept of the world is that our God deprives us of every "good" thing when we live for Him, but we know rather that He has simply turned us from the beggarly elements of the world so He might bless us with the true riches, which are all in Jesus. This is what Peter preached in Acts 3:26, and we know by our own experience how true it is. How great is our God.

Your letter of Jan. 24 has been received, and I will answer it at this time. Regarding the matter of the rest of the series of books by Gordon Olson, the one you have read (The Moral Government of God) is the first put out, and is the only one ready at the moment. However, the second is suppose to soon be sent to the printer, and will send you a copy as soon as it is ready, whenever that may be. Meanwhile, we will send you some other literature you may find a blessing. Will not send it all at once, but from time to time, so it will not overload you all at once.

We hear much about the joy we have in Jesus, and we truly do have an abundant joy in our Lord, but the Bible also speaks much about God delighting in His people. Such as in Prov. 11:20, "...but such as are perfect in their ways are His delight". And it must be possible to be perfect in our ways; or these words mean nothing, and we know God does not speak idle words. Then there is Zeph. 3:17, "Jehovah thy God is in the midst of thee, a mighty One who will save; He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His kk love; He will joy over thee with singing". Oh, how this should cause us even more to want always to do that which pleases Him, for we surely are not worthy of such joy as He does bestow upon us, But Jesus is worthy. And in Isaiah 62:4 we read where God has a new name for His people, even Hephzibah, which means "My delight is in her". Just before that it spoke of our being a crown of beauty, and a royal diadem in the hand of our God. All this is only because we have been washed in the blood of the Lamb, and renewed in the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments. We don't obey Jesus because we are trying to work our way to heaven, or because of fear of punishment if we don't, or because we are trying to prove we love Him, but we obey Jesus because we do kk love Him.

Was talking with a man one day who may a comment which sums up pretty well what most people's concept of Christianity is. He said that if he saw someone lose their billfold, he would return it. Yes, the natural man will return that which belongs unto another (some of them will anyway). However, Jesus goes much deeper than this, such as in Matt. 5:38-42, where He speaks of turning the other cheek, giving the cloak also unto him who takes the coat at law, going the second mile, and giving to him that asks (which I believe means a continual asking, or with importunity, rather than a "You got a dime for a cup of coffee, buddy?"). To the natural man this is foolishness, but not unto one who is a new creature in Christ Jesus. Then there is Heb. 10:34, which tells of the saints who took joyfully the spoiling of their goods, knowing they had a better and abiding possession. The natural man strives to retain all he has, and to gain more, but not so with those born of the Spirit, for we seek ways in which to use what we have for His glory. And God surely does bless when we simply obey the commands of Jesus. Such as the time another car cut quickly in front of one driven by Homer (who was my roommate at the time), and Homer couldn't help but hit it. There was no damage to Homer's car, but \$57 to the other. The man admitted it was all his own fault, but a few days later he was wanting Homer to pay half the \$50 his own insurance company wouldn't pay. I told Homer not to do it, as the man knew he was wrong.

(over)

However, the Spirit gave me no peace that the counsel was from Him, and brought the portion in Matt. 5 to my mind. I tried to reason it didn't apply in this case, but He wouldn't let me. I then had to tell Homer he should not only pay the man the \$25 he was asking for, but the other \$25 as well. Since it was somebody else's money I was being free with, I felt the Lord would have me to make up the second \$25 myself. A few days later came a letter from the man saying he was tearing up both checks, as his conscience wouldn't allow him to cash them. Praise the Lord, it is always best to obey Jesus.

In 2 Cor. 11 Paul lists many things he suffered for the sake of the gospel, and it is good for us to realize it was through these very things he learned to be content in whatsoever state he was in, and to rejoice always in Jesus. God used these things in conforming Paul unto His Son, and it is certain God will use many of the same things in conforming us unto Jesus, for Jesus was made perfect through the things He suffered. It was for the joy set before Him that He endured the cross, despised the shame, and is now sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. And Paul wrote that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed unto us. We too must have our eyes fixed always upon the end of the whole matter, not on the immediate circumstances in which we may be caught up, looking always unto Jesus, the Author and the Perfector of our faith. We need to see even more how all we have and are is in Christ Jesus, for in Jesus is the fulness of joy, the rest, the peace, and the very life. The world is up and down according to the happenings of the day, but it is not to be so with us, for all we are possessing is in Jesus, and Jesus is never changing. This doesn't mean we go about always with a grin from ear to ear, for Paul wrote Timothy how he longed to see again his tears, not ~~his~~ his smiling face. The more we are conformed unto Jesus, the more we will have the same great burden He has. It wasn't the physical wounds which caused the death of our Lord, for Jesus died of a heart broken over the sins of the world. This is why water came forth, as well as the blood, when His side was pierced. Jesus, He who knew no sin, was made to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. Hallelujah, what a ~~Savior~~ Saviour.

Paul was always attributing every good thing as being only through Jesus, such as in Phil. 1:11, where he says all our fruits of righteousness are through Christ Jesus, and unto the glory and praise of God. In the beginning God created all things through Jesus, and today the Father is still doing all things through His Son. Oh, what a place of exaltation has been given unto Jesus, and worthy is the Lamb that was slain to be so exalted. Oh, come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Then in Phil. 1:12 Paul begins telling how God used even his bonds in the furthering of the gospel. As the other saints saw him still able to rejoice in Jesus, in spite of his bonds, their own hearts were encouraged unto a new boldness ~~in~~ in proclaiming the gospel themselves. Thus the witness for Jesus was increased. Oh, that we will also be faithful in allowing God to use every circumstance of our lives for His glory.

Keep rejoicing in Jesus, for we have every reason to do so, and Jesus is worthy of all praise.

Yours in His matchless love,

Clyde Nealy

Clyde Nealy