

March 4 1970

Dr. G. Aiken Taylor
The Presbyterian Journal
Asheville, N.C.

Dear Dr. Taylor,

Enclosed are two items. The first is the review of Dr. Holmes book, as you asked. The second is an article for the Journal, which probably you will not publish, but which I am constrained to send you in conjunction with my last letter to you.

Some years ago I persuaded our congregation to subscribe to the Journal because we needed a great deal of sound teaching and constant recommendation of the Westminster Confession. Our older adult class uses your Sunday School lessons; our women use your missionary articles; and I hope the others read your news and articles. Our congregation consists of some real old timers who have been long trained in Presbyterianism and some new people whom we get "off the streets" as it were. They have no Presbyterian background and little Christian information. One does not believe in hell; another opposes predestination; another does not like the Apostle Paul; most are very weak on Sabbath observance. The pastor, the elders, and I try to instruct these people.

But then comes an issue of the Journal that commends Arminians. Here was an article that contradicts the Confession. It belittles the difference between modernists and fundamentalists. This undercuts our program of instruction.

If you have the January issue of The Banner of Truth, I wish you would read the bottom half of page 3. Note the criticism of the more orthodox ministers, that they are "intellectualists" -- criticism leveled, not by the Banner of Truth, but by the decadent ministers.

The Journal is supposed to be loyal to the Confession. It hurts when our opponents are treated with honor and the opposite of our doctrine is publicized.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon H. Clark

the
PRESBYTERIAN JOURNAL

REV. G. AIKEN TAYLOR, PH. D., EDITOR
247 CHARLOTTE ST. (704) 254-4015

POST OFFICE BOX 3108
ASHEVILLE, N. C. 28802

Tuesday, March 10

My dear Dr. Clark:

This is being very informally written, as I am in St. Louis for the annual meeting of COCU, and other commitments will keep me from my desk for another couple of weeks. (Here, by the way, the pressures are heavy--some of the brethren want the plan of union entirely re-written. But I rather imagine that they will cool off and get together in time to send the plan down on schedule.)

You are correct when you imply that I would want to handle your treatment of Dr. Tozer with asbestos gloves. I do not deny that he expressed himself badly at several points, but I do believe that you fail to give him credit for what he was trying so say, namely that one person can hear the preaching of the cross and it is pure foolishness, while another person can hear the same preaching and it becomes "the power of God unto salvation" -- and that you must explain the difference apart from the actual word itself as preached.

Mostly, I do object to your description of Dr. Tozer as an "enemy of Christ." I think the point you want to make is well taken and I do highly regard the keen insight which you want to share with our readers. But not even in our most passionate polemics do we become as "personal" in the columns of the Journal with those we deal as you have become with Dr. Tozer.

I should like very much to have something from you on this particular issue, and I am grateful to you for being willing to take time from your busy schedule to deal with the subject. But if you have read the Journal for any length of time you will notice that we very seldom deal with an issue in such fashion as to identify a person, or condemn a person, or make an issue into a contest between persons. I think there is a bit too much of this element in your paper. If, on the other hand, you could develop your point as you approach it in the last four pages of your paper--more objectively and with reference to the theological issue-- I should want very much to hear from you again.

With very best wishes in the Lord's service,



AN INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN MAGAZINE
DEVOTED TO THE STATEMENT, DEFENSE,
AND PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL

March 12 1970

Dr. G. Aiken Taylor
The Presbyterian Journal
Asheville, N.C.

Dear Dr. Taylor

Your rejection of my article is completely within your editorial prerogatives, to which I have no objection. I would not write you another letter for this reason; but your serious misrepresentation of my article, with its misquotation, needs correction.

A Minor matter is your charge that the article is too personal. The only thing personal in it is the statement that Dr. Tozer was the author of the sermon. Is it not proper to give the source of one's quotations?

But the serious point is your sentence, "Mostly I do object to your description of Dr. Tozer as an "enemy of Christ."" This so astounded me that I reread my article three times. It contains no such phrase as you quote or anything similar to it. On the contrary it is Dr. Tozer who used the term enemy. He says in effect that even if a person sincerely believes the whole Bible, yet if he is not a mystic he is a worse enemy (of God, or Christ?) than modernists (who may deny the atonement and the resurrection and assert that God is dead). A second time Dr. Tozer classes sincere believers of the gospel with the Pharisees, "the worst enemies Jesus had while on earth." These are charges Dr. Tozer made against people like me. They are not, as you say, my accusations against Dr. Tozer.

Now, if my alleged accusation, which I did not make, was sufficient reason for rejecting my article, why was not his actual accusation sufficient reason for not publishing his sermon?

Finally, as I said in my last letter, and in a previous letter of a year or so ago, a Journal supposedly devoted to the Reformed faith, a subscriber to the Westminster Confession, should not publicize and honor those who reject our system of doctrine. This undermines our efforts to maintain Presbyterianism in our congregations.

Very truly yours,

Gordon H. Clark

November 21 1970

Dr. G. Aiken Taylor
The Presbyterian Journal

Dear Dr. Taylor,

Enclosed is the review of the book you sent me. I am inclined to use this occasion to continue a correspondence that you broke off.

Recall that I had protested against your using a sermon by Dr. Tozer that attacked the doctrines of the Westminster Confession. You refused to publish my reply because of certain phrases you disliked. When I pointed out that those phrases were Dr. Tozer's and not mine, and that you incorrectly put them in my mouth, you did not reply.

Your editorial policy seems to continue to undermine the Confession. This summer you published an article that argued that Christians should remain in corrupt churches because the tares and wheat must grow together and only the angels at the end of the world may separate them. This conflicts with the Presbyterian principles of church discipline, and may explain why so little discipline has been enforced. But I do not expect such attacks on our doctrine to come from a periodical that is supposed to call for a return to the Confession.

Then again on the front cover you printed a statement that for the right bringing up of children all that is necessary is merely to allow the Spirit to control. Merely indicates that no Biblical teaching is to be given to the children. Allow disallows that the Spirit is Almighty God and does not stand on human being's allowance. The Spirit works how and when and where he pleases, and no one merely allows him to do anything.

This continuing editorial policy suggests to me that you may be trying to undermine the Confession and trying to prevent the establishment or reestablishment of a Reformed church in the south.

If my protest seems vigorous, it is meant to be.

Yours very truly,

Gordon H. Clark

the
PRESBYTERIAN

JOURNAL

REV. G. AIKEN TAYLOR, PH. D., EDITOR
247 CHARLOTTE ST. (704) 254-4015

POST OFFICE BOX 3108
ASHEVILLE, N. C. 28802

November 30, 1970

Dr. Gordon H. Clark
Butler University
4600 Sunset Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46207

Dear Dr. Clark:

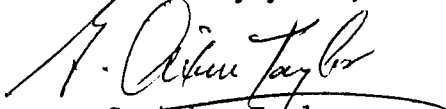
Thank you very much for your book review. I am sincerely grateful to you for being willing to perform this valuable service in spite of our differences of opinion.

We do not hesitate to publish letters critical of the Journal, and I would be happy to permit a note from you to express whatever feelings about the Journal, or about me, that you may wish to express. To this end I am enclosing a rough draft of a proposed "Letter to the Editor" taken from you most recent communication to me. If you want something like this to appear, I will be glad to see that it does.

However, I do deplore communications in which the language borders on the intemperate, and I do confess that I was unwilling to permit your attack (which I considered intemperate) upon Dr. Tozer to be published. I am sorry if this seems to be "censorship," but I had (and continue to have) too much respect for this great man of God to permit that kind of attack upon him to appear in the columns of the Journal.

Hoping that we will not lose touch despite our differences of opinion, and with best wishes in the Lord's service,

Sincerely yours,



G. Aiken Taylor

GAT:h

Encl.

AGAINST THE CONFESSION?

Your editorial policy seems to continue to undermine the Westminster Confession of Faith. This summer you published an article that argued that Christians should remain in corrupt churches because the tares and wheat must grow together and only the angels at the end of the world may separate them. This conflicts with the Presbyterian principles of Church discipline and may explain why so little discipline has been enforced.

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--(Rev.) Gordon H. Clark
Indianapolis, Ind.

the
PRESBYTERIAN

JOURNAL

REV. G. AIKEN TAYLOR, PH. D., EDITOR
247 CHARLOTTE ST. (704) 254-4015

POST OFFICE BOX 3108
ASHEVILLE, N. C. 28802

December 7, 1970

Dr. Gordon H. Clark
305 Buckingham Dr.
Indianapolis, Ind. 46208

Dear Dr. Clark:

I am taking the liberty of sending you another book for review in
the Journal: TRULICHIAN THEOLOGY AND EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY, by
Samuel E. Lo.

We would appreciate it if you would keep the review as brief as
possible. One page would be ideal.

With best wishes in the Lord's service,

Sincerely yours,

G. Aiken Taylor

G. Aiken Taylor

GAT:w

December 14 1970

Dr. G. Aiken Taylor
The Presbyterian Journal.

Dear Dr. Taylor,

No doubt you had the best intentions in typing out a possible "letter to the editor" which you would publish, in which I could register my disapproval of some of the articles you publish. This, however, would do not good, for subsequently I have seen further denials of the Westminster doctrines in your columns.

What I particularly wanted was your acknowledgment that the sentences you quoted and ascribed to me, and which you thought intemperate, were not my sentences at all, but those of Dr. Toser. According to the Scripture, when a person is wronged, he should explain the wrong to the one who has wronged him. I have explained to you the injustice of your accusation. But instead of getting an acknowledgment, you repeated the charge in your letter of Nov. 30. Since distance prevents me from bringing some friends to see you, and all the more prevents me from "telling it to the church" I see nothing else to do but to sever connections. I cannot honestly support or aid a person who both quotes me incorrectly and who constantly opposes the doctrines of the Confession.

Very truly yours,

Gordon H. Clark