

January 24, 1974

Dr. Eldon R. Fuhrman  
3221 Wayside Lane  
Anderson, Indiana 46011

Dear Dr. Fuhrman:

Christian greetings. I was happy to receive your letter of January 8. We haven't met but I feel I know you through numerous conversations with our mutual friend, Delbert Rose, in which your name has come up. I am sorry that I will be out of the state when you are scheduled to speak at the college chapel early in February and will not have opportunity to meet you personally at that time.

I have not been negligent in answering your letter. It has been on the top of my desk since it arrived and I have been agonizing over what commitment I ought to make. I am scheduled to be on sabbatical during the spring semester and have had research in Pauline studies approved by the Seminary Administration, hopefully leading to a publishable manuscript. In addition, I am scheduled to teach three new courses next year for which I will need to do considerable research.

So I have been weighing your request over against this schedule. The subject is tremendously appealing to me and I have had a hobby interest here for several years. But the assignment will require considerable research on my part to bring together the bits and pieces which I have looked at, plus additional information which I need. Above all, my knowledge of Wesley's epistemology is very weak.

But I will commit myself tentatively and provisionally to the request. I say provisionally for two reasons: 1) If you have anyone else in mind who might be free to present a paper such as you have in mind whose schedule is not as packed as mine is, I would be perfectly happy for you to turn to him because I feel that this matter is so strategic that it needs to be done competently and adequately. 2) I would only want to do it if there is a companion paper such as the one you describe by Dr. Wood. If there is not such a paper then I would prefer to do something which is a spin-off from my Pauline studies. I am hoping to do a paper on "Romans 7 In Recent Biblical Theology" sometime this year, and if that has any appeal I would be happy to submit it.

At some time I would want to talk with you about limits of the epistemological paper in order to keep it manageable. As I have thought about such a paper I can envision three parts: I. Theological Epistemology In the Nineteenth Century; II. The Rise and Collapse of Dialectical Episte-

C  
O  
P  
Y

Dr. Eldon R. Fuhrman  
January 24, 1974  
Page two

mology; III. The Emerging Epistemologies in Contemporary Theology. The first part would assess the impact of Kantian epistemology, the second would assess the impact of Kierkegaardian epistemology, and the third would assess the contemporary scene, Pannenberg in particular. In all three parts there would be cross-references to Wesley where possible.

I would need your counsel in the scope of the paper, especially where any of these areas have already been overworked in previous papers. I would also want to be in contact with Dr. Wood for his help on Wesley's epistemology. Finally, I would need considerable help from my mentor, Harold Kuhn.

So, with the above provisions and explanations, if what I have said has sufficient appeal to you and the program committee, I will make every effort to prepare a paper such as you have requested. But, again, if you have someone else who could do it, I would be happy to have the responsibility shifted.

My phone number at home is (606) 885-3701.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Fred D. Layman

rs

cc Dr. Delbert Rose