

He joined the Chalcedon staff part-time around 1978. He later became a full-time staff member. But the inevitable happened to him, just as it had happened to so many bright young men before him. He left Chalcedon as he had come: fired with enthusiasm.⁷ I hired him to produce a monthly newsletter published by my Institute for Christian Economics in Tyler, Texas, *The Biblical Educator*, in the fall of 1979. It ran for almost three years.

In the fall of 1980, I accepted an assignment to debate Ronald J. Sider (*Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*) at Gordon-Conwell Divinity School in Massachusetts. I wanted to take along a book refuting Sider. Normally, a debater does not expect his opponent to publish a book just for an evening's debate, so I decided to present Sider with a unique surprise. I called Chilton and asked him to research and write in three months a manuscript refuting Sider, so that I could get it printed by the following April. He did it, and we got delivery of the books one day before the debate. I titled the book, *Productive Christians in an Age of Guilt-Manipulators*, and it is now in its fourth edition.⁸ It has become the most successful and widely read book that the Institute for Christian Economics has published. Sider was surprised, to say the least. Frankly, I think he never got over it. I hope so, anyway.

Chilton Comes to Tyler

A little over a year after *Productive Christians* appeared, I hired Chilton to come to Tyler and work for my publishing company.⁹ I wanted him to do several writing projects that I knew he was capable of, but after an ill-fated beginning on a book about agriculture, we both agreed that the topic should be

7. The list of names of former employees of Chalcedon is a Who's Who in Christian Reconstruction (also, in some cases, a "Who's Not"): Gary North, Greg Bahnsen, David Chilton, James Jordan, Edward Powell, Douglas Kelly, and Kevin Craig. Now that David Chilton is back in central California, perhaps he will become the first of us to be re-hired. The book-writing experience and theological training that he received in Tyler makes him the "hottest theological property" in the West. If he joins Chalcedon again, those of us in Tyler will be able to proclaim: "Tyler Boy Makes Good (Again)!"

8. Tyler, Texas: Institute for Christian Economics, 1986.

9. The American Bureau of Economic Research, the profit-seeking side of my publishing operations. It owns Dominion Press.