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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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From: E.R. Harper

E.R. Harper

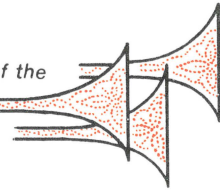
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December 21, 1966

Mr. John Allen Chalk
Herald of Truth
Box 2439
Abilene, Texas

Dear John Allen:

Just a few words to thank you for the nice letter in response to the letter that I wrote to you expressing how deeply grateful I was for the good sermon concerning which I wrote you in your letter.

Brother Chalk, you are a tremendous young man with potentials greater than that which I ever possessed, and far above the average young man of your age. You have the power to influence audiences, to stir people to action, and to become a leader of the younger set, of which you are a part; and not only that, but to influence those even my age.

May I suggest humbly as a man who's loved you and who recommended you for your first sermon here in the summer when you were in school; as a man who's anxious to see you become a tremendous influence for our Lord in His cause in your generation, a generation from which I am slowly, and yet rapidly, passing, that you study carefully the situation of the church today. Be very careful in the position you take, lest that position might some way or other be misunderstood. The church today has the greatest opportunity since the days of miraculous manifestations. It would be the most tragic thing in the history of the church almost, since the day that it went into Catholicism should there be a rift upon our people today.

We have so many young men that are under fire at this time. They are good men. They are men with ability. They are men the Lord needs. They are men who are stirring people. They are men who are helping to build the church. They are young men that I love; but having had 50 years of active experience in the church, 42 of them preaching the Gospel, I can see the trends. I know the dangers that are ahead. We need every one of us and we need the experience of youth; we need the enthusiasm of youth; we need the dedication of you young men, which stirs the older ones of us in a way that I am satisfied you are not able hardly to understand. I am proud of all of these young men, and I do hope that nothing may materialize in any way to hurt the church of our Lord and hurt the influence of these young men, whom we need so desperately just now. I am their friend; I love all of them. I make mistakes--we all make mistakes.

But my prayer is that the church today may continue to be welded together in the spirit of our Lord; because just now we are able once again to cover this old world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. After all, brother Chalk, all we have to guide us and to lead us in the way of revealed truth is the Word of God. If we will preach that, encourage people to obey it, trusting in the Lord who gave it, as the only Savior, the only redeemer, the only one to whom we can come, we can even yet bring the world to Christ. May God bless you and your good wife, and we are proud to have you with us. I hope and pray that your life may be long for your dedication is inspiring. Just be sure, John, that the Word of God leads you, guides you, motivates you because of the great eternal promises that the Holy Spirit has revealed to us in giving to us the mind of God.

Humbly and gratefully yours,

E. R. Harper

E. R. Harper

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