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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

4-29-1967

From: Ira Y. Rice, Jr.

Ira Y. Rice, Jr.

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HAMPTON PLACE

Church of Christ

April 29, 1967

John Allen Chalk
% Church of Christ
5th and Highland
Abilene, Texas

IRA Y. RICE, JR.
Box 4041 — Station A
DALLAS 8, TEXAS
or
1501 Woodmont Blvd.
Nashville, Tennessee 37215

Dear John Allen:

When I consider the brethren among churches of Christ whom I deem to be especially talented, you take your place among the foremost. Than you have ever enjoyed my esteem and admiration goes without saying. Therefore, please weigh what I wish to call to your attention as coming from a heart full of appreciation and kindness toward you personally.

There was a time, when our brethren could not care less what some secular or sectarian theologian might have to say about anything. It was our conviction that what God had to say about it was sufficient. As Jesus rebuked the devil in Matthew 4, we pointed to what was "written", letting "thus saith the Lord" be the end of the whole matter.

Within the past ten or 15 years, almost insensibly, we seem to have gotten away from this building on the rock to building on the sands of human opinion. Even to the extent that we sometimes fail to distinguish between the "insights" of worldly theologians and 20th Century Christianity!

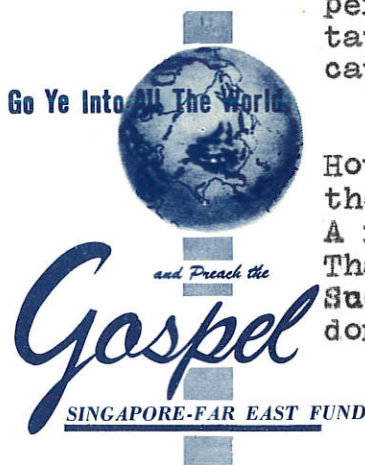
Of late, I have been sore distressed by the growing tendency of some of our more prominent preachers among us quoting these men, who, after all, are just as human as you and I, as though it made any difference at all what they said. It doesn't.

But when I noted recently that you had started running whole columns full of these quotations, under the heading of "INSIGHTS", in the 20th Century Christian, and this without one word to warn brethren that these writers are skilled false-teachers (!), I felt it was time to register my personal objection. I do not believe such a column of quotations almost wholly from false teachers has any justification whatever in a magazine supposed to be Christian.

That you read widely and can really write, I agree. However, I pray that you will be less concerned about what these false-teachers are saying and get back on the book. A rapidly forming apostasy is taking hold in the church. That a division is coming, I have not the slightest doubt. Such "insights" as your column can but contribute to it. I don't believe that is what you want. Certainly I do not.

In the cause of truth,


Ira Y. Rice, Jr.



Paragraph 2 - "What that for to say about it
was sufficient"

1) agree

2) but what about my observation of

your observation - opinion about
on explanation of process?

3)

Paragraph 4 - All quotes in red that are are
questioning now

1) why are they quoted?

2) Do you think this serves any good purpose?

3) Do the questions reflect back? maybe

do the questions in context.

Paragraph 5 - I appreciate your work "my

personal objection" - In my personal

objection appears in that the column

in one way of the opening sentences
thoughts about Political rights.

I completely disagree with your conclusion of
The Air command with long periods "speaking"
but since I am a good person not an older
or an "young spirit" I will speak the
ground and I have better handling to someone else.