
John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

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9-29-1965

From: J.R. DeArmond

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1871 Golden Rain Rd. Apt.26-B
Seal Beach, Calif. 9-29-1965.

Mr. John Allen Chalk, Minister
Broad Street Church of Christ,
Cookville, Tenn.

Dear Brother Chalk:

First, so as to identify myself with you, I'm a member ~~of~~^{at} the 1590 Ball Road Church of Christ located at the above address. (I think it should be called, THE CHORCH of CHRIST, at 1590 Ball Rd. in Anaheim). Furthermore, I think the NAME should be "The Church" and then the location. Only one person ever spoke about establishing a church. I believe this designation is used 68 times in the N.T. and Church of Christ is never used except in the plural and then, only once, if I'm correct.

I want you to know that I heard every night sermon and also the morning sermon at Ball Rd. (Where Webb preaches). In general, I'm in favor with your thoughts. Spscifically, NO, in the sermon where you held up a "failing" church. In Matt. 16:18 Jesus promised that the gates of hell should not prevail against it. There are times when we look at the progress if we forget, we may agree with you. But, it is not our business to forget. If Jesus said it, I'm banking on it. His promises are as true as God; as sure as heaven! If Jesus has saved us from a life 1000 times worse than death, we should tell it wherever we go.

TRUE! the world does not like to hear about the wrath to come, but, it is coming just the same.

I am sure that at times it may appear to us that the church is failing. It is NOT THE CHURCH THAT IS FAILING! Some who have confessed and in (in our eyes) an outward way obeyed, have failed to "study" as Paul said, and as a result, failed to live up to what Jesus would have us to do. I've been jeered and told, "you have members in your cong. that are doing lots of things I'd not do, and I'm no pretender of any church profession." Such is not the church failing. I know of a young lady in her teens who went forward and made the confession and was baptized. She wanted something to do in the church or bible sch. I spoke to the minister, asking him to give her something, no matter how small. He agreed but gave her nothing. Soon she fell away and the last I have heard, is, that she's a lost person. I even followed her by correspondence with her ministers in the city of her residence. Yes, they did call on her. She has had 8 children and given all but 3 away. She has been married publicly twice, and I know that one and possibly two of her children were illegitimates. Is the CHURCH failing? No, it is the few people who might have done something (thinking that they were Christians) to help that girl SAVE HERSELF. Brother Chalk, I'm past 81; but, I'm like a calf or a pony being driven out of a pasture, -- toward the gate; I'm grazing as I go and grabbing every little leaf and bit of grass (the Wrod) as I go and, I'm contacting many ministers. What is a word? -- The sign of an Idea.

Every word we speak gives somebody an idea! WHY DO YOU WEAR THE NAME "CHRISTIAN"?
Not why ARE you a Christian? Do U have any idea as to the intellectual level of the Israelites as Moses led them out? In my name, J. R. DeArmond