
John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

4-12-1969

From: Al Behel

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April 12, 1969

Mr. John Allen Chalk
Church of Christ
Fifth and Highland
Abilene, Texas 79600

Dear John:

I just read your article in Action about your up-coming series on "The Good Word." I appreciate some of the questions which you posed in this article. I have been disturbed for some time about our refusal to take advantage of present trends in the religious world.

Beyond doubt, many people are searching for spiritual vitality. Liturgies are being changed or replaced, prayer books are becoming less significant, and cries are going up all around us for ecumenicity. Truly the fields have never been whiter. But we are afraid of dialogue lest we compromise some principles. In our wholesale condemnation of erroneous practices, we have failed to utilize desirable attitudes.

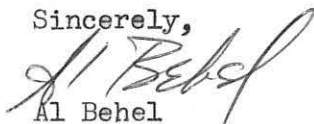
It seems a bit strange to me that we can condemn such things as modern versions (especially TEV) without making any attempt to produce a more desirable translation in understandable English.

To illustrate the conviction we share about changing attitudes, about two months ago I received (and accepted) an invitation to speak in one of the Catholic Churches in Knoxville. We were permitted to conduct the entire worship as we would in our own assembly. We took U.T. students as participants and I spoke on "The Dangerous Christ". The people were astonished at the simplicity, yet, vitality, that characterized the worship. Our relationship with the Catholics has been helped tremendously.

Two weeks ago our students conducted a similar worship in the Wesley Center at U.T. Doors continue to open daily. Incidentally, it seems our efforts have been more successful with Catholics, Methodists, and Presbyterians than anyone else. We baptized a Catholic student two weeks ago and a Methodist last week.

May God bless you in this new series and in all of life.

Sincerely,


Al Behel

memo
4-18-69