

5-15-1969

From/To: Mrs. A.F. Harris (Chalk's reply filed first)

A.F. Harris

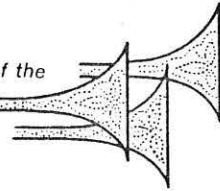
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May 15, 1969

Mrs. A. F. Harris
Route 2, Box 158
Cross Plains, Texas

Dear sister Harris:

Thank you so much for your letter of April 21. Yes, the New Testament church is an ideal one. It is so presented and has been so preached by our brethren all through the centuries. Every local congregation of believers I have ever had any acquaintance with has had its problems and deficiencies. Of course, we are committed to the ideal and, of course, every congregation must be living up to its best understanding of what New Testament Christianity really is.

I thought I made it very clear in the April issue of 20th Century Christian that the Madison church of Christ is "a living definition" of the New Testament church. It, of course, has faults like every other congregation does. The fact remains, however, that the very use of the Madison church as an example points to the fact that I believe the New Testament church is largely a reality today in thousands of churches of Christ all over the world today.

Since it is the truth that makes us free (John 8:32) and since it is our relationship to Christ that determines our membership in the body of Christ, the church (1 Corinthians 12:12-27), it is obvious that to whatever degree we hold or teach any error or whatever degree we are not in complete daily obedience to Christ, we are not being the New Testament church. Our commitment is to the truth and to Christ. By that commitment the New Testament church will be realized each day of our lives.

Thank you so much for writing. I intended in no way to weaken your faith or the faith of any reader. I intended to strengthen our commitments to New Testament Christianity and to the church one reads about in the New Testament.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk
Radio Evangelist

JAC:hm

April 21, 1969
Rt 2 Box 158
Cross Plains, N.C. 27643

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Mr John Allen Chalk.
Nashville Tenn.

Dear Bro Chalk,

In the march issue of the Christian
Woman magazine, there is a statement
from you, that I don't understand.

Would you please explain why all
we have to offer the world is a theory
until the true church becomes a
reality?

I always thought the church Christ died
for and purchased with his own blood,
was all ready a reality, alive and active
for Christ.

In Christian Love
Mrs A F Harris