

Dr. Joseph K. Pinter Lecture Series  
Appalachian Bible College  
January 24-26, 2005

Introduction of Dr. Charles C. Ryrie by Dr. Joseph K. Pinter:

The fall of 1951 found Paul Reiter and Joe Pinter freshman classmates at Dallas Theological Seminary. Ours was the unforgettable privilege of being taught the subject of the Spiritual Life by Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer, founder and first President. During the summer, following the close of that first year, Dr. Chafer went to be with the Lord at age 81. Dr. John Walvoord succeeded him in my sophomore year. In my junior year, the fall of 1953, Dr. Charles Ryrie arrived. His title: "Visiting Teacher in Systematic Theology." The following year found him established as Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology. I counted it a great privilege to be studying at Dallas and to be majoring in Systematic Theology.

While I appreciated immensely many of the dedicated, gifted faculty, I appreciated none more than Dr. Ryrie. I can say: "I knew him when . . ."—when he taught his first classes in theology and began to place in print what would become an important life-changing and life-enriching legacy of writings.

From the time of Dr. Ryrie's arrival in 1953, through the conclusion of my resident doctoral work in January 1958, I enrolled in every course he taught that my schedule would permit. He knew the subject and presented it in an interesting and thought-provoking fashion. He could be pleasantly humorous. His manner was gracious and subdued. He exhibited a quiet, intense enthusiasm—the evidence of calm inner strength. He loved to teach. I was fascinated and challenged intellectually, and greatly enriched spiritually. I never experienced a disappointing session.

In time Dr. Ryrie was elevated to full Professorship and, later, became Dean of the Graduate School. Near the close of my doctoral studies he became my advisor, giving me invaluable direction in preparing for the final hurdle, my comprehensive oral examination.

A half century has passed and Dr. Ryrie still does superbly what he has done from the start—he communicates effectively. Fully able to debate with scholars, confident, competent and comfortable in their presence, he also has the gift for making profound truth, simple, clear and understandable. Herein lies his greatest legacy as evidenced by the spectrum of his publications. Only eternity will reveal the profound and prodigious results of this one life yielded to God.

I can think of no greater honor, on this the occasion of the second of this newly established lecture series at Appalachian Bible College, than to introduce to you a beloved and greatly appreciated mentor in Christ, Dr. Charles C. Ryrie.