

Dr. D. Otis Fuller
Dear "Duke":

It was a real pleasure to get your letter last week and to know that you had received the long essay that I sent you explaining why it seems to me that the more natural interpretation of the Scripture is to consider the days of Genesis 1 as long periods of time rather than as 24-hour days.

I hope that you had a grand time on your trip to California.

Thank you for sending me the copy of the negative side of the debate between Dr. Rimmer and Dr. Riley. I wish I could have been present. It must have been a very interesting occasion. As I read it carefully a few things stood out in my mind. Perhaps you will be interested in my reactions.

The first thing that I noticed was the attitude that Dr. Rimmer took, as he began to speak. He evidently had been much pleased with the witty remarks of Dr. Riley, and set out to answer in kind. He asserted that it is pleasant to hear witty remarks when one is not dealing with an enemy of the faith, but simply comparing two views that are equally acceptable to true Christians. In fact he went so far as to say that even if the audience should vote that they felt that he was the winner in this debate with Dr. Riley, he still would consider it entirely possible that in the end it might prove that Dr. Riley had been right and he wrong on the matter. In other words he did not consider this to be such a difference of opinion as should in any way separate true believers.

I feel that many of Rimmer's later remarks have to be taken in the light of these statements that he made at the beginning of his talk. Each time that he declares that surely his opponent will be converted by what he has said--each time that he makes an extremely dogmatic statement about the absolute certainty of the correctness of his views--I can just imagine him turning with a smile to Dr. Riley and putting such a tone in his voice as would say, "Here is an extreme statement for you to knock at. It is fun to examine these things together. Actually we can't really be sure which of us is right."