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Churches of Christ Salute You with a Herald of Truth

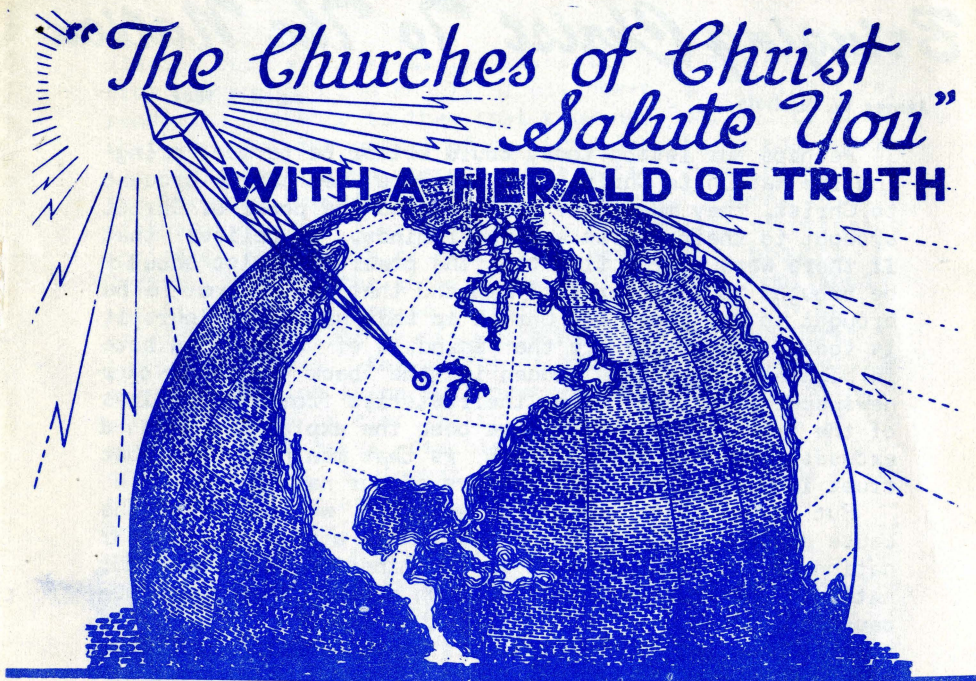
James Nichols

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STANLEY SHIPP

Bringing Christ To The Nation

By James W. Nichols

R#9

April 6, 1952

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Perhaps our lesson today could better be termed, "bringing the Nation to Christ". But before men can be brought to Christ, they must have the love and the power of Christ brought to their hearts and their minds. I believe that if there were ever a time that the power of Christ should be brought to the hearts of men and that men should be brought to the cross of Christ in this nation of ours, it is today! No longer are the scandals of corruption both in high and low places hidden in the back pages of our newspapers, but they blare their stories from the headlines of the front pages. Many have been the explanations and excuses, but the basic reason is that men have lost what trust in God the founding fathers of our nation had.

But do not think for one moment that we can find the cause and cure this illness--and it is a disease of our nation--by treating some of the prominent officials of our nation. The treatment must go much deeper than that, because the disease is much deeper than that! The disease reaches down into the grass-roots of this nation to little people like you and me, who, in our everyday life and dealings with our fellowman have not only left, but forgotten God. You know, and I know, that with the vast majority of people, the only time that the name of God or Christ ever passes their lips is when they use it in vain.

My friends, let me tell you that it is later than you think! The foundations of civilization are being shaken and we need to face the fact that it may be that our children, if not our generation, will be faced with utter destruction of Christian society. If those of us who believe in God and strive to follow His way do not do every thing within our power, we may, by our complacency, be creating a situation in which our children will feel forced by circumstances to repudiate there is a God. But someone may say, "Nichols, you are excited over nothing. Is not religion growing by leaps and bounds?" My friends, I am not concerned with the growth of religion, but I am concerned with the growth of Christianity. This nation needs something more than just a religion. There is a religion of dollars and cents. We can have a religion of power; of vain glorying. But Christianity is the only hope for the preservation of our freedoms and of our civilization.

But there is a far greater tragedy awaiting us, and that is the tragedy of facing God at the judgment without Christ. It is the story of a Christless Hell and a tormenting eternity. The apostle Paul tells us in no uncertain language in II Thess. 1:7-9, "and to you that are af-

flicted rest with us, at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with the angels of his power in flaming fire, rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus: who shall suffer punishment, even eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his might." Then, in view of these facts, there faces us the problem of bringing Christ to the hearts of men, and men being brought to Christ. What is the answer? How must it be accomplished? Christ has the power to transform and change. But He has provided a specific way in which He operates and works in the lives of men. Let us illustrate it this way: Outside of this building there is a power-line surging with thousands of volts of electricity. Inside the building is the equipment that makes possible the broadcasting of this program. But the equipment cannot work without the electricity that surges through the power-line on the outside. We call an electrician or a representative of the power company; we tell him we have to have the electricity, and then he goes about his task of bringing the power into the building to make possible the use of the equipment. The same is true with a life of sin. It can be made into a beautiful life--a life of usefulness, but it takes the power of God and Christ to make it so. These lives made beautiful individually, and then working collectively, are the only means by which this nation of ours, or any nation, can be made a beautiful, glowing light of righteousness. Solomon of old said, "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

The first thing that must be done for men to be brought to Christ is for them to hear. The writer of Hebrews says in Hebrews 11:6, "...without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that seek after him." But the apostle Paul said in Romans 10:17 "so belief cometh of hearing and hearing by the word of Christ." You cannot bring men to Christ or Christ into their hearts until first men hear the word of God. Listen, my friends: when the doctrines of men are preached, the word of God is not heard. Christ said, "In vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrine the precepts of men." We cannot bring Christ to the nation nor the nation to Christ by discussing the philosophies of men and the political picture of the world. We can bring Christ to the nation and the nation to Christ only when the Bible, the word of God, is taught; for first men must hear! When men hear the gospel and believe the gospel and obey the gospel they will be in Christ and Christ will be in them. But that faith which cometh by hearing the word of God and which is necessary for men to come to God or Christ, is something more than just an assent of the mind. Christ

said, "Not everyone that sayeth unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my father who is in heaven." James likewise being inspired said, "For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, even so faith apart from works is dead", James 2:26. That is easy for us to see and understand. The saving faith of the Bible is a faith in Christ and in God. I believed that there was an Adolph Hitler. I never saw him, but I believe that he existed. But never did I believe in him. I believe that there is a Joseph Stalin, but I do not believe in him. I do not believe that there is a man or woman in the audience today who would not agree that the faith of the Bible means more than the faith which I had concerning Hitler or Stalin. And we cannot bring Christ to the nation or the nation to Christ until men have faith in Christ. Let us go one step further. It is impossible for a man to believe in Christ and not follow Christ in obedience. It is impossible for man to believe in Christ and not love Him. Neither can you love Him without obeying Him, for Christ said in John 14:23, "If a man love me, he will keep my word." Well, that all goes back to what James and Christ said, "Not everyone that sayeth unto me, Lord, Lord, and, "Faith without works is dead." This faith of the Bible will move men to action. It requires that men turn from sin, or, if you please, repent. In the days of Christ, He cried to the masses who had left God; "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish." And Paul in the 17th chapter of Acts said that "God commandeth all men everywhere to repent." We have to turn from our corruption and sin and immorality. I am sure you do not think for a moment that a man could have Christ and Christ have him when he refuses to cease the practices of sin. And so, step number 3 for bringing Christ to the nation and the nation to Christ is for a man to repent. But that faith also demands that it be expressed both in word and in deed. It demands the throwing off of fear and all pride and confessing before men that we believe in Jesus as Christ the Son of the living God. Christ said in Matt. 10:32-33, "Everyone therefore who shall confess men before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father who is in heaven." The man who thinks he believes in Christ and will not confess Him before men is a man who has never been brought to Christ, nor is willing for Christ to come into his life.

But, not only must that faith be expressed in word, but it also must be expressed in deed. By being buried in the watery grave of baptism for the remission of our sins, we confess that we believe Christ died, was buried, and was raised from the dead that you and I might live. Romans 6th chapter, 1st to 6th verses, unfolds to us the marvelous

picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ that we portray by our confession of faith in baptism. "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

But there is one more phase that we can see of this in bringing Christ to the nation and the nation to Christ through baptism. The apostle Paul says in Gal. 3:27, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ." Then for us to put on Christ, we must be baptized, and before Christ abides in us we must abide in Him. Christ said in John 15:5, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same beareth much fruit; for apart from me ye can do nothing." Then the baptized penitent believer has put on Christ, and certainly we can with assurance say that when man has put on Christ, Christ has been brought to him. The only way that Christ can be brought to the nation and the nation brought to Christ is for thousands and millions of us to rise up and say, "Lord, I will obey Thy commandments. I have heard Thy word, I believe in it, and Thy power. I want to repent, confess thy name, and be baptized that Christ might abide in me and I in Him. Then, continuing to live faithfully and to worship God acceptable in His sight according to His word. There are those of you in the audience today who can have a part in this great movement to bring Christ to the nation and the nation to Christ by obeying Him and abiding in Him and letting Him abide in you. It is our prayer that at this hour of decision, your decision will be this day to obey Him.

Aberdeen, S.D.	KSDN	930	10:30-11:00 a.m.
Aberdeen, Wash.	KBKW	1450	10:00-10:30 p.m.
Abilene, Texas	KRBC	1470	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Albany, New York	WXKW	850	2:00-2:30 p.m.
Albuquerque, N.M.	KOAT	1450	3:00-3:30 p.m.
Amarillo, Texas	KFDA	1440	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Anniston, Ala.	WHMA	1450	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Auburn, Alabama	WAUD	1230	check with sta
Austin, Texas	KNOW	1490	2:00-2:30 p.m.
Bakersfield, Cal.	KPMC	1560	10:00-10:30 a.m.
Baltimore, Md.	WFBR	1300	3:00-3:30 p.m.
Bangor, Me.	WABI	910	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Baton Rouge, La.	WLCS	910	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Battle Creek, Mich.	WELL	1400	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Beaumont, Texas	KFDM	560	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Beckley, W. Va.	WNNR	620	1:30-2:00 p.m.
Big Spring, Texas	KBST	1490	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Birmingham, Ala.	WSGN	610	10:30-11:00 p.m.
Bloomington, Ind.	WITS	1370	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Boise, Idaho	KDEM	1340	3:00-3:30 p.m.
Bridgeport, Conn.	WNAB	1450	2:00-2:30 p.m.
Brownfield, Texas	KTFY	1050	check with sta.
Brownsville, Texas	KVAL	1490	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Brunswick, Ga.	WGIG	1440	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Butte, Mont.	KOPR	580	11:00-11:30 p.m.
Casper, Wyo.	KVOC	1230	10:30-11:00 a.m.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	WMT	600	7:30-8:00 a.m.
Centerville, Miss.	WGLC	1580	check with sta.
Chattanooga, Tenn.	WDEF	1370	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Cheyenne, Wyo.	KFBC	1240	12:00-12:30 noon
Chicago, Ill.	WENR-WLS	890	2:30-3:00 p.m.
Cleveland, Ohio	WJW	850	11:15-11:45 p.m.
Clovis, N.M.	KCLV	1240	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Cody, Wyo.	KODI	1400	12:00-12:30 noon
Coffeyville, Kans.	KGGF	690	2:00-2:30 p.m.
Columbus, Miss.	WCBI	1340	check with sta.
Columbus, Ohio	WCOL	1230	9:30-10:00 a.m.

Louisville, Ky.	WKLO	1080	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Lubbock, Texas	KFYD	1340	4:00-4:30 p.m.
Ludington, Mich.	WKLA	1450	1:00-1:30 p.m.
McAlester, Okla.	KTMK	1400	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Madison, Wisc.	WIBA	1330	8:00-8:30 a.m.
Memphis, Tenn.	WMPS	680	9:00-9:30 p.m.
Miami, Fla.	WQAM	560	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Milwaukee, Wisc.	WMAW	1250	2:00-2:30 p.m.
Minn.-St. Paul, Minn.	WTCN	1280	7:30-8:00 a.m.
Mobile, Ala.	WABB	1480	6:30-7:00 a.m.
Monroe, La.	KMLB	1440	2:00-2:30 p.m.
Montgomery, Ala.	WAPX	1600	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Muskegon, Mich.	WKBZ	850	2:00-2:30 p.m.
Muskogee, Okla.	KBIX	1490	2:00-2:30 p.m.
Nashville, Tenn.	WSIX	980	4:00-4:30 p.m.
Neenah, Wisc.	WNAM	1280	8:00-8:30 a.m.
New Orleans, La.	WDSU	1280	1:00-1:30 p.m.
New York, N.Y.	WJZ	770	12:30-1:00 p.m.
Oklahoma City, Okla.	KTOK	1000	9:30-10:00 a.m.
Olean, N.Y.	WHOL	1450	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Omaha, Neb.	KCIL	1290	5:30-6:00 p.m.
Paris, Texas	KPLT	1490	9:00-9:30 p.m.
Pasco, Wash.	WPKW	1340	3:30-4:00 p.m.
Philadelphia, Pa.	WFIL	560	2:00-2:30 p.m.
Phoenix, Ariz.	KPHO	1230	11:00-11:30 p.m.
Pittsburg, Pa.	WCAE	1250	3:00-3:30 p.m.
Pocatello, Idaho	KEOI	1440	9:30-10:00 a.m.
Portland, Ore.	WPOR	1450	9:00-9:30 a.m.
Portland, Ore.	KEX	1190	10:30-11:00 p.m.
Provo, Utah	KCSU	1490	3:00-3:30 p.m.
Providence, R.I.	WFIC	1420	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Quincy, Ill.	WGEM	1440	8:00-8:30 a.m.
Rawlins, Wyo.	KRAL	1240	12:00-12:30 noon
Richmond, Va.	WRNL	910	1:30-2:00 p.m.
Riverton, Wyo.	KWRL	1450	12:00-12:30 noon
Rochester, N.Y.	WARC	950	3:00-3:30 p.m.
Rolla, Mo.	KTTR	1490	8:45-9:15 a.m.

Craig, Colo.	KRAI	1230	check with sta.
Cumberland, Md.	WDYK	1230	8:00-8:30 a.m.
Denver, Colo.	KVOD	630	5:00-5:30 p.m.
Des Moines, Iowa	KSO	1460	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Detroit, Mich.	WXYZ	1270	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Durham, N.C.	WTIK	730	2:00-2:30 p.m.
Eldorado, Ark.	KDMS	1290	1:00-1:30 p.m.
El Paso, Texas	KEPO	690	3:00-3:30 p.m.
Eureka, Cal.	KIEM	1480	check with sta.
Fargo, N.D.	KFGO	790	7:00-7:30 a.m.
Flint, Mich.	WFDE	910	10:00-10:30 p.m.
Florence, Ala.	WJOI	1340	9:30-10:00 a.m.
Florence, S.C.	WJMX	970	10:30-11:00 a.m.
Fort Smith, Ark.	KFSA	950	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Fort Wayne, Ind.	WGL	1250	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Fort Worth, Texas	WBAP	570	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Gadsden, Ala.	WGAD	1350	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Graham, Texas	KSWA	1330	check with sta.
Harlan, Ky.	WHLN	1230	check with sta.
Hartford, Conn.	WTHI	1230	2:30-3:00 p.m.
Hot Springs, Ark.	KTHS	1090	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Houston, Texas	KXYZ	1320	8:00-8:30 a.m.
Huntsville, Ala.	WHBS	1490	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Jackson, Miss.	WSLI	930	2:00-2:30 p.m.
Jackson, Tenn.	WTJS	1390	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Jacksonville, Fla.	WPDQ	600	8:30-9:00 p.m.
Johnson City, Tenn.	WJHL	910	11:30-12:00 noon
Johnstown, Pa.	WCRO	1230	7:00-7:30 p.m.
Kansas City, Mo.	KCMO	810	12:30-1:00 p.m.
Klamath Falls, Ore.	KFLW	1450	4:30-5:00 p.m.
Lawrence, Mass.	WLAW	680	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Lincoln, Neb.	KFOR	1240	10:30-11:00 a.m.
Little Rock, Ark.	WGHI	1250	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Longview, Texas	KFRQ	1370	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Los Alamos, N.M.	KRSN	1490	3:00-3:30 p.m.
Los Angeles, Cal.	KECA	790	3:00-3:30 p.m.

Rome, Ga.	WLAQ	670	1:00-1:30 p.m.
St. Louis, Mo.	KXOK	630	9:15-9:45 p.m.
Salisbury, N.C.	WSAT	1280	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Salt Lake City, Utah	KUTA	570	7:30-8:00 a.m.
San Angelo, Texas	KGKL	960	1:00-1:30 p.m.
San Antonio, Texas	KMAC	630	9:00-9:30 p.m.
San Francisco, Cal.	KGO	810	3:30-4:00 p.m.
San Luis Obispo, Cal.	KATY	1340	3:30-4:00 p.m.
Santa Fe, N.M.	KTRC	1400	3:00-3:30 p.m.
Saranac Lake, N.Y.	WEAV	960	2:00-2:30 p.m.
Seattle, Wash.	KJR	950	3:30-4:00 p.m.
Shreveport, La.	KRMD	1340	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Sioux City, Ia.	KSCJ	1360	10:30-11:00 p.m.
Spokane, Wash.	KGA	1510	3:30-4:00 p.m.
Springdale, Ark.	KBRS	1340	6:00-6:30 p.m.
Springfield, Mass.	WSPR	1270	2:00-2:30 p.m.
Springfield, Mo.	KWTO	560	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Syracuse, N.Y.	WAGE	620	12:00-12:30 noon
Tampa-St. Pete., Fla.	WSUN	620	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Texarkana, Texas	KCMC	1230	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Topeka, Kans.	WREN	1250	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Torrington, Wyo.	KGOS	1490	12:00-12:30 noon
Tucson, Ariz.	KCNA	1340	5:30-6:00 p.m.
Tuscaloosa, Ala.	WJRD	1150	9:30-10:00 p.m.
Tulsa, Oklahoma	KRMG	740	2:00-2:30 p.m.
Valdosta, Ga.	WGAF	910	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Washington, D.C.	WMAL	630	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Waterloo, Iowa	KXEL	1540	5:30-6:00 p.m.
Wheeling, W. Va.	WKWK	1400	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Wichita Falls, Texas	KFDK	990	2:00-2:30 p.m.
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.	WILK	1450	8:00-8:30 p.m.
Wilmington, Del.	WILM	1450	2:00-2:30 p.m.
Winston-Salem, N.C.	WAIR	1340	1:00-1:30 p.m.
Worcester, Mass.	WAAB	1440	3:00-3:30 p.m.
Worland, Wyo.	KWOR	1490	12:00-12:30 noon
Yuma, Ariz.	KYMA	1400	check with sta.

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