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Churches of Christ Salute You with a Herald of Truth

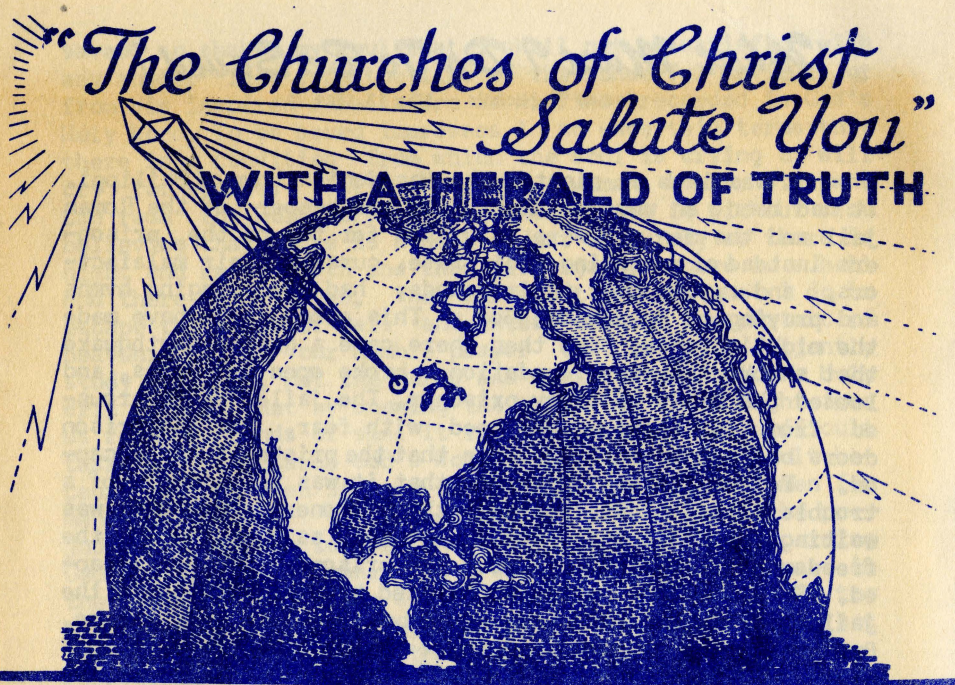
John Allen Chalk

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What Must I Do To Be Saved?

James W. Nichols — May 18, 1952

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It was late at night in the Macedonian town of Philippi. It had been an unusual night for the keeper of the Roman jail and the men who were in prison for two of the prisoners instead of bemoaning their fate, cursing their malafactors, and crying over their wounds, had been singing hymns and praying to an unknown God. This alone would have made the night strange, but then there came a great earthquake that shook the very foundation, broke open the doors, and loosed the bands of every prisoner. The jailer being aroused from his sleep was gripped with fear, for the prison doors being open must indicate that the prisoners had escaped. To the jailer it seemed that it was the climax of a trouble filled night, for with the prisoners gone death was waiting, for his life would be taken as a ransom for the freedom of the prisoners. But the prisoners had not escaped. Possibly they waited with bated breath, for should the jailer take his life the way would be clear for their escape. But no, these strange men whose plans must have brought about the occasion, made themselves even stranger by crying out and staying the sword in the jailer's hand. Immediately he called for light, sprang in and fell at the feet of the two men whom we know to be Paul and Silas, and asked that all important question, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved." Some might say that he was asking of his personal safety for he feels himself at the mercy of the prisoners. But regardless of that which motivated that searching question, Paul and Silas gave him an answer that probed deeper than the organ that merely pumps life blood. They gave an answer that would cure the ills of that which distinguishes man from being a mere animal. They answered for his safety throughout time without end.

From the very beginning of man's path of sin this question has troubled the aching heart and troubled mind of mankind. And until man ceases to inhabit this earth, man, whether he be a native of the jungles of Africa or the South Seas; whether he be a citizen of this nation or some other country on the other side of the globe, will be stirred to cry aloud, "What must I do to be saved?" Many have been the answers, and many more there will be, but the greatest tragedy of all is that the vast majority of them are false and will seal the doom of the souls of men with vain hope. It is not difficult to realize that only a Saviour of a doomed man can answer this question. It is as true whether it be in the courts of human judgment or in the halls divine justice. This question of "What must I do to be

saved" so shakes my soul that I shall not be satisfied with any answer lest from the lips of the wonderful Saviour, or from His inspired ambassadors as we find recorded in God's Holy Word. To be saved impresses in no uncertain terms that there is a condition from which the soul is crying or will cry for escape. There is no man, woman, boy or girl who can read the Holy Word of God and believe it without also believing that there is a hell. Just as surely as there is night and day, death and then life again, there is a hell and there is a heaven. Then our quest is what must I do to escape the fires of hell and enter through the portals of heaven. It is our humble prayer that we may diligently study together, not the words and works of men but the Holy Writ of God, that by knowing the truth the truth might free us from the bonds of sin. It is both a simple and difficult task; simple because God's Word is plain, but difficult because man has been steeped in the hopeless plans of men for man's salvation. It is a difficult task to erase the prejudice, mistaken ideas, and even superstition concerning God's dealing with man. But I believe all those who are in the audience today have a firm realization that life is too short, eternity too long, and the fires of hell too hot for us to regard lightly the question of our salvation.

If we could have implanted in the bedrock of our minds the fact that only by the cross and its message can we have hope, we would have a firm basis on which to embrace the answer to this question. The poet has said, "The cross! there, and there only (though the deist rave, and atheists, if earth bears so base a slave); There and there only, is the power to save." The apostle Paul was moved to say in Gal. 6:14, "But far be it for me to glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world hath been crucified unto me, and I unto the world." It was according to God's will that Christ should pour out his blood at Calvary that the sins of wayward man might be blotted out. I don't care what the plan or scheme may be, if it leaves out the cross and the blood that was shed on the cross, it is not worth the time spent in proclaiming, nor the paper upon which it is written. Remember my friends as we study the Word, that God's way was purchased and made possible there on the brow of Calvary. Then, whatever God, by His Son, has required of us is sacred because its author is God, its spokesman is Christ, and its price the blood of Jesus. I say again, if this one fact could be instilled in the hearts of men, we would cease to be indifferent and even rebel at the thought of tampering with God's simple commandments.

So then, the first thing that man must do is to open his heart to that wondrous story of love and hear masterful words of hope through Christ. It is impossible for a man to draw nigh unto the Christ and Saviour whom he knows not. Paul said in Romans 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing

Alabama, Anniston	WHMA	1450	1:00 p.m.
Auburn	WAUD	1230	1:00 p.m.
Birmingham	WSGN	610	10:30 p.m.
Florence	WJOI	1340	9:30 a.m.
Gadsden	WGAD	1350	1:00 p.m.
Huntsville	WHBS	1490	1:00 p.m.
Mobile	WABB	1480	6:30 a.m.
Montgomery	WAPX	1600	1:00 p.m.
Tuscaloosa	WJRD	1150	9:30 p.m.
Arizona, Phoenix	KPHO	1230	11:00 p.m.
Tucson	KCNA	1340	3:00 p.m.
Arkansas, Eldorado	KSDM	1290	1:00 p.m.
Ft. Smith	KFSA	950	1:00 p.m.
Hot Springs	KTHS	1090	1:00 p.m.
Little Rock	KGHI	1250	1:00 p.m.
Springdale	KBRS	1340	6:00 p.m.
Calif., Bakersfield	KPMC	1560	10:00 a.m.
Eureka	KIEM	1480	7:15 a.m.
Fresno	KARM	1430	3:30 p.m.
Los Angeles	KECA	790	3:30 p.m.
San Francisco	KGO	810	3:30 p.m.
San Luis Obispo	KATY	1340	3:30 p.m.
Colorado, Craig	KRAI	1230	5:30 p.m.
Denver	KVOD	630	5:00 p.m.
Conn., Bridgeport	WNAB	1450	2:00 p.m.
Hartford	WTHT	1230	2:30 p.m.
Delaware, Wilmington	WILM	1450	2:00 p.m.
Florida, Jacksonville	WPDQ	600	8:30 a.m.
Miami	WQAM	560	1:00 p.m.
Pensacola	WEAR	1230	11:30 p.m.
Tallahassee	WTNT	1450	5:00 p.m.
Tampa, St. Pete	WSUN	620	1:00 p.m.
Georgia, Augusta	WGAC	580	2:00 p.m.
Brunswick	WGIG	1440	1:00 p.m.
Columbus	WGBA	1460	7:30 a.m.
Macon	WBML	1240	1:00 p.m.
Rome	WLAQ	670	1:00 p.m.
Savannah	WDAR	1400	1:00 p.m.
Valdosta	WGAF	910	1:30 p.m.
Idaho, Boise	KGEM	1140	3:00 p.m.
Pocatello	KEOI	1440	9:30 a.m.
Illinois, Chicago	WENR-WLS	890	2:30 p.m.
Quincy	WGEM	1440	8:00 a.m.
Indiana, Bloomington	WTTS	1370	1:00 p.m.
Evansville	WJPS	1330	1:30 p.m.
Ft. Wayne	WGL	1250	1:00 p.m.
Iowa, Cedar Rapids	WMT	600	7:30 a.m.
Des Moines	KSO	1460	1:00 p.m.
Sioux City	KSCJ	1360	10:30 p.m.
Waterloo	KXEL	1540	5:30 p.m.
Kansas, Coffeyville	KGGF	690	2:00 p.m.
Topeka	WREN	1250	1:00 p.m.
Ken., Bowling Green	WKCT	930	1:00 p.m.
Harlan	WHLN	1230	3:00 p.m.
Louisville	WKLO	1080	1:00 p.m.
Newport	WNOP	740	2:00 p.m.
Louisiana, Baton Rouge	WLCS	910	1:00 p.m.
Monroe	KMLB	1440	2:00 p.m.
New Orleans	WDSU	1280	1:00 p.m.
Shreveport	KRMD	1340	1:00 p.m.

Maine, Bangor	WABI	910	1:30 p.m.
Portland	WPOR	1450	9:00 a.m.
Maryland, Baltimore	WFBR	1300	3:00 p.m.
Cumberland	WDYK	1230	8:00 a.m.
Mass., Lawrence	WLAW	680	1:00 p.m.
Springfield	WSPR	1270	5:00 p.m.
Worcester	WAAB	1440	3:00 p.m.
Michigan, Battle Creek	WELL	1400	1:00 p.m.
Detroit	WXYZ	1270	1:00 p.m.
Flint	WFDE	910	10:00 p.m.
Lansing	WILS	1320	1:00 p.m.
Ludington	WKLA	1450	1:00 p.m.
Muskegon	WKBZ	850	2:00 p.m.
Minn., Minn.-St. Paul	WTCN	1280	7:30 a.m.
Miss., Aberdeen	WNPA	1240	3:00 p.m.
Centerville	WGLC	1580	8:00 a.m.
Columbus	WCBF	1340	6:00 p.m.
Jackson	WSLI	930	2:00 p.m.
Laurel	WLAV	1490	1:00 p.m.
Missouri, Kansas City	KCMO	810	12:30 p.m.
Rolla	KTTR	1490	8:45 a.m.
St. Louis	KXOK	630	9:15 p.m.
Springfield	KWTO	560	1:00 p.m.
Montana, Butte	KOPR	580	11:00 p.m.
Great Falls	KMON	560	7:30 a.m.
Nebraska, Lincoln	KFOR	1240	10:30 a.m.
Omaha	KOIL	1290	5:30 p.m.
N. Hamp., Manchester	WMUR	610	5:00 p.m.
N. Mexico, Albuquerque	KOAT	1450	3:00 p.m.
Clovis	KCLV	1240	1:00 p.m.
Los Alamos	KRSN	1490	3:00 p.m.
Santa Fe	KTRC	1400	3:00 p.m.
New York, Albany	WXXW	850	2:00 p.m.
New York	WJZ	770	12:30 p.m.
Olean	WHOL	1450	1:00 p.m.
Rochester	WARC	950	3:00 p.m.
Saranac Lake	WEAV	960	2:00 p.m.
Syracuse	WAGE	620	12:00 n.
N. Carolina, Ashville	WLDS	1380	1:00 p.m.
Charlotte	WAYS	610	1:00 p.m.
Durham	WTIK	1310	2:00 p.m.
Fayetteville (Sat.)	WFLB	1490	1:00 p.m.
Salisbury	WSAT	1280	1:00 p.m.
Winston - Salem	WAIR	1340	1:30 p.m.
N. Dakota, Fargo	KFGO	790	7:00 a.m.
Ohio, Cleveland	WJW	850	1:00 p.m.
Columbus	WCOL	1230	9:30 a.m.
Lima	WIMA	1150	9:00 a.m.
Youngstown	WBBW	1240	8:30 a.m.
Oklahoma, Ada	KADA	1230	1:00 p.m.
Enid	KCRC	1390	1:00 p.m.
McAlester	KTMC	1400	1:00 p.m.
Muskogee	KBIX	1490	2:00 p.m.
Oklahoma City	KTOK	1000	9:30 a.m.
Tulsa	KRMG	740	2:00 p.m.
Oregon, Eugene	KUGN	590	check sta.
Klamath Falls	KFLW	1450	4:30 p.m.
Medford	KMED	1440	7:30 a.m.
Portland	KEX	1190	3:30 p.m.
Penn., Johnstown	WCRO	1230	7:00 p.m.

Philadelphia	WFIL	560	2:00 p.m.
Pittsburg	WCAE	1250	3:00 p.m.
Wilkes Barre	WILK	970	8:00 p.m.
R. Island, Providence	WPJB	1420	1:00 p.m.
S. Carolina, Florence	WJMX	970	10:30 a.m.
S. Dakota, Aberdeen	KSDN	930	10:30 a.m.
Jackson	WTJS	1390	1:00 p.m.
Tenn., Chattanooga	WDEF	1370	1:00 p.m.
Johnson City	WJHL	910	11:30 p.m.
Knoxville	WBIR	1240	1:30 p.m.
Memphis	WMPS	680	9:00 p.m.
Nashville	WSIX	980	4:00 p.m.
Texas, Abilene	KRBC	1470	1:00 p.m.
Amarillo	KFDA	1440	1:30 p.m.
Austin	KNOW	1490	2:00 p.m.
Beaumont	KFDM	560	1:00 p.m.
Big Spring	KBST	1490	1:00 p.m.
Brownfield	KTFY	1050	4:30 p.m.
Brownsville	KVAL	1490	1:00 p.m.
Corpus Christi	KEYS	1440	9:00 a.m.
El Paso	KEPO	690	3:00 p.m.
Ft. Worth	WBAP	570	1:00 p.m.
Graham	KSWA	1330	4:30 p.m.
Houston	KXYZ	1320	8:00 a.m.
Longview	KFRZ	1370	1:00 p.m.
Lubbock	KFYD	1340	4:00 p.m.
Midland	KCRS	550	1:30 p.m.
Paris	KPLT	1490	9:00 p.m.
San Angelo	KGKL	960	1:00 p.m.
San Antonio	KMAC	630	9:00 p.m.
Texarkana	KCMC	1230	1:00 p.m.
Wichita Falls	KPDX	990	2:00 p.m.
Utah, Provo	KCSU	1490	3:00 p.m.
Salt Lake City	KUTA	570	7:30 a.m.
Vermont, Burlington	WJOY	1230	1:00 p.m.
Montpelier-Barre	WSKI	1240	1:00 p.m.
Virginia, Charlottesville	WINA	1280	9:15 a.m.
Norfolk	WGH	1310	5:00 p.m.
Richmond	WRNL	910	1:30 p.m.
Washington, Aberdeen	KBKW	1450	10:00 p.m.
Pasco	WPKW	1340	3:30 p.m.
Seattle	KJR	950	3:30 p.m.
Spokane	KGA	1510	3:30 p.m.
Washington, D. C.	WMAL	630	1:00 p.m.
W. Virginia, Beckley	WWNR	620	1:30 p.m.
Parkersburg	WCOW	1230	Sat.
Wheeling	WKWK	1400	1:00 p.m.
Wisconsin, LaCrosse	WKTY	580	4:00 p.m.
Madison	WIBA	1320	8:00 p.m.
Neenah	WNAM	1280	8:00 a.m.
Wyoming, Casper	KSPR	1470	9:15 p.m.
Cheyenne	KFBC	710	12:00 p.m.
Cody	KODI	1400	12:00 p.m.
Rawlins	KRAL	1240	12:00 p.m.
Riverton	KWRL	1450	12:00 p.m.
Torrington	KGOS	1490	12:00 p.m.
Worland	KWOR	1490	12:00 p.m.
Canada, Trail, B. C.	CJAT	610	check sta.

and hearing by the Word of God." I don't believe that there is a religious order of any kind that does not believe that faith is the very basis of man's part in his redemption. But Paul says that this faith can only come by hearing the Word of God. It comes not as a direct gift from God to man, after man's much pleading on his part, but by the diligent, earnest hearing of God's Word.

There are several types of hearers that we will merely mention that we do not want to be like. The first is the man who hears not, because that he refuses to hear. I've known men who have actually feared death so much that they refused to listen to others who told of death. Remember, no matter how much we stop our ears we cannot erase the reality of the judgment and of heaven and of hell. There is another group who hear, but only that which they want to hear. They have no qualms about taking a passage of scripture and actually cutting it in two, in order that they might hear only that which tickles their ears. Paul writing to Timothy in II Timothy 4:1-4 said, "I charge thee in the sight of God, and of Christ Jesus, who shall judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word, be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables."

And then there are friends of mine who hear only when they want to hear. Someone has called them "Sunday Christians," or "periodical Christians." They pretend that they enjoy hearing God's word on occasions, but refuse to be reminded of God's way at any other time of their life. But perhaps the most pitiful group are those who strive to hear but cannot. Their ears are filled with the wax of false doctrine. Not until we put aside these false conceptions will we be able to hear the word of God.

There is a last group who actually do not know how to hear. They know not the division of the scriptures or how they apply to us. Paul told Timothy "Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of Truth." (II Timothy 2:15). "To handle aright" means to rightly divide and unless we discern the scriptures we will find ourselves lost in our quest for God. I say that we have only had time to mention these. Perhaps, later, we can devote an entire discussion to hearing and hearers.

It is my fervent prayer that none of us will be any of these, but that we may study the word of God with the attitude that I want to know the truth, and if I have been wrong, I want to know what is right. Now only knowing it, but I pray that I may have the courage and humility to obey

it. But our time is gone, so next Lord's Day we shall study God's command of faith in answer to this question, "What must I do to be saved." But remember that this faith comes only after a sincere hearing of God's word. My friend, I earnestly am concerned about your soul and my soul. I want to obey the sweet voice of Jesus, for I know that He alone is my hope and as I look about and behold the fading pleasures and passing friends, I am made to realize in the words of the poet,

I am a stranger in the Land
Where my forefather trod;
A stranger I unto each heart,
But not unto my God:
I pass along the crowded streets,
Unrecognized my name;
This thought will come amid regrets-
My God is still the same!
I seek with joy my childhood's home,
But strangers claim the sod;
Not knowing where my kindred roam,
Still present is my God!
They tell me that my friends all sleep
Beneath the valley clod;
Oh, is not faith submissive sweet:
I have no friend save God!

Will you not come to your God today, believe His Holy Word, repent of your transgressions, confess His Son's blessed name and have your sins washed away in the blood of the Lamb by being buried in that watery grave of baptism and rise to a new life in Christ Jesus. Will you not do that today? Remember that our prayer is for you and for your destiny.

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