

2-15-1953

Churches of Christ Salute You with a Herald of Truth: Our Plea Back to the Word of God

James Nichols

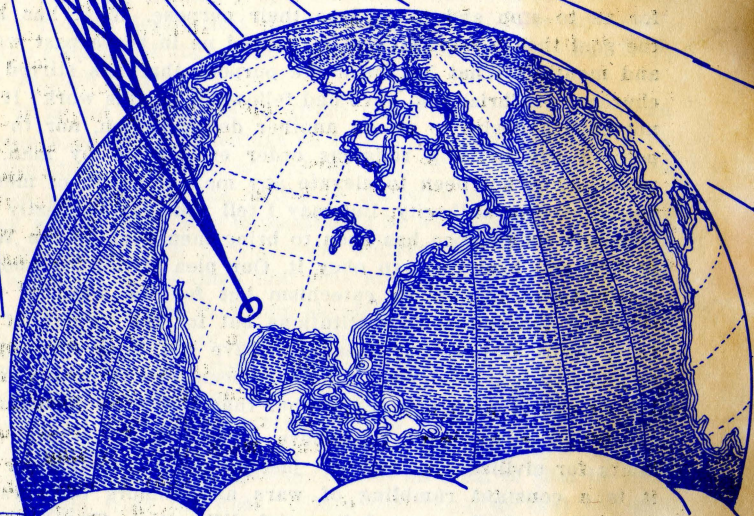
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Churches of Christ
Salute You
with a



*Our Plea Back to the
Word of God*

James W. Nichols

February 15, 1953

Herald of Truth

Our Plea Back to the Word of God

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Abraham Lincoln once said, "All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated from this book; but for this book we would not know right from wrong. All the desirable things for man are contained in it." What book was Abe Lincoln speaking about? The Bible.

In this the 54th broadcast of this series it would be well for us to stop and to analyze their purpose. What has been the goal that has drawn and motivated us in these past weeks and months? What has been the purpose that has stirred the churches of Christ who have had fellowship in this work? It has not been a desire to create another denomination, nor to perpetuate any existing religious order established by man. Its purpose has not been to elevate any man or group of men to prominence or authority. But may I tell you very earnestly and sincerely its purpose has been to bring men back to the Word of God and lead them to obey it. Our plea is not for another discipline or manual or catechism but for the word of God. It is not for man-made institutions but for the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our pleadings have not been for anyone to join any religious group nor has it been for any man, woman, boy or girl to wear any name other than the name Christian.

Whether we want to believe it or not, these are dark hours for civilization. It is not just an occasional thunder but it is a constant rumbling of wars and rumors of wars, of corruption, of distress, of financial difficulties. The hospitals and doctors of our nation will testify to the fact that our civilization is a frustrated one though we have everything that man could possibly want as far as modern conveniences. The people are still hungry and thirsty for something that they do not have. Our purpose, our plea in these broadcasts is to draw men back to the word of God, which Abraham Lincoln said "contained all the things that are desirable to man.

First of all, we want to draw men back to the word of God in their obedience to the gospel. Why? Because the apostle Paul inspired by the Holy Spirit said in Romans 2:8-11, "But unto them that are factious, and obey not the truth, but obey unrighteousness, shall be wrath and indignation, tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that worketh evil, of the Jew

first and also of the Greek; but glory and honor and peace to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek; for there is no respect of persons with God." And again in II Thes. 1:7-9, "And to you that are afflicted, 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."

Since God is going to bring destruction and punishment to those who obey not the gospel of Christ, then it is our responsibility and our desire first of all to draw men back to that word to the gospel that they might be saved from their sins and from the anguish of Hell.

It is not our desire to direct the minds of the American people back to the teachings of some uninspired man but back to the Bible, the word of God, so that they should believe in Christ and God for the writer of Hebrews says in Heb. 11:6, "And 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."

Our plea is also that men should return to the word of God and hear the words of the apostle Paul in Acts 17:30-31, "The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent; inasmuch as he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." Since God requires that all men repent, then we want to direct men back to the word of God that they might by the gospel be convinced of their sins and by the goodness of God be brought to repentance.

But not only to do these things but to have the courage to confess their faith in Christ not because that any council has decreed that it should be done but that the word of God itself reads in Romans 10:10, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Since men cannot confess their faith in something that they do not know about, then we desire to lead men to the word of God that they might know of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, might believe upon him and have the courage to confess him before men.

Then we would draw them back to the word of God that they should humble themselves in obedience to it by being

YOU MAY HEAR THE HERALD OF TRUTH OVER THESE STATIONS

Alabama, Anniston	WHMA	1450	1:00 p.m.	New Orleans	WDSU	1280	1:00 p.m.	Philadelphia	WFIL	560	2:00 p.m.
Auburn	WAUD	1230	1:00 p.m.	Shreveport	KRMD	1340	1:00 p.m.	Pittsburg	WCAE	1250	3:00 p.m.
Birmingham	WSGN	610	8:00 a.m.	Maine, Bangor	WABI	910	1:00 p.m.	Wilkes-Barre	WILK	980	5:00 p.m.
Florence	WJOI	1340	9:30 a.m.	Portland	WPOR	1450	9:00 a.m.	R. Island, Providence	WPJB	1420	1:00 p.m.
Gadsden	WGAD	1350	1:00 p.m.	Maryland, Baltimore	WFBR	1300	3:00 p.m.	S. Carolina, Columbia	WCOS	1400	1:00 p.m.
Greenville	WGYV		4:00 p.m.	Cumberland	WDYK	1230	8:00 a.m.	Florence	WJMX	970	10:30 a.m.
Huntsville	WHBS	1490	1:00 p.m.	Mass., Gardner	WHOB	1490	1:00 p.m.	Orangeburg	WRNO	1450	7:00 a.m.
Marion	WJAM	1310	9:30 a.m.	Lawrence	WLAW	680	1:00 p.m.	S. Dakota, Aberdeen	KSDN	930	10:30 a.m.
Mobile	WABB	1480	6:30 a.m.	Springfield	WSPR	1270	2:00 p.m.	Huron	KIJV	1340	9:00 a.m.
Montgomery	WAPX	1600	1:00 p.m.	Worcester	WAAB	1440	2:00 p.m.	Tenn., Chattanooga	WDEF	1370	1:00 p.m.
Selma	WGWC	1340	1:30 p.m.	Michigan, Battle Creek	WELL	1400	1:00 p.m.	Jackson	WTJS	1390	1:00 p.m.
Tuscaloosa	WJRD	1150	9:00 p.m.	Bay City	WBCM	1440	1:00 p.m.	Johnson City	WJHL	910	10:30 p.m.
Arizona, Phoenix	KOY	550	7:00 a.m.	Detroit	WXYZ	1270	1:00 p.m.	Knoxville	WBIR	1240	1:30 p.m.
Tucson	KCNA	580	3:00 p.m.	Flint	WFDF	910	10:00 p.m.	Memphis	WMPB	650	9:30 p.m.
Arkansas, Eldorado	KDMS	1290	1:00 p.m.	Lansing	WILS	1320	1:00 p.m.	Morristown	WCRK	1450	check sta.
Ft. Smith	KFSA	950	1:00 p.m.	Ludington	WKLA	1450	1:00 p.m.	Nashville	WSIX	980	4:00 p.m.
Hot Springs	KTHS	1090	1:00 p.m.	Mt. Pleasant	WCEN	1150	2:00 p.m.	Texas, Abilene	KRBC	1470	1:00 p.m.
Little Rock	KGHI	1250	1:00 p.m.	Muskegon	WKCB	850	2:00 p.m.	Amarillo	KFDA	1440	1:00 p.m.
Springdale	KBRS	1340	6:00 p.m.	Minn., Minn.-St. Paul	WTCN	1280	7:30 a.m.	Austin	KNOW	1490	2:00 p.m.
Calif., Bakersfield	KPMC	1560	10:00 a.m.	Mankato	KTOE	1420	2:00 p.m.	Beaumont	KFDM	560	1:00 p.m.
Blythe	KYOR	1450	3:30 p.m.	Centerville	WGLC	1580	8:00 a.m.	Big Spring	KBST	1490	1:00 p.m.
Brawley	KROP	1300	3:30 p.m.	Aberdeen	WMPA	1240	1:00 p.m.	Brownfield	KTFY	1300	4:30 p.m.
Eureka	KIEM	1480	8:00 a.m.	Columbus	WCBI	1340	6:00 p.m.	Brownwood	KBWD	1380	6:30 p.m.
Fresno	KARM	1430	3:30 p.m.	Greenwood	WABG	960	1:00 p.m.	Corpus Christi	KEYS	1440	9:00 a.m.
Indio	KREO	1400	3:30 p.m.	Jackson	WSLI	930	2:00 p.m.	El Paso	KEPO	690	3:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	KECA	790	3:30 p.m.	Kosciusko	WKOZ	1340	1:00 p.m.	Ft. Worth	WBAP	570	1:00 p.m.
Modesto	KTRB	860	3:00 p.m.	Laurel	WLAU	1490	1:00 p.m.	Graham	KSWA	1330	4:30 p.m.
San Francisco	KGO	810	3:30 p.m.	McComb	WSKB	1250	9:30 a.m.	Houston	KXYZ	1320	8:00 a.m.
San Luis Obispo	KATY	1340	3:30 p.m.	Missouri, Kansas City	KCMO	810	12:30 p.m.	Longview	KFRO	1370	1:00 p.m.
Colorado, Craig	KRAI	1230	5:30 p.m.	Rolla	KTTR	1490	8:45 a.m.	Lubbock	KFYO	1340	4:00 p.m.
Denver	KVOD	630	3:00 p.m.	St. Louis	KXOK	630	2:00 p.m.	Midland	KCRS	550	1:30 p.m.
Conn., Bridgeport	WNAB	1450	2:00 p.m.	Springfield	KWTO	560	1:00 p.m.	Nacogdoches	KOSF	1230	1:00 p.m.
Hartford	WHTT	1230	2:30 p.m.	Montana, Butte	KOPR	580	9:15 a.m.	Paris	KPLT	1490	4:00 p.m.
Delaware, Wilmington	WILM	1450	2:00 p.m.	Great Falls	KMON	560	7:30 a.m.	San Angelo	KGKL	960	1:00 p.m.
Florida, Gainesville	WGGG	1230	1:00 p.m.	Nebraska, Lincoln	KFOR	1240	10:30 a.m.	San Antonio	KMAC	630	9:00 p.m.
Jacksonville	WPDQ	600	8:30 a.m.	N. Platt	KNBR	970	9:00 a.m.	Texarkana	KCMC	1230	1:00 p.m.
Leesburg	WLBE	790	check sta.	Omaha	KOIL	1290	5:30 p.m.	Wichita Falls	KFDX	990	2:00 p.m.
Miami	WQAM	560	1:00 p.m.	Sidney	KSID	1540	9:30 a.m.	Utah, Provo	KCSU	1490	3:00 p.m.
Panama City	WPCF	1400	1:00 p.m.	N. Hamp., Claremont	WTSV	1230	1:00 p.m.	Salt Lake City	KUTA	570	7:30 a.m.
Pensacola	WEAR	1230	11:00 p.m.	Lebanon	WTSV	1400	1:00 p.m.	Vermont, Brattleboro	WTSA	1450	1:00 p.m.
Tallahassee	WTNT	1450	5:00 p.m.	Manchester	WMUR	610	3:00 p.m.	Burlington	WJOY	1230	1:00 p.m.
Tampa, St. Pete	WSUN	620	1:00 p.m.	N. Mexico, Albuquerque	KOAT	1450	3:00 p.m.	Montpelier-Barre	WSKI	1240	1:00 p.m.
Georgia, Atlanta	WGST	920	1:00 p.m.	Carlsbad	KPBM	740	check sta.	Virginia, Charlottesville	WINA	1280	9:15 a.m.
Augusta	WGAC	580	2:00 p.m.	Clovis	KCLV	1240	1:00 p.m.	Fredericksburg	WFVA	1230	check sta.
Brunswick	WGIG	1440	1:00 p.m.	Los Alamos	KRSN	1490	3:00 p.m.	Marion	WMEV	1010	2:00 p.m.
Cairo	WGRA	1300	3:00 p.m.	Santa Fe	KTRC	1400	3:00 p.m.	Norfolk	WGH	1310	6:30 p.m.
Columbus	WGBA	1460	7:30 a.m.	New York, Albany	WXKW	850	2:00 p.m.	Richmond	WRNL	910	1:30 p.m.
Dawson	WDWD	990	2:00 p.m.	New York	WJZ	770	12:30 p.m.	Washington, Aberdeen	KBKW	1450	10:30 p.m.
Macon	WNEX	1400	1:00 p.m.	Olean	WMDL	1450	1:00 p.m.	Omak	KOMW	680	9:15 a.m.
Rome	WLAQ	670	1:00 p.m.	Rochester	WARC	950	3:00 p.m.	Pasco	KPKW	1340	3:30 p.m.
Savannah	WDAR	1400	1:00 p.m.	Saranac Lake	WEAV	960	2:00 p.m.	Seattle	KJR	950	3:30 p.m.
Valdosta	WGAF	910	1:00 p.m.	Syracuse	WAGE	620	12:00 n.	Spokane	KGA	1510	3:30 p.m.
Idaho, Boise	KGEM	1140	2:00 p.m.	N. Carolina, Asheville	WLOS	1380	1:00 p.m.	Washington, D. C.	WMAL	630	1:00 p.m.
Pocatello	KEIO	1440	9:30 a.m.	Charlotte	WAYS	610	1:00 p.m.	W. Virginia, Beckley	WVNR	620	1:30 p.m.
Twin Falls	KTFI	1270	7:30 a.m.	Durham	WTIK	1310	2:00 p.m.	Huntington	WHTN	800	8:00 a.m.
Illinois, Chicago	WENR-WLS	890	2:30 p.m.	Fayetteville (Sat.)	WFLB	1490	1:00 p.m.	Parkersburg, Sat.	WCOM	1230	5:30 p.m.
Quincy	WGEM	1440	8:00 a.m.	Salisbury	WSAT	1280	1:00 p.m.	Wheeling	WKWK	1400	1:00 p.m.
Indiana, Anderson	WHBU	1240	1:30 p.m.	Wilmington	WGNI	1340	8:30 a.m.	Wisconsin, Green Bay	WDUZ	1400	5:30 p.m.
Bloomington	WTTS	1370	1:00 p.m.	Winston-Salem	WAIR	1340	1:00 p.m.	LaCrosse	WKTY	580	4:00 p.m.
Evansville	WJPS	1330	10:15 p.m.	N. Dakota, Fargo	KFGO	790	1:00 p.m.	Madison	WIBA	1320	8:00 a.m.
Ft. Wayne	WGL	1250	1:00 p.m.	Ohio, Cleveland	WJW	850	1:00 p.m.	Milwaukee	WCAN	1250	2:00 p.m.
Iowa, Cedar Rapids	WMT	600	7:30 a.m.	Columbus	WHKC	610	1:00 p.m.	Neenah	WNAM	1280	8:00 a.m.
Davenport	WOC	1420	check sta.	Lima	WIMA	1150	9:00 a.m.	Wasau	WSAU	1400	9:30 a.m.
Des Moines	KSO	1460	1:00 p.m.	Youngstown	WBBW	1240	8:30 a.m.	Wyoming, Casper	KSPR	1470	9:15 p.m.
Sioux City	KSCJ	1360	10:30 p.m.	Oklahoma, Ada	KADA	1230	1:00 p.m.	Cheyenne	KFBC	710	12:00 p.m.
Waterloo	KXEL	1540	5:30 p.m.	Enid	KCRC	1390	1:00 p.m.	Cody	KODI	1400	12:00 p.m.
Kansas, Coffeyville	KGGF	690	2:00 p.m.	McAlester	KTMC	1400	1:00 p.m.	Laramie	KOWB	1340	12:00 p.m.
Topeka	WREN	1250	1:00 p.m.	Muskogee	KBIX	1490	2:00 p.m.	Rawlins	KRAL	1240	12:00 p.m.
Wichita	KWBB	1410	3:30 p.m.	Oklahoma City	KTOG	1000	9:30 a.m.	Riverton	KWRL	1450	12:00 p.m.
Ken., Bowling Green	WKCT	930	1:00 p.m.	Tulsa	KRMG	740	2:00 p.m.	Torrington	KGOS	1490	12:00 p.m.
Harlan	WHLN	1230	3:00 p.m.	Oregon, Eugene	KASH	1600	1:00 p.m.	Worland	KWOR	1490	12:00 p.m.
Louisville	WKLO	1080	1:00 p.m.	Medford	KMED	1440	7:30 a.m.	Alaska, Juneau (Sat.)	KJNO	630	1:00 p.m.
Mayfield	WKTM	1050	4:15 p.m.	Portland	KEX	1190	3:30 p.m.	Canada, Trill, B.C.	CJAT	610	9:30 a.m.
Newport	WNOP	740	2:00 p.m.	Redmond	KSGA	1240	3:30 p.m.	Toronto, Ont.	CKEY	580	9:15 a.m.
Paducah	WKYB	570	check sta.	The Dalles	KODL	1230	1:00 p.m.	Winnipeg, Man.	CKY	580	6:45 a.m.
Louisiana, Baton Rouge	WLCS	910	1:00 p.m.	Penn., Johnstown	WCRO	1230	1:00 p.m.				
Monroe	KMLB	1440	2:00 p.m.								

All times are Sunday unless otherwise indicated.

buried with their Lord in baptism for the remission of sins. The apostle Paul said in writing to the Christians of Galatia in Gal. 3:26-27, "For ye are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ," and Peter said in I Peter 3:21, "Which also after a true likeness doth now save you, even baptism." Since every penitent believer becomes a son of God by being baptized into Christ and in this manner "baptism doth also save us", then we plead for men to study the word of God as God's plan of salvation is therein revealed.

These are the things that we plead, not because that some religious group merely wearing the name Church of Christ commands it but because that the Bible, the word of God, commands it. Therefore we direct men to the word of God that they might believe that Jesus is the Christ, repent of their sins, confess his name, and be baptized for the remission of sins.

We would also desire to draw men back to the word of God in the religious names that we wear. We have not at any time asked you to wear any name other than that worn by the disciples of Christ. We have not asked you to wear any man's name, but only the name of Christ. In New Testament times the disciples were called Christians as we read in Acts 11:26, "And it came to pass, that even for a whole year they were gathered together with the church, and taught much people; and that the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."

Peter was proud of the name Christian for he said in I Peter 4:16, "But if a man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God in this name." We plead that you hear the word of God and be nothing more nor nothing less than Christians, those who are part of Christ.

Nor is it our desire that you join yourself to some religious group of some man-made name, but it is our desire that you would go back to the word of God and obey it as did 3,000 on the day of Pentecost. And when they had obeyed it, the Lord added them to the church. We read in Acts 2:41, "They then that received his word were baptized: and there were added unto them in that day about three thousand souls."

And again in verse 47, "Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to them day by day those that were saved." The church to which the Lord adds you is not some man-made denomination but the Church which Christ built and purchased with his own blood. He told the disciples in Matt. 16:18, "And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades

shall not prevail against it." In Rom. 16:16 Paul writes to the Christians at Rome that "The churches of Christ salute you." Since the church to be built was the church of Christ and since Paul refers to the congregations as Churches of Christ, then we plead for you to go back to the word of God and be a member of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ and it only, for therein can we give God and Christ the glory and honor that they deserve.

We have not advocated any worship other than that taught by the word of God. Christ said, "God is a spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth," John 4:24. He again said in John 17:17 that the word of God is truth. Therefore, we would direct men that they should worship God in truth in accordance with the word. Our plea is that you should not offer up as worship anything other than that which has been authorized by God through his word.

But someone asks, "Why should you direct men back to the word of God and it only?" Because Paul said in Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." And because he said in II Tim. 3:16-17, "Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work." Notice these things: Christ said that the word of God is the truth. He told the disciples that the comforter, or the Holy Spirit, would come to guide them into all truth. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came and in the ensuing years the apostles were guided in all truth so that Jude could say in Jude 3, "Beloved, while I was giving all diligence to write unto you of our common salvation, I was constrained to write unto you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints." Therefore, the word is the power of God unto salvation and the faith once for all delivered and provides us with everything that is necessary. Then the only thing that we could conscientiously do is direct men back to the word of God leaving the traditions of men and religious orders. Christ said in Matt. 15:3, ". . . Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?" And then again the 9th verse, "But in vain do they worship me."

Return to God in obedience. Our plea today is that you should return to the word of God in your obedience to the gospel, return to the word of God in the name that you wear, return to

the word of God in the Church of the Lord and return to the word of God that you might worship him in spirit and in truth.

The destiny of your souls and the destiny of the civilization of the world depend upon your acceptance of this power of God. The writer of Hebrews says in Heb. 5:9, "And having been made perfect, he became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation". Have you obeyed him? Can you honestly say that, "I follow in his footsteps. I stand justified in his sight." If not, why not? Come to Christ in obedience, return to your first love. I believe with all my heart that the destiny of our generation and especially our children and our children's children depend upon what we will do with the word of God. H. G. Wells said, "The Bible has lost hold, but nothing has arisen to take its place. That is the gravest aspect of the matter. It was the cement with which our Western communities were built and by which they were held together." But more than this physical salvation of civilization may I remind you again that your eternal destiny is being determined now as you make the decision to accept or reject the gospel. We are praying and pleading while you make the decision.