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Churches of Christ Salute You with a Herald of Truth: What Will You Do With Jesus?

James Nichols

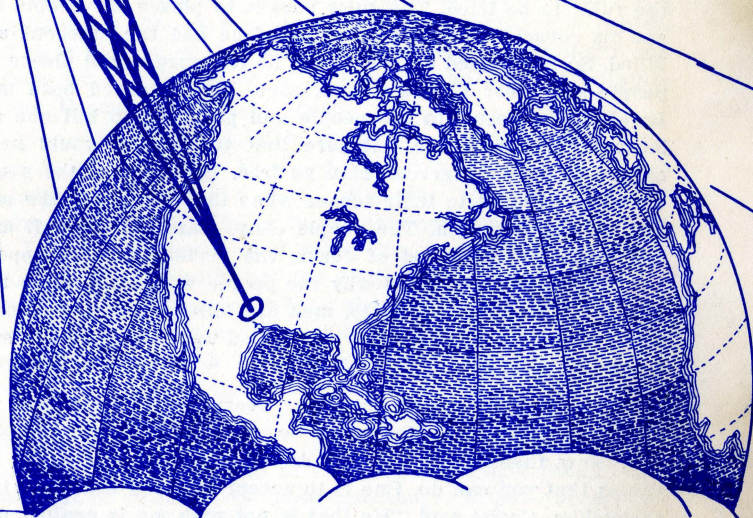
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*Churches of Christ
Salute You
with a*



What Will You Do With Jesus?

James W. Nichols

February 22, 1953

Herald of Truth

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Nearly 2,000 years ago a group of people were called upon to make a decision. The decision did not look like a hard one to make. They were called upon to be a judge between two men. One man had lived a life of wickedness. He was a thief and had been cast into prison. The other man had never done anything to harm anyone. His life had been the life of a physician. He had healed the sick and afflicted. He had given peace of mind to many, yet he had many enemies. So he was carried before the ruler to be tried. The ruler sought to please the people and yet his conscience would hurt him if he had the innocent man killed. So he devised a plan, which he felt sure would please the people and clear his own conscience. He presented both men, Barabas and Jesus, to the people and proposed to kill one and loose the other. Pilate felt sure that the people would never choose to let a dangerous man go free. He felt that the people would be brought to their senses when they compared the men, but he was mistaken. The people chose Barabas, the evil man, and cried for the blood of Jesus, the perfect man. It appears hard for us to understand why the people would choose as they did, but after all these years, men are following in the steps of those wicked men, when they are called upon to make the most important choice.

Just as Pilate cried out many years ago, "What then will you do with Jesus?" The same question is being presented to you. Now then what will you do with Jesus? There are two things that you can do. One is to accept him and the other is to reject him. Christ said, "He that is not with me is against me." Matt. 21:30. Therefore, there is no middle line of gray, but black and white. There is no fence that we can straddle, either we accept Jesus Christ or we reject him. And when you reject him, you not only reject him but you accept his counter part. Satan. There are many people today who will reject Christ and accept Satan because they have never stopped to analyze who it is that they accept. They fail to realize that Satan is the father of all lies and everything that is evil and to be abhorred comes from him. Every case of sorrow, of heartache, of loneliness is a product of the works of Satan. Every tombstone is a monument to his efforts. The apostle Paul tells us in Rom. 5:12, through the sin of Adam, death passed unto all men. Thus through the temptation offered by Satan to Eve did death reign on the earth.

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Stand in the military cemeteries of the world and see the thousands of white crosses end on end and you are made to realize a little bit fuller all of the evil that Satan has pressed upon man.

It is hard to conceive that a man or a woman will reject Christ and accept Satan, but I have seen men and women, whose cheeks were bathed in tears, stand before the open grave of a loved one, heart broken, then turn away to continue to follow in the footsteps of Satan, the one who causes all the heartaches, loneliness and death of these loved ones.

Today you are either accepting Christ or rejecting him. You are either for him or you are against him. Either you believe that he is the son of God or you believe that he is not the son of God. What will you do with Jesus is the age old question ringing through your mind today.

In answering this question of what you will do with Jesus, the question must also be asked, "What will you do with his commands?" For Christ said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I spake not from myself; but the Father that sent me, he hath given me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life eternal; the things therefore which I speak, even as the Father hath said unto me, so I speak." John 12:48-50. There are only two things you can do with his commands. One is to obey them, the other is to reject them. Today your life stands as a monument to the obedience of the commands of the Lord Jesus or it stands as a monument of rejection to those commands. Either you are for the Lord or you are against him. If you are for the Lord, you believe in him, you love him, and you will obey him. Christ said in John the 14th chapter, "If a man love me, he will keep my word."

I do not see how that a thinking person would refuse to follow after Christ in obedience, when we realize all of the love that Christ gave for us and all of the pain and sorrow and humiliation, and anguish that he had to endure in life that we might be saved from our sins. Now then today you are either showing your love for Christ by obeying his commands or else by your rejection you are showing your lack of love. What will you do with the command to believe? 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."

YOU MAY HEAR THE HERALD OF TRUTH OVER THESE STATIONS

Alabama, Anniston	WHMA	1450	1:00 p.m.	New Orleans	WDSU	1230	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	WFBP	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	680	9:30 p.m.
Arkansas, Eldorado	KDMS	1290	1:00 p.m.	Lansing	WLSL	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	WKBB	850	2:00 p.m.	Amarillo	KFDA	1440	1:00 p.m.
Springdale	KBRB	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.	Miss., Centerville	WGIC	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	WLAW	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	KTRT	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	WTSL	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	WXXW	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	WHDL	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	WGAJ	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	1350	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	WWNR	620	1:30 p.m.
Twin Falls	KTFI	1270	7:30 a.m.	Durham	WTIC	1310	2:00 p.m.	Huntington	WHTN	800	8:00 a.m.
Illinois, Chicago	WENR	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	WAIK	1400	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.	Neeah	WNAW	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	KGGE	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	KWBW	1410	3:30 p.m.	Oklahoma City	KTOK	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	KWOL	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, Trail, 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.

What will you do with the command to repent of every sin? The apostle Paul tells us in Acts 17:30, "The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent." What will you do with the command to confess his name. Christ said, "Everyone therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven." Matt. 10:32. The apostle Paul says in Rom. 10:10, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." What will you do with the command to be baptized? Christ said in Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned." The apostle Peter said in Acts 2:38, " . . . Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." You are making a choice today on these commands. You are making the choice to obey them or to rebel against them. What will you do with the commands of Christ?

In this decision of what you will do with Christ, we must also consider the question what will you do with the Church. In Matt. 16:18, Christ said, "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." Paul in speaking to the elders of Ephesus said in Acts 20:28, "Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit hath made you bishops, to feed the church of the Lord which he purchased with his own blood." Therefore, the church of the New Testament belongs to Christ and when you decide what you will do with Jesus it involves your decision as to what you will do with the Church. There are two things that you can do. Either accept it just as it was established and seek through obedience to the gospel to be added to it by the Lord, as we read in Acts 2. Either you can reject it and accept the works and theories of man, create some man made institution or perpetuate some existing institution. To accept the church as established by the Lord is to accept its name as set forth in the New Testament. In the New Testament, the church was referred to as: the body of Christ, the church of God, the church of the firstborn and in Rom. 16:16, the apostle Paul said, "The Churches of Christ salute you." When we accept or use any other names in designating the religious group to which we belong, we reject the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. In Eph. 1:22-23, the apostle Paul speaking of God and Christ said, "and he put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him to

be head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." And then in the 4th chapter and the 4th verse, the apostle Paul said, "There is one body . . ." What will you do with the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, his body. What will you do with its government? You can accept it as set forth in the New Testament, maintaining local autonomy with no organizational ties of any kind between congregations. These congregations were led by men who meet the qualifications of elders as set forth in Paul's first letter to Timothy and to Titus. What will you do with the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ must be answered by you and by your actions. But last of all in the question, what you will do with Christ the question must also be asked what will you do with the plan of worship. There are two things you can do. You can accept it as set forth in the New Testament by inspired men or you can reject it. You reject Christ's plan of worship when you accept your own means and methods of worship or when you accept that which has been devised by others. The church of the New Testament worships God by prayer, by singing, by giving and by commemorating the death and suffering of Christ through the Lord's supper. To add or change or to take away from any one of these acts of worship would be to reject Christ's plan of worship. What then will you do with his plan of worship?

But someone says, he does not see how that by changing any of these we would be rejecting Christ's commandments, or his church or his plan of worship. That should be easy for us to understand. A man invents a machine. The machine is manufactured. Some other man comes along, takes the machine and changes it in some manner and it is no longer the invention of the first inventor. A master paints a picture. Another painter comes along and alters the picture. It is no longer the pure work of the master.

Christ before he ascended into heaven said in Matt. 28:18, ". . . All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth." Therefore, for any man or woman to assume authority to change his plan or his commands or his church is to reject his authority.

God speaking on the Mount of transfiguration said, "This is my son in whom I am well pleased". My friends, today you will make an important decision to accept him or reject him to obey or rebel against him. to love him or hate him. I would plead with all of my being that you would accept Christ and reject Satan. Accept his commands and reject the doctrines and

traditions of man. Accept his church and reject denominations. Accept his plan of worship and reject the ritual and devices of man.

A long time ago Joshua stood before the children of Israel as he neared his death and plead in these words in Joshua 24:14-15, "Now therefore fear Jehovah, and serve him in sincerity and in truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the river, and in Egypt and serve ye Jehovah. And if it seem evil unto you to serve Jehovah, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were beyond the river, or the Gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me, and my house, we will serve Jehovah." I plead with you today choose you this day whom you will serve, whether it be Christ or whether it be Satan. You are either for Christ or you are against him. You are either right or you are wrong. You are either for Satan or you are against him and my prayer is at this time that you resolve that today you will obey the Lord. I will follow after his commands. I want to be a member of his church and obey him. I want to do his will. We work and pray to the end that you will.