

5-1953

# Churches of Christ Salute You with a Herald of Truth: May Report

Herald of Truth

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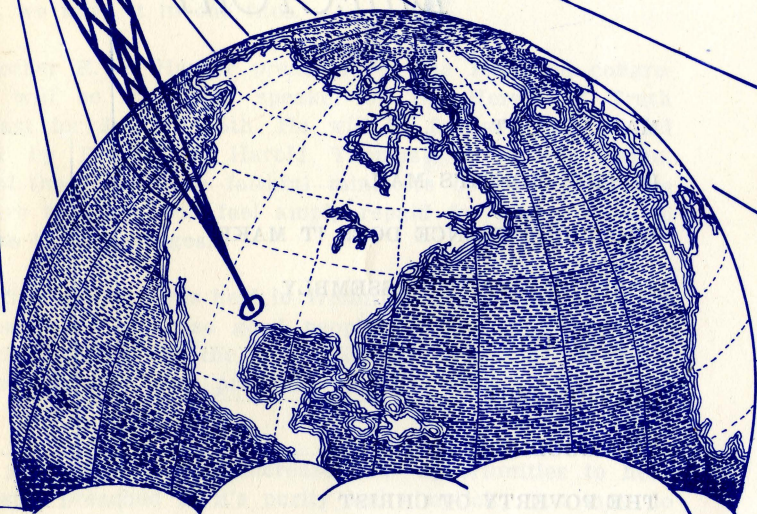
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*Churches of Christ  
Salute You  
with a*



**May Report**  
1953

*Herald of Truth*



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## May Report

Vacation time is now upon us. Many are planning to take trips to various places in search of rest and diversion from the normal routine of work. This is fine and it is wonderful to be able to do so. Let us not, however, forget to attend to the worship and work of the Lord wherever we may go. If you are still planning a trip and are not sure whether the church meets in a certain locality we would be glad to furnish this information if you will only request it and provided, of course, we have it in our files.

Brother E. R. Harper preacher for the Highland congregation will be the guest speaker on the Herald of Truth broadcast for July the 5th. He will be followed the second Sunday by Brother J. Harold Thomas of Bangor, Maine. Both of these men are faithful ministers of Christ and we feel sure that you will feel amply repaid for taking time to listen to their messages.

A fine meeting was held in Wichita Kansas May 31st. For the hospitality of these good people we are truly thankful. The congregations of the Lord's church are surely working hard in this city. Our prayers are with them in this great work.

If you would like to increase your opportunities to hear the gospel preached in it's purity and simplicity you may do so in quite a number of states by tuning in "The Way of Truth" each morning at 6:30, Monday through Friday. The station KWBU Corpus Christi, Texas. The dial location is 1030. Brother R. D. Simmons is the regular preacher.



# In This Month's Mail

CHURCH OF CHRIST  
530 W. University Parkway  
Baltimore, Md.

The Herald of Truth  
P. O. Box 1264  
Abilene, Texas

Dear Brethren:

We are enclosing herewith an announcement which includes mention of our spring meeting beginning May 31st. If possible we would like for you to have this substituted for our regular announcement at the close of the Herald of Truth broadcast on the local station, WFBR, on May 10, May 17, May 24, and May 31st.

You will certainly be interested to know that during the first week in March a colored man, his wife, and four children made the confession and were baptised by Brother Blackwell here in Baltimore. They had learned the truth first via the Herald of Truth. These are the first baptisms in Baltimore as a direct result of this broadcast, but we certainly hope that there will be others. This man, Mr. Elijah Gwynn, and his family live near Fork, Maryland, but they are reported to be attending services regularly now with our colored brethren at 105 N. Gilmor Street.

If you can have the enclosed announcement made for us, it will be greatly appreciated.

Yours in Christ  
Charles E. Crouch  
For the Elders

John W. Medders  
P. O. Box 31  
Carrollton, Ga.

The Herald of Truth  
P. O. Box 1264  
Abilene, Texas

Dear Brethren,

The Church here in Carrollton on Maple and Tuggle Streets asked me to write to the Herald of Truth, and see if you brethren could arrange for the Herald of Truth program to be put on our local radio station some time during the day on each Sunday. This station, however, is independent and operates on a assigned frequency of two hundred and fifty watts and eleven hundred kilocycles, which is non-directional. The programs on this station are heard fifty air-route miles in any direction. It seems that it has a good listening audience.

The name and address of the local radio station is as follows: WLBB Radio Station, P. O. Box 116, Carrollton, Ga.

The Church here in Carrollton is a mission point, and is a worthy cause. We fully believe if the Herald of Truth program could be heard over the local radio station WLBB, it would mean much strength for the Lord's work here in Carrollton, and other places as well. Since the church here is a mission point and is not able financially to support a full program, the brethren are willing to contribute what they can to the support of the Herald of Truth program there.

Brethren, for reference, I wish to refer you to two congregations of the Church. Church of Christ, Moreland Avenue, Atlanta, Ga., and the Church of Christ, Bremen, Ga. The church on Moreland Avenue in Atlanta began the work here in Carrollton only a few years ago, and is still supporting the work here. The church in Bremen also helps support the work. I trust that the proper consideration will be given to this call.

May I hear from you soon? I remain,

Your fraternally,  
John W. Medders, Min.



# What Difference Does It Make?

BY JAMES W. NICHOLS

MAY 3, 1953

If I were to try to characterize the present generation I might well describe it as the "What Difference Does It Make" age. I do not know to what we can attribute this attitude, but certainly one of the favorite retorts of the modern generation when reproved for some action is, "What difference does it make?"

I'm persuaded that this attitude has found great lodging in the religious thinking of the people of the world. It is becoming common for men of authority to shrug off their actions and teachings, which contradict the scripture, by saying, "what difference does it make?" Men have taken every aspect of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, requirements of entrance to the church, its name, its organization, its precepts and teachings, and have at sometime or other said, "what difference does it make?"

Men have tried to take out of the gospel that which they desire to believe and elevate its importance above every other element the Lord explicitly set forth, and when questioned because of such tactics the reply many times is, "it makes no difference about these things."

I don't suppose that we could fairly or justly call this the modern approach, for this has been the approach of man from the beginning. And even before man contended for this idea Satan himself advocated it. The attitude of, "What difference does it make?" was Satan's in the garden as he plead with Eve to do that which God had commanded that she should not.

It was the same attitude of Cain as he offered that which God has not commanded. It was the attitude of the people of Noah's time, "what difference does it make? We've never seen it rain before, if it should, we have boats of our own". Perhaps Satan even placed it in the heart of Noah, when he went about gathering the gopher wood to build the ark. Wouldn't pine, or oak or hickory do just as well? But he rejected it.

It could have been the attitude of Abraham, but it wasn't. He could have said within himself, what difference does it make, what I offer up to God, when he was commanded to sacrifice his own son. It was the attitude of Lot's wife when Lot and his wife and two daughters were commanded to flee from Sodom and Gomorrah and not even look back. She must have thought, "what difference does it make" as she turned and looked back to the city. The scriptures say that she became a pillar of salt. We could spend our entire time today in just rehearsing and bringing to remembrance those whose attitude was, "what difference does it make?" From every case where God has legislated, we must conclude that it makes all the difference in the world.

Hear these words of Christ, "He that believeth and is

## WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

baptized, shall be saved." "Go ye and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit," and these words of Peter, "Repent and be baptized, everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ, unto the remission of sins". "Baptism doth now also save us", and these words of apostle Paul, "For we are all children of God, by faith in Christ Jesus, for as many of us have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ", "or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him through baptism unto death that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life." And these of Ananias, the preacher speaking to Saul of Tarsus, "Why tarriest thou, arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on His name."

I do not see how anything could be plainer than this command of baptism. There is not a case of conversion in the New Testament, where baptism was not a very definite part of the acts of obedience, and yet in face of all of these scriptures, some of my religious friends say, "What difference does it make? What difference does it make whether a man is baptized or not?"

I'll tell you what difference it makes. It makes the difference between obedience and disobedience. It is the difference between submitting his will to the Lord's will and rebelling. It is the difference between following Christ, and following Satan. It is the difference between salvation and eternal punishment. I do not believe for one moment that any command the Lord ever gave, is not important. God has never been a giver of commands that were useless. When he told Noah to build the ark of gopher wood he meant gopher wood nothing more nor nothing less. Whenever God has given a command, then to go beyond that which is commanded, or to leave undone that which is commanded is to make void the hope that man has of salvation.

Really do you believe that it does not make any difference whether a man obeys the Lord or not. Does it not make any difference whether a man in obedience to the command to believe and be baptized does that or not. The man who tries to shrug it off, by saying, "What difference does it make?" will not be able to shrug it off when he stands before God at the judgment. Can you honestly say, that you do not believe it is important, or that it does not make any difference whether or not a man is baptized when Christ explicitly sets it forth as a condition of our salvation?

Again we read where the apostle Paul said, that baptism is a burial. "We were buried therefore with him in baptism into death." The apostle Paul said in Col. 2:12, "buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead." In Acts the 8th chapter the inspired writer describes the baptism of the treasurer for Queen Candace, "And he commanded the chariot to stand still; and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught



away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing."

It was over 200 years after the establishment of the Church before any man presumed to sprinkle or to pour for baptism. Eusebius an early historian records that no earlier than 251 A.D. was sprinkling ever practiced. The Edinburgh encyclopedia states that the first authority given by ecclesiastical power for the substitution of sprinkling or pouring for immersion was 735 by Pope Stephen the 2nd, but it was not until the year 1311, that in the council of Ravenna that it was declared by man that immersion or sprinkling was to be indifferent.

Not only do we have these evidences but the New Testament Greek word baptizo is the word which we now have as baptize. Every reputable New Testament Greek authority defines baptizo as to dip to immerse to sink, to dip under or to plunge. There is not one who defines it to mean sprinkle or to pour.

In the apostle's times, when one was baptized he was put under. That's why Paul said that it was a burial, that's why Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, both Philip and the Eunuch. Yet in face of all of these facts, many of my religious friends will shrug their shoulders and say, "what difference does it make whether a man is sprinkled or poured or immersed?" I do not know how men could honestly make such a statement, having these facts before them.

The New Testament described it as a burial. History verified that in the New Testament times baptism was an immersion, and the translation of the Greek word, baptizo, means to immerse, or dip, or to submerge. Really does it not make any difference? It only makes the difference between obedience and disobedience. It only means the difference between submission and rebellion. I believe with all of my heart that when the Lord commands, gives a commandment, it is binding. We have no right to call Christ our Savior, unless we are willing to obey him.

In apostolic times the followers of Christ, Saints in the Kingdom, were called Christians, meaning those that were part of, or pertaining to Christ. The apostle Peter said, "If any man suffer as a Christian, let him glorify God on this behalf." Agrippa said to Paul as he pled with him to obey the gospel, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian", and yet many of my religious friends say, "What difference does it make? There is nothing in a name, it doesn't make any difference whether we wear the name that the followers of Christ wore in apostolic times." They say this in spite of the fact that Peter in Acts 4:12 said, "there is none other name under heaven whereby we must be saved".

They further argue that it makes no difference what name is given to the church, even though the church was known as the church of God, the church of the first born, the church of the Lord, and the church of Christ, in New Testament times. It makes no difference what name we want to take. It makes the difference between obedience and disobedience. It means that the man or the woman is not willing to respect the authority of Christ, and recognize his own reasoning, or the reasoning of his

forefathers as greater than the commands and the examples of Christ and the New Testament Church. Not only have men taken the requirements set down by Christ, for entrance into the kingdom, and the name of the church, changed it and shrugged their shoulders saying, "what difference does it make?", but they've taken every phase of worship to God and at sometime or other said, "it does not make any difference what we do."

Paul inspired by the Holy Spirit commanded us to sing Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. He said in Eph. 5:19, speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, making melody in your heart to the Lord. Col. 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." I also know by history that for over six hundred years after the establishment of the Church there were not any instruments used in connection with the singing of the Church and we are warned that whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ hath not God. It hurts me greatly knowing that in spite of all of these things many of my very dear friends and neighbors will shrug and say, "what difference does it make?" My friends, may I remind you that it is the difference between obedience and disobedience.

Last week we studied extensively the subject of obedience, and how that not only is the basis of our society being endangered but the destiny of our very souls by disobedience. And this attitude of what difference does it make has contributed much to the thinking of those that rebell against the laws of our land, the laws of the home and the laws of the Word of God.

The writer of Hebrews said that Christ is the author of salvation unto them that obey him. Then how could we say that it does not make any difference as to what we do in worship unto him. How could we say that it doesn't make any difference whether a man is baptized or not when Christ commanded him to be baptized. How could we say that it does not make any difference whether a man is sprinkled, or poured or immersed, when the Bible teaches that baptism is immersion and a burial. How could we say that it does not make any difference whether we sing or play or do both, when we have been explicitly commanded to sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. We could continue our study today and mention perhaps a hundred or more commands of Christ that men have taken and refused to obey in justification of themselves, and said, "what difference does it make?"

My friends, can you not see that it makes the difference between obedience and disobedience? And if it's the difference between obedience and disobedience it means the difference between salvation and eternal destruction. The apostle Paul in II Thess. 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 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." I believe



that, and that's one of the reasons that I have always wanted to obey the Gospel and that's the reason that I am pleading with all of my being that you hear the voice of the Lord and that you obey him.

In these broadcasts it's our purpose to lead men to obey the Lord and thereby save their souls and give something in life to live for, and if we fail to present, or if we fail to let men know that they must obey the Gospel, to be saved, then we have failed in our very purpose; let there be no mistake about it. I believe with all of my heart, not because that some man has told me to believe it, not because some council has legislated that it should be so, but because the Word of God says it and teaches it, that unless a man obeys the Gospel, obeys the commands of the Lord, he stands without hope before God. Will you not today, my friends, resolve no longer will I live in rejection and rebellion, but today I will submit my will unto God's will. No longer will I argue that it does not make any difference, but I will willingly say, Lord, as thou hath spoken, I will obey. May God bless you as you make that decision.

## *Forsake Not The Assembly*

BY JAMES W. NICHOLS

MAY 10, 1953

Someone said, "The greatest problem facing every religious group is the problem of the empty pew. Recently I was asked, "Do you really think it is necessary for a man to attend public worship?" Frankly, it is hard to conceive of a real Bible student and one who loves the Lord asking this question.

I remember the story of a little boy that walked down a country lane one day and looked over in a neighbor's farm. There in the orchard was one of the most beautiful pear trees, and on that pear tree were seven of the biggest, most delicious-looking pears. In a little while the farmer came along and out of the goodness of his heart picked six of those seven pears and gave them to the boy. The boy was happy. He went on home eating the pears and enjoying every bite. But after all the six pears had been eaten he thought, "Oh, how good those pears were. I know that other pear is just as good. I sure wish I had it." After a while the little boy's desire for the other pear was so great that he went back to the orchard that night and stole the other pear. We say, "how ungrateful of that boy." The farmer gave him the six pears, and he had to go and steal the other pear. But did you ever stop to think that many are doing this very thing every day? God has given six days and has selected the other day to assemble and worship Him. And what do we do? We enjoy the six days and on the seventh, instead of coming together with the saints we steal the seventh day. We visit our aunt, play golf, go fishing or we stay home and rest. My friends, we are just stealing from the Lord, for if we neglect the worship, we are taking every important thing out of the day.

The inspired writer said in Heb. 10:25, "not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more as ye see the day drawing nigh." I don't know how anything could be much clearer or more explicit than this command, for since it is a command of the Holy Spirit, it is just as binding as the command to believe, or repent, or be baptized.

But to me, absence from the services of the church is most alarming because of the attitude that it represents. When the absence is not due to providential hindrance it can mean only one thing, and that is, that the man or the woman considers some other phase of life more important than services to God.



Christ said, "thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve". The man or woman who chooses to fish, or play golf, or go on a picnic, or entertain company, wash the car, work on the yard, or whatever it may be, when he does this by choice, he is simply saying, "I place this before my service to the Lord", and that becomes an idol and a god. It means that as far as he is concerned, the service could be discontinued, and he is casting his ballot to dispense with it by his absence. He may not curse. He may not steal. He may not lie, murder, commit adultery, or many other sins, but he is guilty of the sin of idolatry in that he allows something to come between him and service to the Lord.

Idolatry, Paul says in Gal. 5:20, condemns a man and will prevent him from inheriting the kingdom of God. Think just for a moment. The Lord said, "he that loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me". There are no closer ties of life than that of family, and Christ said that allegiance to those ties must not supersede our allegiance to Him. Then can a man or a woman honestly say, "I do not think it is necessary for me to attend services today. I would rather fish, or play golf, or go on a picnic, or stay home and sleep".

But not only is such an attitude indicative of idolatry in the heart, but it manifests an attitude that the Lord rebukes as severely as he would any other condition or attitude of mind. The Lord in writing to the Christians at Laodicea said in Rev. 3:15-18, "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So because thou art lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spew thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and have gotten riches, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art the wretched one and miserable and poor and blind and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold refined by fire, that thou mayest become rich; and white garments, that thou mayest clothe thyself, and that the shame of thy nakedness be not made manifest; and eye-salve to anoint thine eyes, that thou mayest see." The man or the woman who is indifferent to worship to God with his fellow-man is merely lukewarm. The Lord says that such an attitude nauseates Him. Such a person, as far as he is concerned, cares not whether the Lord is worshipped. Not that he would oppose it to the point that he would try to suppress it, but neither would he do anything to try to support it.

Several years ago I heard a young man praying concerning some in the congregation for which he was preaching, and he said, "Make them get in or get out". And that is pretty much

the attitude of Christ. Some of us remember, as children, we would be playing with our wagon, being pushed, and at the same time dragging our feet. And our playmates would say, "Either get in the wagon, or get out of it. Get your feet off the ground." It is very much the same way with the Lord. May I ask a question? Do you honestly believe that a man or woman could be saved when his attitude nauseates the Lord, and the Lord says he wishes we were either cold or hot?

There is another aspect that we must consider, and that is influence. When we forsake the assembling of ourselves together with the saints, what does our family think; what do our friends and our neighbors think? Whether you want to believe it or not, a person who forsakes the assembling with the saints stands as a monument to all of his associates as a man who does not have the courage of his convictions, and to him Christianity means very little.

He becomes a beam in the eye of those who are not children of God. Many cannot see the Christ because of the lives of those who should be in faithful service block off the view of His perfection. We cannot say in the words of Cain of old, "Am I my brother's keeper?" for we are. And as earthen vessels containing heavenly treasures, we must go into all the world and preach the gospel, but we cannot preach or teach men in word or deed when our actions openly manifest a lack of allegiance to the One that we advocate.

But someone says, "could I not worship God wherever I am?" And I heard one man actually say, "I could worship God out in the field hunting as well as I could at services". Let us remember our text again, "not forsaking our own assembling together as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more as ye see the day drawing near." The command is, Forsake not the assembling with the saints, and there is no substitute for it. Radio program, record player, or whatever it may be, is not a substitute for the command to assemble with the saints. I recently read in a nationally known magazine of a group of survivors in a ship, and the ordeal through which they went in surviving the shipwreck. Many of us not many months ago saw in another national magazine pictures of the dead and the dying on the streets of India. Men, women and children, whose bodies were actually wasted away by starvation. I don't suppose there is any greater discomfort than that of starvation. Yet it is possible for us to starve spiritually, and at the same time not realize that we are lacking in spiritual food. The man who has ceased to assemble with the saints is wilfully starving his soul. Christ said in John 6:35,



"... I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall not hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." We become partakers of Christ as children having both been adopted and born into the family of God when we worship God and Christ, and commune with them through the Lord's supper.

The easiest way for a new born babe in Christ to die is to forsake the assembly of the saints. If we neglect our souls by forsaking the church services and partaking of the communion, we are contributing to the murder of our souls. And it is worse on the individual that once partakes of Christ and then falls away. The apostle Peter said, "if they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ and they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, 'The dog is turned to his own vomit; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.'" II Peter 2:20-22. So it is necessary for us to watch every step that we should not let our souls die, but should nourish them and feed them the eternal bread of life, even Jesus Christ.

Christ in writing to the Church at Smyrna said in Rev. 2:10, "... Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life." Remember when we forsake the assembly of the saints, we are committing idolatry. We are manifesting a lukewarm attitude. We are destroying our influence and starving our souls. But it can be all tied up in this one word, "disobedience". And Paul said in writing the Roman letter in the second chapter, the 8th and 9th verses, "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." My friends, I am pleading again today with all of my being, that whatever you lack in obeying the Lord, will you not begin at once to make your life right? Those of you who are outside of Christ, you can become a child of God by believing, repenting of your sins, confessing your faith in Him, and then completing the adoption by being buried in baptism. As Paul records 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." Christian friends, you who have forsaken the assembly of yourselves with the saints, you have brought open reproach upon the Church, and upon the name of Christ. Will

you not today make things right? Go to your congregation, and have the courage to say that "I have neglected my service in the Lord, and I am repenting of it, and I am rededicating my life to the Lord." It is just a question of whether you love Him enough that you want to obey Him. What will be your answer? We pray that it will be, "Today I will arise and I will go to the Lord, and I will obey Him." May God bless you in your decision.



# A Just God

BY JAMES W. NICHOLS

MAY 17, 1953

Have you ever heard someone say, "I do not see how that God could allow anyone to be punished eternally. God is so good and so merciful as manifested by the giving of his son that he would not allow any of his creatures to suffer in hell forever and ever." There are many good people today who believe that there will not be any punishment for those who disobey the commandments of God. They believe that God is so good, so longsuffering and so merciful that he could not allow any of his creatures suffer the torments of hell forever.

Such a theory has lent much aid and support to those who not only practice but advocate disobedience to the commands of the Lord Jesus Christ. This leads men to believe that no matter what they do God could not bear to see them punished because of their transgressions. As far as flesh is concerned and the desires of the heart when moved by temptations, this would be easy to believe, but it is not the teaching of the Bible.

I suppose that as humans we are all prone to go to extremes in about every phase of life and we go to extremes in religion. Some men are moved to believe that God is so good and so gracious that he could not allow any man to suffer because of disobedience. Others go to the extreme that they believe God is so exacting that no matter what we do none of us can be saved and that we are all doomed to everlasting torment in the fires of hell. Those who have been so deeply impressed by the severity of God as revealed in both the Old Testament and the New Testament are so overcome with its reality that they seemingly can not realize that God at the same time is merciful and kind and good. On the other hand those that have been moved by the goodness and the graciousness of God can not understand that God can also be severe towards them that disobey him.

Yet it should not be difficult for us to see that God is both good and severe. The apostle Paul reveals this dual nature of God in Romans the 11th chapter the 20th through the 22nd verses as he speaks of God's graciousness to the gentiles, "Be not highminded, but fear: for if God spared not the natural branches, neither will he spare thee. Behold then the goodness and severity of God: toward them that fell, severity; but toward thee, God's goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise, thou also shalt be cut off."

I believe that that great third chapter of John perhaps depicts both the goodness and the wrath of God as well as any other chapter in the Bible. Yet men have quoted from it more as to the goodness and the mercy of God than they have as to the wrath of God upon them that disobey. Hear the words of Christ, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life." And then may we turn over to the 36th verse, the closing words of that chapter as Christ said, "He that believeth

## A JUST GOD

on the Son hath eternal life; but he that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him."

We also see the goodness of God portrayed in the words of the writer of Hebrews in Heb. 5:8-9, "though he was a son, yet learned obedience by the things which he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation;" But the apostle Paul also shows us the severity of Christ in these words in II Thess. 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."

In Rom. 2:4-9, the apostle Paul further outlines the goodness and severity of God in these words, "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? but after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up for thyself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; who will render to every man according to his works: to them that by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and incorruption, eternal life: 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;"

I believe that the thing that most of us miss is the fact that God while both good and severe is just and that in the day of judgment God shall by his son judge us justly.

You know, too many of us do not want justice. We are like the young boy who stood trembling before the judge. The judge trying to reassure him said, "Son, don't be afraid. We will deal with you justly." and he said, "but, sir, that is what I am afraid of. I don't want justice. I want mercy."

The apostle Paul speaking in Acts 17:31, "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 raised him from the dead." And in Rev. 15:3, it is said of Christ. "And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, O Lord God, the Almighty; righteous and true are thy ways thou King of the ages." Rev. 16:5-7, "And I heard the angel of the waters saying, Righteous art thou, who art and who wast thou Holy One, because thou didst thus judge: for they poured out the blood of Saints and prophets, and blood hast thou given them to drink: they are worthy. And I heard the altar saying, Yea, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments."

The apostle Paul emphatically said, in Rom. 3:4-6, "... let God be found true, but every man a liar; as it is written, that thou mightest be justified in thy words, And mightest prevail when thou comest into judgment. But if our unrighteousness commandeth the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is



# YOU MAY HEAR THE HERALD OF TRUTH OVER THESE STATIONS

ALABAMA—				ILLINOIS—				NEBRASKA—				Johnson City				WJHL	910	11:30 p.m.			
Albertville	WAVU	630	4:30 p.m.	Chicago	WENR-WLS	890	2:30 p.m.	Lincoln	KFOR	1240	10:30 a.m.	Knoxville	WBIR	1240	1:30 p.m.						
Anniston	WHMA	1450	1:00 p.m.	Quincy	WGEM	1440	8:00 a.m.	N. Platt	KNBR	970	9:00 a.m.	Memphis	WMPS	680	9:30 p.m.						
Auburn	WAUD	1230	1:00 p.m.	INDIANA—				Omaha	KOIL	1290	5:30 p.m.	Morristown	WCRK	1450	9:00 a.m.						
Birmingham	WSGN	610	8:00 a.m.	Anderson	WHBU	1240	1:30 p.m.	Sidney	KSID	1540	9:30 a.m.	Nashville	WSIX	980	4:00 p.m.						
Florence	WJOI	1340	8:00 p.m.	Bloomington	WTTS	1370	1:00 p.m.	NEVADA													
Ft. Payne	WFPA	1400	8:00 a.m.	Evansville	WJPS	1330	1:30 p.m.	Las Vegas	KENO	1460	9:30 a.m.	TEXAS—									
Gadsden	WGAD	1350	1:00 p.m.	Ft. Wayne	WGL	1250	1:00 p.m.	NEW HAMPSHIRE—				Abilene	KRBC	1470	1:00 p.m.						
Greenville	WGYV	1400	4:00 p.m.	IOWA—				Claremont	WTSV	1230	1:00 p.m.	Amarillo	KFDA	1440	1:00 p.m.						
Hamilton	WERH	970	1:00 p.m.	Cedar Rapids	WMT	600	7:30 a.m.	Lebanon	WTSN	1400	1:00 p.m.	Austin	KNOW	1490	2:00 p.m.						
Huntsville	WHBS	1490	7:30 a.m.	Des Moines	KSO	1460	6:00 p.m.	Manchester	WMUR	610	3:00 p.m.	Beaumont	KFDM	560	1:00 p.m.						
Marion	WJAM	1310	9:30 a.m.	Sioux City	KSCJ	1360	10:30 p.m.	NEW MEXICO—				Big Spring	KBST	1490	1:00 p.m.						
Mobile	WABB	1480	6:30 a.m.	Waterloo	KXEL	1540	8:30 p.m.	Albuquerque	KOAT	1450	3:00 p.m.	Brownfield	KTFY	1300	4:30 p.m.						
Montgomery	WAPX	1600	1:00 p.m.	KANSAS—				Carlsbad	KPBM	740	1:30 p.m.	Brownwood	KBWD	1380	6:30 p.m.						
Scottsboro	WCRI	1050	4:30 p.m.	Coffeyville	KGGE	690	2:00 p.m.	Clovis	KCLV	1240	1:00 p.m.	Corpus Christi	KEYS	1440	9:00 a.m.						
Selma	WGWC	1340	1:30 p.m.	Dodge City	KGNL	—	1:30 p.m.	Los Alamos	KRSN	1490	3:00 p.m.	El Paso	KEPO	690	3:00 p.m.						
Talladega	WHTB	1240	1:30 p.m.	Topeka	WREN	1250	1:00 p.m.	Santa Fe	KTRC	1400	3:00 p.m.	Ft. Worth	WBAP	570	1:00 p.m.						
Troy	WTBT	1490	1:00 p.m.	Wichita	KWBB	1410	3:30 p.m.	NEW YORK—				Graham	KSWA	1330	4:30 p.m.						
Tuscaloosa	WJRD	1150	9:00 p.m.	KENTUCKY—				Albany	WXXW	850	2:00 p.m.	Houston	KXYZ	1320	8:00 a.m.						
ARIZONA—				Bowling Green	WKCT	930	1:00 p.m.	New York	WABC	770	12:30 p.m.	Longview	KFRZ	1370	1:00 p.m.						
Bisbee	KSUN	1230	1:00 p.m.	Louisville	WKLO	1080	1:00 p.m.	Olean	WHDL	1450	1:00 p.m.	Lubbock	KFYO	1340	4:00 p.m.						
Flagstaff	KCLS	1340	7:30 a.m.	Mayfield	WKTM	1050	4:15 p.m.	Poughkeepsie	WKIP	1450	1:00 p.m.	Midland	KCRS	550	1:30 p.m.						
Kingman	KGAN	920	1:00 p.m.	Newport	WNOP	740	2:00 p.m.	Recherster	WARC	950	9:30 a.m.	Nacogdoches	KOSF	1230	1:00 p.m.						
Phoenix	KOY	550	7:00 a.m.	Paducah	WKYB	570	1:30 p.m.	Saranak Lake	WEAV	960	2:00 p.m.	Paris	KPLT	1490	4:00 p.m.						
Tucson	KCNA	580	3:00 p.m.	LOUISIANA—				Syracuse	WAGE	620	12:00 n.	San Angelo	KGKL	960	1:00 p.m.						
ARKANSAS—				Baton Rouge	WLCS	910	1:00 p.m.	NORTH CAROLINA—				San Antonio	KMAC	630	9:00 p.m.						
Eldorado	KDMS	1290	1:00 p.m.	Monroe	KMLB	1440	2:00 p.m.	Ashville	WLOS	1380	1:00 p.m.	Texarkana	KCMC	1230	1:00 p.m.						
Forrest City	KXJK	950	9:00 a.m.	New Iberia	KANE	1240	1:00 p.m.	Charlotte	WAYS	610	1:00 p.m.	Wichita Falls	KFDX	990	2:00 p.m.						
Ft. Smith	KFSA	950	1:00 p.m.	New Orleans	WDSU	1280	1:00 p.m.	Durham	WTKI	1310	2:00 p.m.	UTAH—									
Hot Springs	KWFC	1340	8:30 p.m.	Shreveport	KRMD	1340	1:00 p.m.	Fayetteville (Sat)	WFLB	1490	1:00 p.m.	Provo	KCSU	1490	3:00 p.m.						
Little Rock	KGHI	1250	1:00 p.m.	MAINE—				Salisbury	WSAT	1280	1:00 p.m.	Salt Lake City	KUTA	570	7:30 a.m.						
Springdale	KBRS	1340	6:00 p.m.	Augusta	WFAU	1340	8:15 p.m.	Wilmington	WGNI	1340	8:30 a.m.	VERMONT—									
CALIFORNIA—				Bangor	WABI	910	1:00 p.m.	Winston-Salem	WAIR	1340	1:00 p.m.	Brattleboro	WTSA	1450	1:00 p.m.						
Bakersfield	KPMC	1560	10:00 a.m.	Portland	WPOR	1450	9:00 a.m.	NORTH DAKOTA—				Burlington	WJOY	1230	1:00 p.m.						
Blythe	KYOR	1450	3:30 p.m.	MARYLAND—				Grand Forks	KILO	1060	1:00 p.m.	Montpelier-Barre	WSKI	1240	1:00 p.m.						
Brawley	KROP	1300	12:30 p.m.	Baltimore	WFBR	1300	3:00 p.m.	Fargo	KFGO	790	1:00 p.m.	VIRGINIA—									
Eureka	KIEM	1480	8:00 a.m.	Cumberland	WDYK	1230	8:00 a.m.	OHIO—				Fredericksburg	WFVA	1230	12:30 p.m.						
Fresno	KARM	1430	3:30 p.m.	MASSACHUSETTS—				Cleveland	WJW	850	1:00 p.m.	Marion	WMEV	1010	2:00 p.m.						
Indio	KREO	1400	3:30 p.m.	Gardner	WHOB	1490	1:00 p.m.	Columbus	WHKC	610	1:00 p.m.	Norfolk	WGH	1310	6:30 p.m.						
Los Angeles	KECA	790	3:30 p.m.	Lawrence	WHLA	680	1:00 p.m.	Lima	WIMA	1150	9:00 a.m.	Richmond	WRNL	910	1:30 p.m.						
Portersville	KTIP	1450	3:30 p.m.	Springfield	WSPR	1270	2:00 p.m.	Toledo	WTOL	1230	1:00 p.m.	WASHINGTON—									
San Francisco	KGO	810	3:30 p.m.	Worcester	WAAB	1440	1:00 p.m.	Youngstown	WBBW	1240	8:30 a.m.	Aberdeen	KBKW	1450	9:00 p.m.						
San Luis Obispo	KATY	1340	3:30 p.m.	MICHIGAN—				OKLAHOMA—				Omak	KOMW	680	9:15 a.m.						
COLORADO—				Battle Creek	WELL	1400	1:00 p.m.	Ada	KADA	1230	1:00 p.m.	Pasco	KPKW	1340	3:30 p.m.						
Craig	KRAI	1230	5:30 p.m.	Bay City	WBCM	1440	1:00 p.m.	Enid	KCRC	1390	1:00 p.m.	Spokane	KGA	1510	3:30 p.m.						
Denver	KVOD	630	3:00 p.m.	Detroit	WXYZ	1270	1:00 p.m.	McAlester	KTMC	1400	1:00 p.m.	WASHINGTON, D.C. WMAL				630	1:00 p.m.				
CONNECTICUT—				Flint	WTAC	600	10:30 p.m.	Muskogee	KBIX	1490	2:00 p.m.	Beckley	WWNR	620	1:30 p.m.						
Bridgeport	WNAB	1450	2:00 p.m.	Lansing	WILS	1320	1:00 p.m.	Oklaoma City	KTOK	1000	9:30 a.m.	Huntington	WHTN	800	8:00 a.m.						
Hartford	WHTT	1230	1:00 p.m.	Ludington	WKLA	1450	1:00 p.m.	Tulsa	KRMG	740	2:00 p.m.	Parkersburg (Sat.)	WCOM	1230	5:30 p.m.						
DELAWARE—				Mt. Pleasant	WCEN	1150	2:00 p.m.	OREGON—				Wheeling	WKWK	1400	1:00 p.m.						
Wilmington	WILM	1450	1:00 p.m.	Muskegon	WKBZ	850	2:00 p.m.	Eugene	KASH	1600	1:00 p.m.	WISCONSIN—									
FLORIDA—				MINNESOTA—				Medford	KMED	1440	7:30 a.m.	Green Bay	WDUZ	1400	5:30 p.m.						
Gainesville	WGGG	1230	1:00 p.m.	Mankato	KTOE	1420	2:00 p.m.	Portland	KEX	1190	3:30 p.m.	La Crosse	WKTY	580	10:00 p.m.						
Jacksonville	WPDQ	600	5:30 p.m.	Minn.-St. Paul	WTCN	1280	7:30 a.m.	Redmond	KJUN	1240	3:30 p.m.	Madison	WIBA	1330	8:00 a.m.						
Leesburg	WLBE	790	1:00 p.m.	MISSISSIPPI—				The Dalles	KODL	1230	1:30 p.m.	Milwaukee	WCAN	1250	2:00 p.m.						
Miami	WQAM	560	1:00 p.m.	Booneville	WBIP	1400	1:00 p.m.	PENNSYLVANIA—				Neeenah	WNAM	1280	8:00 a.m.						
Panama City	WPCF	1400	1:00 p.m.	Centerville	WGLC	1580	8:00 a.m.	Johnstown	WCRO	1230	1:00 p.m.	Wasau	WSAU	1400	9:30 a.m.						
Pensacola	WEAR	1230	11:00 p.m.	Columbus	WCBI	1340	6:00 p.m.	Lemoyne	WCMB	1460	7:30 a.m.	WYOMING—									
Sanford	WTRR	1400	check sta.	Greenwood	WABG	960	1:00 p.m.	Philadelphia	WFIL	560	2:00 p.m.	Casper	KSPR	1470	9:15 p.m.						
Tallahassee	WTNT	1450	5:00 p.m.	Jackson	WLSI	930	2:00 p.m.	Pittsburg	WCAE	1250	3:00 p.m.	Cheyenne	KFBC	710	12:00 p.m.						
Tampa-St. Pete	WSUN	620	1:00 p.m.	Kosciusko	WKOZ	1340	1:00 p.m.	State College	WMAJ	1450	9:00 a.m.	Cody	KODI	1400	12:00 p.m.						
GEORGIA—				Laurel	WLAU	1490	8:30 p.m.	Wilkes-Barre	WILK	980	5:00 p.m.	Laramie	KOWB	1340	12:00 n.						
Atlanta	WGST	920	1:00 p.m.	McComb	WSKB	1250	1:00 p.m.	RHODE ISLAND—				Rawlins	KRAL	1240	12:00 p.m.						
Augusta	WGAC	580	2:00 p.m.	Meridian	WTOK	1450	—	Providence	WPJB	1420	1:00 p.m.	Riverton	KWRL	1450	12:00 p.m.						
Brunswick	WGIG	1440	1:00 p.m.	MISSOURI—				SOUTH CAROLINA—				Torrington	KGOS	1490	12:00 p.m.						
Cairo	WGRA	1300	3:00 p.m.	Cape Girardeau	KFVS	960	8:30 p.m.	Columbia	WCOS	1400	1:00 p.m.	Worland	KWOR	1490	12:00 p.m.						
Cartersville	WBHF	1450	10:00 a.m.	Kansas City	KCMO	810	12:30 p.m.	Florence	WJMX	970	10:30 a.m.	ALASKA—									
Columbus	WGBA	1460	7:30 a.m.	Poplar Bluff	KWOC	930	check sta.	Orangeburg	WRNO	1450	7:00 a.m.	Juneau (Sat.)	KJNO	630	1:00 p.m.						
Dawson	WDWD	990	2:00 p.m.	Rolla	KTRR	1490	8:45 a.m.	Sumter	WSSC	—	1:00 p.m.	CANADA—									
Macon	WNEX	1400	1:00 p.m.	St. Louis	KXOK	630	9:15 p.m.	SOUTH DAKOTA—				Toronto, Ont.	CKEY	580	9:15 a.m.						
Rome	WLAQ	670	1:00 p.m.	Springfield	KWTO	560	1:00 p.m.	Aberdeen	KSDN	930	10:30 a.m.	Winnipeg, Man.	CKY	580	2:00 p.m.						
Savannah	WDAR	1400	1:00 p.m.	MONTANA—				Huron	KIJV	1340	9:00 a.m.	BERMUDA									
Valdosta	WGAF	910	1:00 p.m.	Butte	KXLF	1370	8:00 a.m.	Chattanooga	WAPQ	1150	1:00 p.m.	Pembroke	ZEM	—	1:30 p.m.						
IDAHO—				Bozeman	KXLQ	1450	8:00 a.m.	Jackson	WTJS	1390	1:00 p.m.	All Times Are Sunday Unless Otherwise Indicated.									
Boise	KGEM	1140	3:00 p.m.	Helena	KXLJ	1240	8:00 a.m.														
Pocatello	KWIK	1440	9:30 a.m.	Great Falls	KXLK	1400	8:00 a.m.														
				Missoula	KXLL	1450	8:00 a.m.														



God unrighteous who visiteth with wrath? (I speak after the manner of men.) God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world?" and in the 26th verse, "for the showing, I say, of his righteousness at this present season: that he might himself be just, and the justifier of him that hath faith in Jesus."

Assuredly God has been merciful and kind and that in spite of all of our transgressions, our rebellion, our cursings, he sent his son to die for us that we might be redeemed from our sins. While we were yet sinners Christ died for us and even today he stays his hand of wrath and punishment as we disobey him giving us opportunity after opportunity that we might return unto him and submit ourselves unto his will. These are the days of mercy, and longsuffering, patience and waiting. But there is no way that we can escape the final justice of God. God in spite of all his mercy and his kindness must be just and he shall render unto every man according to the deeds that he performed in the body whether they be good or whether they be evil.

Did it ever occur to you that God could not be a just God and refuse to punish those who disobey the commandments of his son? Do you believe that God could be just to Jesus his son and save the man who denies Jesus was his son? Could God be just to Christ who shed his blood that men might be saved and save men who refuse to obtain the redemptive power of the blood through obedience to the commands of Christ. Do you believe that God could be just to his son if he should save those that lived lives of rebellion against the commandments of Christ?

Do you believe that God could be just to those saints and prophets whose blood was shed because they would not deny their God and their savior and save them whose every thought is dedicated to sin and denial of Jesus as the Christ the Son of God?

Could God be just to those apostles who gave their lives because they refused to deny that Jesus was the Christ and save the man who scoffs and ridicules at the idea of there even being a God? Could God be just to them who gave their lives to perpetuate Christianity and save those who refuse to have any part or lot with Christianity?

Do you believe that God could be just to the saint who has given up the desires of the flesh and the pleasures of the world; submitting his will unto God's will and save the man who gives up nothing. God is a just God and that's why the writer of Heb. says in Heb. 10:30-31, "For we know him that said, vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense. And again, the Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." And in Heb. 12:22-23, 29, "but ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the City of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable hosts of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect . . . for our God is a consuming fire."

When we come to the end of our way here upon earth, God will have done everything that he is going to do for us. He has given us his son. He has given us hope of resurrection. He has given us redemption by the blood of his son. He has given us the church, purchased by the blood of Christ. He has given us time and opportunity to know the truth and to turn from unrighteousness. He stayed his wrath and held us in mercy and patience. But then there comes the day of judgment and as the writer of Heb. says in Heb. 9:27, "And inasmuch as it is appointed unto man once to die, and after this cometh judgment;" No longer can we call upon God for his mercy but he shall judge us justly. Just and true are his ways.

The apostle Paul in describing that judgment says in Rom. 14:10-12, "... we shall stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, as I live, saith the Lord, to me every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God." It makes me tremble. I realize that unless I give myself in obedience to God while I have yet time then there will be a day in which it will be too late. Rev. 6:15-17, describes such a day of wrath, "and the kings of the earth, and the princes, and the chief captains, and the rich, and the strong, and every bondman and freeman, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks, of the mountains; and they say to the mountains and to the rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of their wrath is come and who is able to stand?"

My friend, regardless of what we believed in the past, God is good, God is severe, and God is just. God loves us and he wants us to be saved. He wants you to be saved. But the condition of your salvation is your obedience. As we read in Heb. the fifth chapter the 9th verse, "and having been made perfect, he became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation;" He is giving us time. He is staying the hand of death, that we might make ourselves right with him and with our fellow man. There will be a time in which we can no longer call upon his mercy but he shall deal with us justly. Those who have obeyed his commandments he shall justify and those who have refused to hear his words he shall punish with everlasting punishment.

In view of the justice of God and coming judgment will you not resolve now that "Today I will obey the Lord. I believe with all of my heart that Jesus is the Christ the son of God and in repentance will I turn my back upon sin. I will confess his name before men and I will be buried with him in baptism for the forgiveness of my sins that I might be raised a new creature in Christ.

Or if you as a member of the body of Christ have failed to give the services unto him that rightfully belong to him; if you have said those things and done those things that have brought a blot and a stain to Christ, will you not in view of the coming judgment return confessing and repenting, praying that God will forgive. There is no way we can escape the justice of God. Our souls will be weighed in the balance and if we have



failed to obey him, they shall be found wanting. My plea today is in the words of the prophet Isaiah, "Seek ye Jehovah while he may be found; call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto Jehovah, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

# The Goodness of God

BY JAMES W. NICHOLS

MAY 24, 1953

There is no idea more ancient than the idea of the goodness of God. The Anglo-Saxon word God itself simply means "the good", the "good one". The goodness of God is older than the earth itself, than the rainbow in the sky, the seasons, the rain, the sunshine. Everything about us testifies to the goodness of God and of his love bestowed upon us.

But you know the old saying "We can not see the forest for the trees." How many times are we so engulfed by the many evidences of God's goodness that we fail to really appreciate and comprehend the depth of his goodness? That is perhaps the reason that it is difficult many times to direct men to service unto God and obedience to his son. The apostle Paul inspired by the Holy Spirit said, in Rom. 2:4, "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and long-suffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" If the goodness of God leadeth men to repentance and men have never really recognized the goodness of God, then it is no wonder that they have not turned in repentance from their sins.

There is a song that we sing many times, "Count your many blessings, name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done." I am persuaded that we could never name and number all our blessings. But perhaps it would be good for us to pause for a few moments today in the midst of a busy world, that has forgotten the creator, to just recount a few of the blessings that we receive by the goodness of God.

Let us consider first of all the completeness of God's work in creation. He did not place us here on earth to grope about in darkness, but placed the sun in the sky to give us light and made the moon so that it might reflect the light of the sun by night. Nor did God give us a barren earth, but gave us fertile ground and the rain of the clouds and the heat of the sun and the herbs and grasses of the fields that with the seed and the soil, the sun, and the rain we might have food.

He gave us the beast of the field who by eating of the grass and the herbs could produce meat for us. In fact all creation was placed at our disposal for our use.

"And God said, Behold I have given you every herb yielding seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for food; and to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the heavens, and to everything that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for food: and it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there



was evening and there was morning the sixth day." Gen. 1:29-31.

Then God also blessed Noah and his sons by saying in Gen. 9:1-3. "... Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every bird of the heavens; with all wherewith the ground teemeth, and all the fishes of the sea, into your hand are they delivered. Every moving thing that liveth shall be food for you; as the green herb have I given you all."

But God's goodness is not merely limited to those physical or material showers of blessings, but the great depths of his goodness, his long suffering and forbearance are best demonstrated in his love for our souls. May we pause for just a moment to look back through the annals of history. From the very beginning of time, man has received not just showers but downpours of God's blessings, the sunshine, the rain, the wind, the fertile soil, the crops, the beast of burden and the beasts for our meat. With all of these things raining down upon the lives of men and women, man from the very beginning of time has demonstrated his love for God in rejection, cursings, in rebellion against God's love and God's way. As we stand and look down the halls of history we are moved to say that it is not a pretty sight to see how ungrateful man has been. Not only do we receive all things from God but "in him we live and move and have our very being." In spite of all of God's love man has refused to hear the council of God, has torn down his altars, killed his prophets, and even crucified his Son.

Yet God still loves us and wants us to be saved. Hear the marvelous words of Christ in John 3:16-17, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God sent not the Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world should be saved through him."

Think of it! That means that God loves you no matter how cast off, forsaken, neglected by men, down trodden, depressed or despised of man, there is one who loves you and he is far greater than all the creatures. For he is the creator.

God loves you. He loved you enough that he was willing to send his only begotten son that you might have redemption and eternal salvation through his blood. No matter where you are or in what condition you now stand God loves you and he gave his son for you.

But not only did he give his son but he gave him for a life of poverty and for a death of shame. I cannot understand how a heart could be so cold nor so hard that it would not melt when the story of Christ's crucifixion on the old rugged cross is rehearsed. Christ's death was because God and Christ loved us. We should turn and fall in love and thanksgiving for such a wonderful and loving savior and father.

I am convinced that the love and the goodness of God is so deep as manifested in the gift of his son that we can not fully comprehend or appreciate it. Think of it! A father giving his son knowing that those for whom the son was given would cry, "Crucify him, crucify him." and would drive nails through his hands and feet. The father gave his only begotten son knowing that he should be lifted upon the cross and die a death of humiliation and shame at the hands of those for whom he was dying. The apostle was moved to say in Phil. 2:5-8, "Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross."

But even beyond these physical and spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus there is one great truth that God is still patient with us. He did not wait for us to repent of our sins but in the words of the apostle Paul. "Christ died for us while we were yet sinners." Nor when we reject his son does he strike us dead as he could so easily do, but he allows us to live and have opportunity after opportunity to turn from unrighteousness in repentance unto God. Would it not be a fearful thing if God should punish us instantly upon every act of disobedience. I am thankful that Jehovah is our God. If man were God, he would not have the patience and long suffering that Jehovah has in dealing with us.

Men unfortunately do not seem to recognize this and they take the longsuffering and the patience of God to indicate that God will not execute his wrath and that he does not demand of man obedience, but that man is free to go about his life in whatever condition he wishes. The apostle Peter warns concerning this in II Peter 3:8-13, "But forget not this one thing, beloved, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to you-ward, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy living and godliness, looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, by reason of which the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." Many men because they have experienced only the goodness of God in their lives have been led to believe that God will not keep his promise of wrath upon the disobedient. But in such a belief they



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are despising the riches of God's goodness and forbearance, and longsuffering.

That is why also Paul wrote as he did in Rom. 2:4-9, 'Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up for thyself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgement of God; who will render to every man according to his works: to them that by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and incorruption, eternal life: 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.' Whether we want to believe it or not God with all of his goodness will in the last day execute wrath upon them that disobey and are factious. Whether we want to believe it or not when we refuse to turn from sin in repentance and obey the commands of the Lord, then we are despising the riches of God.

My friends, as we today stand and behold the goodness of God in creation, in Christ Jesus and in his patience and longsuffering does it not draw you unto him and make your heart desire to come unto repentance? "The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance."

Will you not then my friends today throw off the cloaks of unrighteousness, turn aside from rebellion and disobedience and in the light of God's love, mercy and goodness come yielding your will unto his will?

At the close of that masterful sermon on the Mount the Lord told this story, "Everyone therefore that heareth these words of mine, and doeth them, shall be likened unto a wise man, who built his house upon the rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon the house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon the rock. And every one that heareth these words of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man who built his house upon the sand; and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and smote upon that house; and it fell; and great was the fall thereof."

Today many of you stand at the fork of the road in decision. Having the words of Christ, knowing the goodness of God, you are troubled with the decision as to whether or not you will obey those words being moved by God's love and goodness. Notice the downfall of the one and the glory of the other. Destruction to the one who failed to heed the words of Christ and glory to the one who obeyed him.

I do not see how you today can stand beholding the goodness of God and refuse to turn to him in repentance and obedience. Will you not today believe that he is, but more than that that he is the rewarder of them that diligently seek

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him? It is not enough just to believe that he is, but we must also believe that he will reward us upon the condition that we seek his face in obedience. The writer of Hebrews tells us that without such a faith it is impossible to please him in Heb. 11. Will you not then seek him. First turning aside from your sins in repentance, resolving to walk in unrighteousness no longer. Then have courage to stand before your fellowman and say, "I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God. With confession of Christ on our part, Christ in Matt. 10:32 promised that he would confess us before God. Then will you not surrender your will to God by being baptized in the name of the father, the son and the Holy Spirit for the remission of sins? Those on the day of Pentecost who cried out, "Men and brethren what shall we do," not only believed that God had a son but they believed that he would punish those who were disobedient but would reward those who diligently sought him. And Peter's answer as to how they should seek God was, "repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of sins." We pray that you will seek the Lord in obedience being moved by the goodness of God today.

Those of you who as children of God have gone astray and brought reproach upon the name of Christ, will you not realizing the patience and longsuffering of God come back today repenting, confessing and praying that God will forgive. The hand of God reaches down today, will you not reach up in obedience and warmly clasp it? We pray that you will.



# The Poverty of Christ

JAMES W. NICHOLS

MAY 31, 1953

Many times we marvel when a man rises from the ranks to great financial heights and still keeps his feet on the ground. It is a difficult task for a man to rise from poverty to riches and still remain faithful and true to fellow man and to God. Many a man that has risen so to speak from rags to riches has let the riches become his God. His love for money is greater than his love for any other, even the God of heaven. We are made to appreciate a man who is able to keep his feet on the ground though he has attained great heights in the material sense.

Yet it is a greater marvel that a man can be born into riches and still be able to understand and appreciate the difficulties of the man or the woman of low estate. It has never been his lot to meet the problems of men and women who live in poverty and so it is hard for him to sympathize with their difficulties and appreciate their situations. The man who so to speak was born with a silver spoon in his mouth and yet is able to deal in feeling and understanding with those of low estate is a great man. To me that is one of the inspiring things about Jesus of Nazareth. Instead of rising from rags to riches he descended from wealth to poverty for our sake. The apostle Paul writing in II Cor. 8:9 said, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, that ye through his poverty might become rich".

I feel this is one side of Christ that many times we fail to fully appreciate. We preach about his death and sacrifice and yes, we preach of his love in coming to earth, but I am afraid very few of us truly appreciate the sacrifice of life he made in his coming.

Do you realize that Christ has always been even before the creation of the world? Christ was with God. John speaking of Christ, John 1:4 said, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God, and the Word was with God. All things were made through him; and without him was not anything made that hath been made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men." Even before man existed Christ was. Even before this earth was formed, Christ moved and worked in the sunshine of God's love. Long before the stars, the moon and the sun were placed in the skies, Christ was the prince of heaven.

Everything that has ever been created bears the imprint of

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the hand of Son of God and there is no creature or object of creation that was not made by the hand of God. Think of it! The sun with all of its brilliance and it's magnitude, the moon and the millions of stars that can be seen though millions of miles away and even this old earth with its minerals, its herbs its animals, its birds, its fishes, even man were all made by Christ. All the gold of the universe, the diamonds, rubies and all precious jewels were available to Christ not by work in mining but by creation.

Paul says in Col. 1:16-17, "for in him were all things created, in the heavens and upon the earth, things visible and things invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things have been created through him, and unto him; and he is before all things, and in him all things consist." Notice Paul inspired by the Holy Spirit said, that not only were all things created by him but they were created for him. They were created for his use, whether it was the stars or the moon or the earth, the animals or the birds, or the fishes or even man himself. We were all created by him and for his service and glory. Not only did he create all things, but notice that by him all things consist. He keeps the creation moving. He gives us life and breath. He gives us rain. He gives us all of those things that are needful to keep the creation moving, active and reproducing.

Is there any being whom we could picture as richer than this prince of Heaven who created all things and by whom all things consist and who had everything at his disposal? Satan even said of him that God gave his angels charge over him and to keep him. Now think do you feel that such a one could understand your plight and mine? Do you think that he could understand our trials and tribulations and heartaches and sorrows. Yet he did.

Christ was willing to forsake honor, glory, riches and power to walk the shores of Galilee, break the bread of life everlasting unto man and endure all temptation even as we.

Christ in answer to some who would come after him said, "The foxes have holes the birds of the air have nests, the son of man has not where to lay his head." It seemed though as a creator he could understand better than even man himself the trials, temptations and sorrows of the creature. While man of far lower estate shuns the very appearance of the afflicted, Christ spent much of his time in healing the limbs of the lame, restoring life to the flesh of the lepers, returning light to the eyes of the blind and sound to the ears of the deaf. All of this from the hand of the high prince of heaven.



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Christ did not spare himself any of the trials or tribulations, the sorrow, heartache or pain of life but he experienced it all even as we experience it. The writer of Heb. expresses it in these words in Heb. 4:15-16, "For we have not a high priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but one that hath been in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with boldness unto the throne of grace that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help us in time of need."

Not only did Christ give up the riches of heaven to live in poverty but also to die in poverty and shame. Paul in Phil. 2:5-8, "Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus; who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross." It was not enough for him to have emptied himself in the form of a servant to live a life of poverty but then he gave his life in the most ignoble manner that man could die, the death of the cross.

Again he did not spare himself the humiliation, the pain, the loneliness coming from the rejection by his apostles, but he willingly suffered death even as all men suffer. Could you help but love such a sacrificing and loving person as Jesus of Nazareth?

If we could get man today to do two things, the task of converting the world would be a simple one. If we could get men to believe the Bible, and then to pause but a few moments each day in consideration of the love of Christ, I believe that all the power that Satan could muster could not hold back the thousands and millions of men and women as they sought to obey the commands of God. Remember Christ said, "If you love me, you will keep my words." John 14:15. Christ explicitly sets down the conditions of one's love to him. If we truly love the Lord, with all of our heart, we will want to obey his every command, but if we do not obey him, then the only conclusion that can be drawn is that we do not love him. I am persuaded that if the vast majority of you in the audience today could have written on your heart the love of Christ, you would be doing some changing.

Will you not in love today believe upon Christ as the only begotten Son of God? The writer of Hebrews tells us 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

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that he is a rewarder of them that seek after him." Then having believed, will you not turn your life from sin to the paths of righteousness in repentance? Remember the apostle Paul said in Rom. the second chapter, "that the goodness of God leadeth men to repentance."

But there is no place for us to pause here having believed and repented of our sins, we must confess our faith in Christ in both word and in deed. In word by courageously standing before our fellow man and saying, "I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Paul says in Rom. 11:10, "for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." But not only must we confess him in word but we must confess him in deed, in obedience to his every command, being buried with him in baptism to be raised to walk a new creature in Christ Jesus. The apostle Paul said in Rom. 6:3-5, "Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection."

There are others of you in the audience today who have obeyed these commandments but having become a Christian you turned back in the ways of the world and you now stand condemned unless you reaffirm your faith in God and Christ and ask forgiveness for the mistake in your life.

Is it too much to ask those of you outside of Christ to believe, repent of your sins, confess the name of Christ and be immersed in water for the remission of your sins? Is it too much to ask of you erring Christians to confess your wrongs and repent of them? I say a thousand times no, it is not too much.

Is it too much to ask those of you outside of Christ to believe? If Christ gave up the riches of heaven to live in poverty for our sake, then there is no task too great for us to obey that we might proclaim our love for him. Will you not today obey him? That's the only way according to his own words that you can show your love. Today you make the decision to either obey or disobey the commands of the Lord and this decision will be based on your love for him. It can be clearly stated that if you love him you will obey him but if you do not love him, you will not obey him or if you obey him you love him. If you obey him not, you love him not. And men can look to your life and see your works as to whether they are works of love manifested through obedience or works of hate as manifested in works of obedience.



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I think it is a significant fact that Christ though creator should have borrowed a vast majority of things that he used in this world. But remember the cross, and the crown were his own and the crown may be ours also if we live acceptably in his sight giving our lives in obedience to his words. It is my earnest prayer today that you may come to the saviour in obedience, who descended from wealth to poverty for you and for me.

They borrowed a bed to lay his head,

When Christ the Lord came down.

They borrowed the ass in the mountain pass,

For him to ride to town,

But the crown that he wore and the cross that he bore,

Were his own.

He borrowed the bread when the crowd he fed

On the grassy mountain side.

He borrowed the dish of broken fish,

With which he satisfied,

But the crown that he wore and the cross that he bore,

Were his own.

He borrowed a room on the way to the tomb,

The passover lamb to eat.

They borrowed a cave for him a grave,

They borrowed a winding sheet,

But the crown that he wore and the cross that he bore,

Were his own.

Will you not my friends today come to Christ in love giving your heart and your life in obedience to him? We pray that you will.



# Herald of Truth Radio Program

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

MAY, 1953

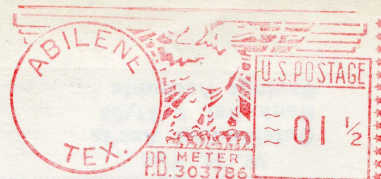
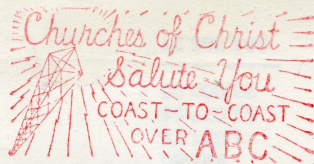
### EXPENDITURES:

Tape Recording .....	\$ 218.71	
Advertising .....		
Mail Rm. Expense .....	6.35	
Stamps .....	250.00	
Travel .....	34.07	
Wages .....	2,715.00	
Insurance .....	187.71	
Rent .....	150.00	
Office Supplies .....	41.01	
Printing .....	746.90	
Utilities .....	19.02	
Tel. & Tel. ....	110.52	
Misc. ....	8.50	
S. S. Expense .....	37.86	4,525.65
Broadcasting .....		29,251.07
Other Expenditures		
Furn. & Fix. ....		287.81
Reserve Accounts		
S. S. Tax .....		37.86
W. H. Tax .....		391.50
Outstanding Acc'ts .....		1,031.76
Bank Bal. 5/31/53 .....		39,077.56
Savings Accounts .....		20,000.00
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		\$94,603.21

Savings Account .....	20,000.00	
Bank Balance. 5/31/53 .....	47,349.13	
S. S. Tax Reserve .....	31.82	
W. H. Tax Reserve .....	305.65	
Pledges .....	20,940.01	
Contributions .....	5,511.60	
Transcriptions .....	430.00	
Tract Funds .....	35.00	27,254.08
		<hr/>
		\$94,603.21



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