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# Churches of Christ Salute You with a Herald of Truth: Substitutes of Brass

James Willeford

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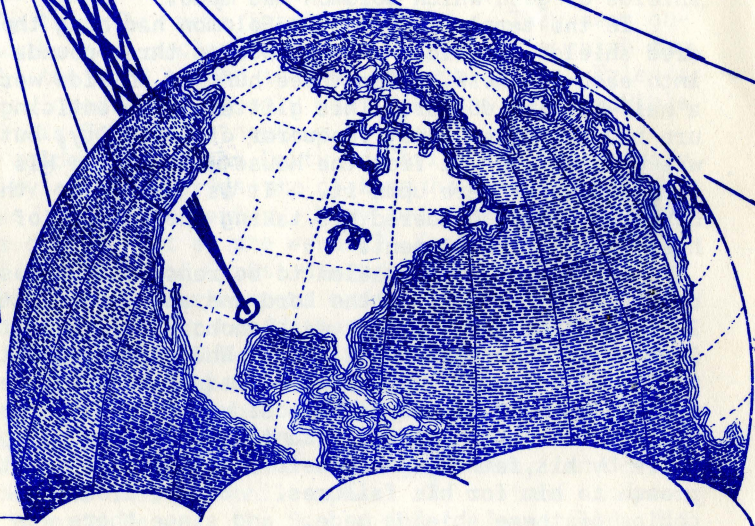
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Paul Cottrell

Churches of Christ  
Salute You  
with a



*Substitutes of Brass*

James D. Willeford

October 5, 1952

Herald of Truth



# #5 Substitutes of Brass

James D. Willeford

October 5, 1952

In the book of II Chronicles is found one of the most interesting stories in the Bible. Rehoboam, who had forsaken the law of the Lord along with all Israel, was then King of Jerusalem. Because of their sins God sent a prophet to Rehoboam and the princes of Judah and through the prophet God said, "Ye have forsaken me and therefore have I also left you in the hand of Shishak." Shishak was the king of Egypt, and we read that this monarch came against Jerusalem and took away the treasures of the house of Judah, and the treasures of the King's house. He also took away the shields of gold which Solomon had made.

In the temple in Jerusalem Solomon had hung three hundred shields of gold. He had beaten three pounds of gold into each of these. The three hundred shields were worth a half-million dollars. This glittering and enticing treasure had intrigued every conqueror of antiquity, but no man was able to take it from the house of God while His protection and care were upon it. It is no wonder that this Egyptian king considered his taking the shields of gold as his greatest achievement.

God permitted Jerusalem to be ransacked because Rehoboam "forsook the law of the Lord and all Israel with him," II Chronicles 12:1. So it was Rehoboam's failure that was in reality the cause of it all. When the king called the people back to God, and when he himself went to the temple for the purpose of prayer, those vacant walls, upon which the shields had once hung, haunted him. They had been put there by his father, and their absence was a constant reproach to him for his failures. So the troubled king had copies of these shields made, and since there was neither gold nor silver in the land it was necessary that these be made of brass. Thus a cheap imitation was made of brass, and these brazen shields were hung in place of the golden shields. Needless to say, brass is a poor substitute for gold.

The lessons which might be drawn from this touching incident are innumerable. But let us concern ourselves at this time with many of the golden facts of Christianity which have been forgotten by some and the doctrines of tarnished brass which have been substituted in their stead. In the first place, the golden fact of inspiration of the Holy Scriptures was a shield that hung in the heart of almost every professed believer of Christendom. It was believed that the Bible writers spoke as the Spirit gave them utterance, and that no prophecy ever came by the will of man, but that the holy men of God spoke as they were moved by

the Holy Spirit. The Bible was accepted as the word of God. In the minds of many this belief has been replaced by the humanistic substitute that the Bible is inspired in the same way that Shakespeare, Milton, and other great writers were inspired. It is now maintained by many that the men who penned the scriptures wrote their own opinions, and that what they wrote is their own interpretation of the Gospel. So it has developed that many today -- hundreds of preachers included -- do not believe the Bible is the Word of God, inspired and revealed by the Holy Spirit. The golden shield of faith in the Bible as the inspired Word of God has been removed, and a human production has been substituted for it.

Those who look upon the Bible as a human production forget the claims of the Bible writers who said time and time again that they were inspired of God. They seem oblivious to the many declarations within the Bible which say that it is the Word of God and not the word of men. Friends, we are convinced that the only way to account for the Bible is that it is Scripture inspired of God.

The golden fact of the Deity of Christ was once widely accepted by almost everyone who claimed the name "Christian" but not so in the 20th century. Many today say they believe Jesus was divine, but so are we all! Yes, when the golden shield of the Deity of Christ disappeared from the wall of many churches, the worshippers made a substitute of this brazen replica. They removed the Son of God and replaced Him with a son of man. Thus divinity was replaced by humanity, and an imposter takes the place of a loving Saviour. And it is indeed a miserable substitute for the divine assurance that Christ is God's only begotten Son. It is not enough to believe that Christ was a great man, and great teacher, or the smartest philosopher. He must be accepted for what He said He was, the Son of God. Jesus said, "If ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins." The apostle John said the word of God was written that "ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name," John 20:31. How can anyone profess to be a friend of Christ, and a believer in the Bible, and then reject such plain teaching! "The world cannot bury Christ. The earth is not deep enough for His tomb, the clouds are not wide enough for His shroud: He ascends into the heavens, but the heavens cannot contain Him. He still lives -- in the church which burns unconsumed with His love; and in the truth that reflects His image." (Edward Thompson).

The virgin birth of Christ was once widely accepted. Men believed the record God had given of the incarnation of His Son -- that the body of Jesus was formed in the womb of the virgin Mary because of the direct visitation of the Holy Spirit. Thus the birth of Christ was a biological



# YOU MAY HEAR THE HERALD OF TRUTH OVER THESE STATIONS

Alabama, Anniston	WHMA	1450	1:00 p.m.
Auburn	WAUD	1230	1:00 p.m.
Birmingham	WSGN	610	8:00 a.m.
Florence	WJOI	1340	9:30 a.m.
Gadsden	WGAD	1350	1:00 p.m.
Huntsville	WHBS	1490	1:00 p.m.
Marion	WJAM	1310	9:30 a.m.
Mobile	WABB	1480	6:30 a.m.
Montgomery	WAPX	1600	1:00 p.m.
Selma	WGWC	1340	1:30 p.m.
Tuscaloosa	WJRD	1150	9:00 p.m.
Arizona, Chifton	KCLF	1400	1:00 p.m.
Phoenix	KOY	550	7:00 a.m.
Tucson	KCNA	580	3:00 p.m.
Arkansas, Eldorado	KSDM	1290	1:00 p.m.
Ft. Smith	KFSA	950	1:00 p.m.
Hot Springs	KTHS	1090	1:00 p.m.
Little Rock	KGHI	1250	1:00 p.m.
Springdale	KBRS	1340	6:00 p.m.
Calif., Bakersfield	KPMC	1560	10:00 a.m.
Blythe	KYOR	1450	3:30 p.m.
Brawley	KROP	1300	3:30 p.m.
Eureka	KIEM	1480	7:15 a.m.
Fresno	KARM	1430	3:30 p.m.
Indio	KREO	1400	3:30 p.m.
Los Angeles	KECA	790	3:30 p.m.
San Francisco	KGO	810	3:30 p.m.
San Luis Obispo	KATY	1340	3:30 p.m.
Colorado, Craig	KRAF	1230	5:30 p.m.
Denver	KVOD	630	3:00 p.m.
Conn., Bridgeport	WNAB	1450	2:00 p.m.
Hartford	WTHT	1230	2:30 p.m.
Delaware, Wilmington	WILM	1450	2:00 p.m.
Florida, Gainesville	WGGG	1230	1:00 p.m.
Jacksonville	WPDQ	600	8:30 a.m.
Miami	WQAM	560	1:00 p.m.
Panama City	WPCF	1400	1:00 p.m.
Pensacola	WEAR	1230	11:30 p.m.
Tallahassee	WTNT	1450	5:00 p.m.
Tampa, St. Pete	WSUN	620	1:00 p.m.
Georgia, Atlanta	WGST	920	1:00 p.m.
Augusta	WGAC	580	2:00 p.m.
Brunswick	WGIG	1440	1:00 p.m.
Columbus	WGBA	1460	7:30 a.m.
Macon	WNEA	1400	1:00 p.m.
Rome	WLAQ	670	1:00 p.m.
Savannah	WDAR	1400	1:00 p.m.
Valdosta	WGAZ	910	1:00 p.m.
Idaho, Boise	KGEM	1140	3:00 p.m.
Pocatello	KEID	1440	9:30 a.m.
Illinois, Chicago	WENR-WLS	890	2:30 p.m.
Quincy	WGEM	1440	8:00 a.m.
Indiana, Anderson	WHBU	1240	1:30 p.m.
Bloomington	WTTS	1370	1:00 p.m.
Evansville	WJPS	1330	1:30 p.m.
Ft. Wayne	WGL	1250	1:00 p.m.
Iowa, Cedar Rapids	WMT	600	7:30 a.m.
Des Moines	KSO	1460	1:00 p.m.
Sioux City	KSCJ	1360	10:30 p.m.
Waterloo	KXEL	1540	5:30 p.m.
Kansas, Coffeyville	KGGF	690	2:00 p.m.
Topeka	WREN	1250	1:00 p.m.
Wichita	KWBB	1410	3:30 p.m.
Ken., Bowling Green	WKCT	930	1:00 p.m.
Harlan	WHLN	1230	3:00 p.m.
Louisville	WKLO	1080	1:00 p.m.
Mayfield	WKTM	1050	4:15 p.m.
Newport	WNOP	740	2:00 p.m.
Louisiana, Baton Rouge	WLCS	910	1:00 p.m.

Monroe	KMLB	1440	2:00 p.m.
New Orleans	WDSU	1280	1:00 p.m.
Shreveport	KRMD	1340	1:00 p.m.
Maine, Bangor	WABI	910	1:00 p.m.
Portland	WPOR	1450	9:00 a.m.
Maryland, Baltimore	WFBR	1300	3:00 p.m.
Cumberland	WDYK	1230	8:00 a.m.
Mass., Gardner	WHOB	1490	1:00 p.m.
Lawrence	WLAW	680	1:00 p.m.
Springfield	W	1270	5:00 p.m.
Worcester	W	1440	3:00 p.m.
Michigan, Battle Creek	WELL	1400	1:00 p.m.
Bay City	WBCM	1440	1:00 p.m.
Detroit	WXYZ	1270	1:00 p.m.
Flint	WFDF	910	10:00 p.m.
Lansing	WILS	1320	1:00 p.m.
Ludington	WKLA	1450	1:00 p.m.
Muskegon	WKBZ	850	2:00 p.m.
Minn., Minn.-St. Paul	WTCN	1280	7:30 a.m.
Mankato	KTOE	1420	2:00 p.m.
Miss., Centerville	WGCL	1580	8:00 a.m.
Columbus	WCBI	1340	6:00 p.m.
Jackson	WSLI	930	2:00 p.m.
Laurel	WLAV	1490	1:00 p.m.
Missouri, Kansas City	KCMO	810	12:30 p.m.
Rolla	KTRR	1490	8:45 a.m.
St. Louis	KXOK	630	9:15 p.m.
Springfield	KWTO	560	1:00 p.m.
Montana, Butte	KOPR	580	9:15 a.m.
Great Falls	KMON	560	7:30 a.m.
Nebraska, Lincoln	KFOR	1240	10:30 a.m.
Omaha	KOIL	1290	5:30 p.m.
Sidney	KSID	1540	12 noon
N. Hamp., Claremont	WTSV	1230	1:00 p.m.
Lebanon	WTSL	1400	1:00 p.m.
Manchester	WMUR	610	5:00 p.m.
N. Mexico, Albuquerque	KOAT	1450	3:00 p.m.
Carlsbad	KPMB	740	check sta.
Clovis	KCLV	1240	1:00 p.m.
Los Alamos	KRSN	1490	3:00 p.m.
Santa Fe	KTRC	1400	3:00 p.m.
New York, Albany	WXXW	850	2:00 p.m.
New York	WJZ	770	12:30 p.m.
Olean	WHDL	1450	1:00 p.m.
Rochester	WARC	950	3:00 p.m.
Saranac Lake	WEAV	960	2:00 p.m.
Syracuse	WAGE	620	12:00 p.m.
N. Carolina, Asheville	WLDS	1380	1:00 p.m.
Charlotte	WAYS	610	1:00 p.m.
Durham	WTKI	1310	2:00 p.m.
Elizabeth City	WGAI	560	
Fayetteville(Sat.)	WFLB	1490	1:00 p.m.
Salisbury	WSAT	1280	1:00 p.m.
Wilmington	WGNI	1340	8:30 a.m.
Winston-Salem	WAIR	1340	1:00 p.m.
N. Dakota, Fargo	KFGO	790	1:00 p.m.
Ohio, Cleveland	WJW	850	1:00 p.m.
Columbus	WHKC	610	1:00 p.m.
Lima	WIMA	1150	9:00 a.m.
Youngstown	W	1240	8:30 a.m.
Oklahoma, Ada	W	1230	1:00 p.m.
Enid	KRC	1390	1:00 p.m.
McAlester	KTMC	1400	1:00 p.m.
Muskogee	KBIX	1490	2:00 p.m.
Oklahoma City	KTOK	1000	9:30 a.m.
Tulsa	KRMG	740	2:00 p.m.
Oregon, Eugene	KASH	590	1:00 p.m.

All times are Sunday unless otherwise indicated.

Klamath Falls	KFLW	1450	4:30 p.m.
Medford	KMED	1440	7:30 a.m.
Portland	KEX	1190	3:30 p.m.
Penn., Johnstown	WCRO	1230	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	WFIL	560	2:00 p.m.
Pittsburg	WCAE	1250	3:00 p.m.
Wilkes-Barre	WILK	980	5:00 p.m.
R. Island, Providence	WPJB	1420	1:00 p.m.
S. Carolina, Florence	WJMX	970	10:30 a.m.
S. Dakota, Aberdeen	KSDN	930	10:30 a.m.
Tenn., Chattanooga	WDEF	1370	1:00 p.m.
Jackson	WTJS	1390	1:00 p.m.
Johnson City	WJHL	910	10:30 p.m.
Knoxville	WBIR	1240	1:30 p.m.
Memphis	WMP5	650	9:30 p.m.
Morristown	WCRK	1450	check sta.
Nashville	WSIX	980	4:00 p.m.
Texas, Abilene	KRBC	1470	1:00 p.m.
Amarillo	KFDA	1440	1:00 p.m.
Austin	KNOW	1490	2:00 p.m.
Beaumont	KFDM	560	1:00 p.m.
Big Spring	KBST	1490	1:00 p.m.
Brownfield	KTFY	1050	4:30 p.m.
Brownsville	KVAL	1490	1:00 p.m.
Corpus Christi	KEYS	1440	9:00 a.m.
El Paso	KEPO	690	3:00 p.m.
Ft. Worth	WBAP	570	1:00 p.m.
Graham	KSWA	1330	4:30 p.m.
Houston	KXYZ	1320	8:00 a.m.
Longview	KFRO	1370	1:00 p.m.
Lubbock	KFYO	1340	4:00 p.m.
Midland	KCRS	550	1:30 p.m.
Paris	KPLT	1490	9:00 p.m.
San Angelo	KGKL	960	1:00 p.m.
San Antonio	KMAC	630	9:00 p.m.
Texarkana	KCMC	1230	1:00 p.m.
Wichita Falls	KFDX	990	2:00 p.m.
Utah, Provo	KCSU	1490	3:00 p.m.
Salt Lake City	KUTA	570	7:30 a.m.
Vermont, Brattleboro	WTSA	1450	1:00 p.m.
Burlington	WJOY	1230	1:00 p.m.
Montpelier-Barre	WSKI	1240	1:00 p.m.
Virginia, Charlottesville	WINA	1280	9:15 a.m.
Fredericksburg	WFVA	1230	check sta.
Norfolk	WGH	1310	5:00 p.m.
Richmond	WRNL	910	1:30 p.m.
Washington, Aberdeen	KBKW	1450	9:00 p.m.
Pasco	KPKW	1340	3:30 p.m.
Seattle	KJR	950	3:30 p.m.
Spokane	KGA	1510	3:30 p.m.
Washington, D. C.	WMAL	630	1:00 p.m.
W. Virginia, Beckley	WVNR	620	1:30 p.m.
Huntington	WHTN	800	8:00 a.m.
Parkersburg, Sat.	WCOM	1230	5:30 p.m.
Wheeling	WKWK	1400	1:00 p.m.
Wisconsin, Green Bay	WDUZ	1400	5:30 p.m.
LaCrosse	WKTY	580	4:00 p.m.
Madison	WIBA	1320	8:00 a.m.
Milwaukee	WCAN	1250	2:00 p.m.
Neenah	WNAM	1280	8:00 a.m.
Wyoming, Casper	KSPR	1470	9:15 p.m.
Cheyenne	KFBC	710	12:00 p.m.
Cody	KODI	1400	12:00 p.m.
Rawlins	KRAL	1240	12:00 p.m.
Riverton	KWRL	1450	12:00 p.m.
Torrington	KGOS	1490	12:00 p.m.
Worland	KWOR	1490	12:00 p.m.
Canada, Trail, B.C.	CJAT	610	9:30 a.m.
Toronto, Ont.	CKEY	580	9:15 a.m.



miracle and He owed even His earthly origin to His heavenly Father! This foundational fact has disappeared from the wall of many religious groups. And in the place of this golden fact there is a ghastly and brazen substitute of an illegitimate child. And then men wonder that the old time greatness and power of the Christian faith seems lacking in many quarters today! Why should anyone disbelieve the virgin birth of Christ? Some say they do not believe it because it would be a miracle. Is there any greater miracle in God bringing life through one parent than in His law of procreation which brings life through two parents? One is no greater miracle than the other. It is interesting that God chose Luke, a reputable physician, to bring the fullest account of the virgin birth of Christ. As a physician, he would be the first to question this miracle unless he was thoroughly convinced that it was true. The angel announced that He would be born of a virgin. Mary, the mother of Christ, called Him her Saviour, Joseph was so certain of her virginity that he took her to be his wife. When Elizabeth saw Mary she addressed her as the "mother of my Lord." God Himself explained the virgin birth by stating that He prepared a body for His Son, Heb. 10:5. The professed believer of the Bible may as well reject all of God's word as to reject this part of it.

In like manner the golden shield of redemption through the blood shed on Calvary has been stolen by the Enemy from many a church wall. The Bible teaches that Christ died -- but it goes further than that. It not only teaches that Christ died, but that He died for our sins -- that He died in order to make an atonement for the sins of the world. But the doctrine of the vicarious suffering and atonement is distasteful and obnoxious to multitudes of this present hour. They do not like the idea of a blood religion -- Calvary is offensive to them -- the cross is a stumbling block. They say Jesus died -- certainly -- but that His death was for the perfect example, or it was merely the death of a martyr for a great cause. And so the perfect example and a death of martyrdom are the substitutes of brass that men of our time are hanging in their temples in the place of the golden shield of redemption through the shed blood of the Lamb. These substitutes of brass are accepted in place of such golden shields as these: "In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace," Eph. 1:17. "But God commendeth His love to us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us," Rom. 5:8. "Unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood," Rev. 1:5. Instead of rejecting the sacrifice of Christ, we should say with the poet:

"On Thee alone my hope relies,  
Beneath Thy cross I fall:

My Lord. My Life! My Sacrifice!  
My Saviour! And my All!"

Another golden shield of Christianity which has been bartered for a shield of brass is the physical resurrection of Jesus. A misty idea of a spiritual resurrection has taken the place of His physical resurrection. The Bible record of the empty tomb, and the fact that Jesus appeared in a resurrected body mean nothing to unbelievers of this age. Nor do any of the other miracles of the Bible! They are explained away on natural grounds. Thousands who pose as believers in God see no miraculous element in the Bible, and to them the things which are there presented as miraculous were the products of men's imaginations. The golden shield of Bible miracles has been taken down by the enemy, and has been replaced by the brass substitute of humanism and naturalism.

A few years ago twelve hundred preachers signed an affirmation which declares that it is not necessary for a minister to believe in the inerrant inspiration of the Scriptures, the virgin birth of Christ, the atonement, the bodily resurrection, and the miracles of Christ. Notice what golden shields are here named. The virgin birth, the atonement, the resurrection and the miracles! What have we left in the Christian religion? If the golden shields are taken away, what remains? The answer is obvious -- we have in their places substitutes of brass.

The Bible has not changed; nor has it been disproved. We ask the world's scholarship to bring one known fact which makes the Bible any less credible now than it was nineteen hundred years ago. The men who lived with Christ and observed His miracles said, "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs which God did by Him in the midst of you as ye yourselves also know," Acts 2:22. And again, "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His Majesty," II Peter 1:16. These men saw the miracles of Christ performed, and they said there can be no doubt. They died testifying that they spoke the truth. Unbelievers now deny what eyewitnesses strongly affirmed to be true.

Even the contemporary enemies of Christ could not deny the miracles performed by Him and His disciples. The Pharisees said, "What shall we do to these men? For that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem and we cannot deny it," Acts 4:16. Once a man in a Bible class said he found it hard to credit the accounts of Jesus' miraculous healings; and the teacher, a blunt, practical manufacturer, replied, "I never knew a man who could create a machine who was not



able also to repair it." Then he told of watching a wireless control for an automobile, the operation of which seemed almost unbelievable. He added, "If men can do things like this why should any man doubt the miracles wrought by the Son of God!"

We talk much about faith, and it is well that we should. It is not faith in the theories of men, but it is faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. If I believe in Christ, I believe all that the Bible says about Him, from His miraculous birth to His resurrection from the dead and His ascension into Heaven. It is faith in His word that led me to repent of my sins and be buried with Him in baptism. Genuine faith in Him and love for Him will lead any sincere person to do the same. Jesus said, "If a man love me he will keep my words: and my Father will love him and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him," John 14:23. John said, "this is the love of God that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous," I John 5:3.

Storm-tossed, troubled, tempted soul, will you hear the knocking of Christ's pierced hand upon the door of your heart. He will take hold of your hand and bring you through all the storms of life, over the wild waves, and past the dangerous rocks to your desired haven. He needs you, and you need Him. We ask you to obey His word and let Him come into your heart and life, today.