

3-8-1953

Churches of Christ Salute You with a Herald of Truth: What Will it Cost Heaven if I am Lost?

James Nichols

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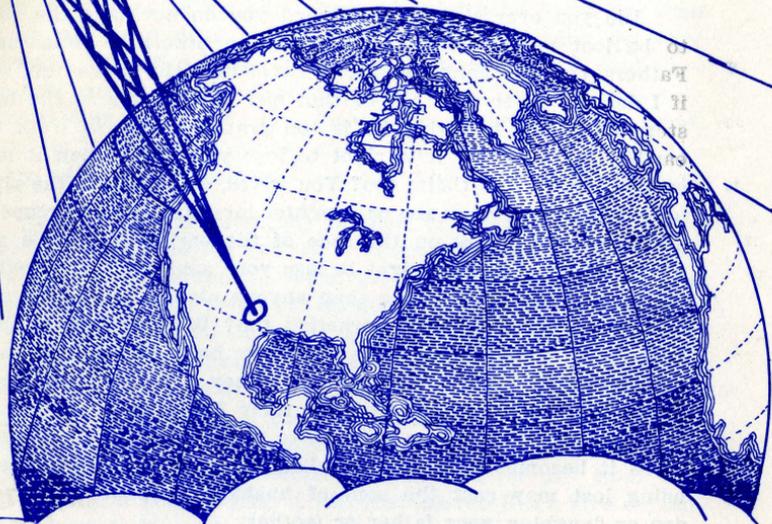
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Churches of Christ
Salute You
with a



*What Will It Cost Heaven
If I Am Lost?*

James W. Nichols

March 8, 1953

Herald of Truth

What Will It Cost Heaven If I Am Lost?

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Quite a strange question isn't it? Someone asks, "You mean to say that it will cost heaven something if I am lost. Surely heaven can do without me. If I want to lose my soul eternally that is my business. It won't cost anybody else anything. Yet, strange as it may seem, it will cost others something if you are lost.

Did you ever stop to think that you do not have the right to be lost as far as your obligation to others is concerned? Fathers, can you honestly say, "I have the right to lose my soul if I desire," when that boy or that girl is following in the footsteps of daddy, believing he is the grandest man to walk the earth? Do you think it is right to lose your soul when it may cause them to lose theirs too? You wives, do you have the right to lose your soul when son or daughter loves mother and respects her above all others on the face of the earth? Husbands and wives, do you have the right to lose your soul when you realize that the one you love more than anyone else on the earth may follow in your steps to destruction too? What father, mother, husband or wife would argue that they had the right to harm themselves or commit suicide when they know that it would influence and harm the lives of their loved ones. Friends, I want to tell you that you don't have the right to lose your soul when it becomes your responsibility to those you love. You're being lost may cost the soul of husband or your wife, your son or daughter, your father or mother.

Even further than that, it will cost heaven something if you are lost. First of all it will mean that God's love was extended to you in vain, God will have lost his love. The apostle Paul says in I Tim 2:3-4, "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who would have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth." In other words God loves you so much that he doesn't want you to be lost. But this does not mean that God wants you to be saved separate and apart from his will for he would have you to come to the knowledge of the truth and follow him in obedience. Paul also tells us of this redemption in Rom. 6:17-18, "But thanks be to God, that, whereas ye were servants of sin, ye became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching whereunto ye were delivered;

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and being made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness." Therefore, by learning the truth and obeying the truth can we take advantage of God's love and grace toward us.

But this plan of salvation came to us by a price from God. That price was his willingness to give his only begotten Son. John 3:16, "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." Paul also speaks to those who have become children of God and tells his wonderful love that brought about that redemption in Eph. 2:4-5, "but God, being rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace have ye been saved.)" God gave up his son to a life of poverty and to suffer the trials and temptations of life and the shame and suffering of the cross. That is how much God loves you and that is how much the price was that God paid that you might be saved from your sins.

Loving parents often say to their children, "How much do you love me?" and the answer is usually an embrace and a kiss but what would be the answer of our father in heaven, if we ask, "How much do you love us?" No doubt the answer would be the cross. Try to picture Christ as he prays in the garden that the cup of death might pass from him and as he hung on the cross, try to feel the emotions of a loving father who gave and sent that son to endure all of that that he might obtain our redemption. Paul said, "But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Rom. 5:8. My friends, if you are lost, it will cost heaven God's love extended for you. Is it worth the price that you will make heaven pay?

But not only will heaven pay with the love that God extended to you if you are lost, but it will also cost heaven the love manifested in the life and death of Jesus, the son of God. Think of Christ as the prince of heaven enjoying all the glory and blessings of the father's house. Paul tells us that "all things were created by him and for him" and yet he was willing to leave all of this to attain not riches, not power, nor glory, or honor, but to feel the emotions of man, of hunger, of loneliness, of pain, humiliation and finally of death. Christ, the son of God endured all this! The apostle Paul said in Phil. 2:5-8, "Have 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

YOU MAY HEAR THE HERALD OF TRUTH OVER THESE STATIONS

Alabama, Anniston	WHMA	1450	1:00 p.m.	New Orleans	WDSU	1230	1:00 p.m.	Philadelphia	WFIL	560	2:00 p.m.
Auburn	WAUD	1230	1:00 p.m.	Shreveport	KRMD	1340	1:00 p.m.	Pittsburg	WCAE	1250	3:00 p.m.
Birmingham	WSGN	610	8:00 a.m.	Maine, Bangor	WABI	910	1:00 p.m.	Wilkes-Barre	WILK	980	5:00 p.m.
Florence	WJOI	1340	9:30 a.m.	Portland	WPOR	1450	9:00 a.m.	R. Island, Providence	WPJB	1420	1:00 p.m.
Gadsden	WGAD	1350	1:00 p.m.	Maryland, Baltimore	WFBR	1300	3:00 p.m.	S. Carolina, Columbia	WCOS	1400	1:00 p.m.
Greenville	WGYV		4:00 p.m.	Cumberland	WDYK	1230	8:00 a.m.	Florence	WJMX	970	10:30 a.m.
Huntsville	WHBS	1490	1:00 p.m.	Mass., Gardner	WHOB	1490	1:00 p.m.	Orangeburg	WRNO	1450	7:00 a.m.
Marion	WJAM	1310	9:30 a.m.	Lawrence	WLAW	680	1:00 p.m.	S. Dakota, Aberdeen	KSDN	930	10:30 a.m.
Mobile	WABB	1480	6:30 a.m.	Springfield	WSPR	1270	2:00 p.m.	Huron	KIJV	1340	9:00 a.m.
Montgomery	WAPX	1600	1:00 p.m.	Worcester	WAAB	1440	2:00 p.m.	Tenn., Chattanooga	WDEF	1370	1:00 p.m.
Selma	WGWC	1340	1:30 p.m.	Michigan, Battle Creek	WELL	1400	1:00 p.m.	Jackson	WTJS	1390	1:00 p.m.
Tuscaloosa	WJRD	1150	9:00 p.m.	Bay City	WBCM	1440	1:00 p.m.	Johnson City	WJHL	910	10:30 p.m.
Arizona, Phoenix	KOY	550	7:00 a.m.	Detroit	WXYZ	1270	1:00 p.m.	Knoxville	WBIR	1240	1:30 p.m.
Tucson	KCNA	580	3:00 p.m.	Flint	WDFD	910	10:00 p.m.	Memphis	WMP5	650	9:30 p.m.
Arkansas, Eldorado	KDMS	1290	1:00 p.m.	Lansing	WLS	1320	1:00 p.m.	Morristown	WCRK	1450	check sta.
Ft. Smith	KFSA	950	1:00 p.m.	Ludington	WKLA	1450	1:00 p.m.	Nashville	WSIX	980	4:00 p.m.
Hot Springs	KTHS	1090	1:00 p.m.	Mt. Pleasant	WCEN	1150	2:00 p.m.	Texas, Abilene	KRBC	1470	1:00 p.m.
Little Rock	KGHI	1250	1:00 p.m.	Muskegon	WKBZ	850	2:00 p.m.	Amarillo	KFDA	1440	1:00 p.m.
Springdale	KBRS	1340	6:00 p.m.	Minn., Minn.-St. Paul	WTCN	1280	7:30 a.m.	Austin	KNOW	1490	2:00 p.m.
Calif., Bakersfield	KPMC	1560	10:00 a.m.	Mankato	KTOE	1420	2:00 p.m.	Beaumont	KFDM	560	1:00 p.m.
Blythe	KYOR	1450	3:30 p.m.	Centerville	WGCL	1580	8:00 a.m.	Big Spring	KBST	1490	1:00 p.m.
Brawley	KROP	1300	3:30 p.m.	Aberdeen	WMPA	1240	1:00 p.m.	Brownfield	KTFY	1300	4:30 p.m.
Eureka	KIEM	1480	8:00 a.m.	Columbus	WCBI	1340	6:00 p.m.	Brownwood	KBWD	1380	6:30 p.m.
Fresno	KARM	1430	3:30 p.m.	Greenwood	WABG	960	1:00 p.m.	Corpus Christi	KEYS	1440	9:00 a.m.
Indio	KREO	1400	3:30 p.m.	Jackson	WSLI	930	2:00 p.m.	El Paso	KEPO	690	3:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	KECA	790	3:30 p.m.	Kosciusko	WKOZ	1340	1:00 p.m.	Ft. Worth	WBAP	570	1:00 p.m.
Modesto	KTRB	860	3:00 p.m.	Laurel	WLAU	1490	1:00 p.m.	Graham	KSWA	1330	4:30 p.m.
San Francisco	KGO	810	3:30 p.m.	McComb	WSKB	1250	9:30 a.m.	Houston	KXYZ	1320	8:00 a.m.
San Luis Obispo	KATY	1340	3:30 p.m.	Missouri, Kansas City	KCMO	810	12:30 p.m.	Longview	KFFY	1370	1:00 p.m.
Colorado, Craig	KRAI	1230	5:30 p.m.	Rolla	KTRR	1490	8:45 a.m.	Lubbock	KFYO	1340	4:00 p.m.
Denver	KVOD	630	3:00 p.m.	St. Louis	KXOK	630	2:00 p.m.	Midland	KCRS	550	1:30 p.m.
Conn., Bridgeport	WNAB	1450	2:00 p.m.	Springfield	KWTO	560	1:00 p.m.	Nacogdoches	KOSF	1230	1:00 p.m.
Hartford	WTHT	1230	2:30 p.m.	Montana, Butte	KOPR	580	9:15 a.m.	Paris	KPLT	1490	4:00 p.m.
Delaware, Wilmington	WILM	1450	2:00 p.m.	Great Falls	KMON	560	7:30 a.m.	San Angelo	KGKL	960	1:00 p.m.
Florida, Gainesville	WGGG	1230	1:00 p.m.	Nebraska, Lincoln	KFOR	1240	10:30 a.m.	San Antonio	KMAC	630	9:00 p.m.
Jacksonville	WPDQ	600	8:30 a.m.	N. Platt	KNBR	970	9:00 a.m.	Texarkana	KCMC	1230	1:00 p.m.
Leesburg	WLBE	790	check sta.	Omaha	KOIL	1290	5:30 p.m.	Wichita Falls	KFDX	990	2:00 p.m.
Miami	WQAM	560	1:00 p.m.	Sidney	KSID	1540	9:30 a.m.	Utah, Provo	KCSU	1490	3:00 p.m.
Panama City	WPCF	1400	1:00 p.m.	N. Hamp., Claremont	WTSV	1230	1:00 p.m.	Salt Lake City	KUTA	570	7:30 a.m.
Pensacola	WEAR	1230	11:00 p.m.	Lebanon	WTSI	1400	1:00 p.m.	Vermont, Brattleboro	WTSA	1450	1:00 p.m.
Tallahassee	WTNT	1450	5:00 p.m.	Manchester	WMUR	610	3:00 p.m.	Burlington	WJOY	1230	1:00 p.m.
Tampa, St. Pete	WSUN	620	1:00 p.m.	N. Mexico, Albuquerque	KOAT	1450	3:00 p.m.	Montpelier-Barre	WSKI	1240	1:00 p.m.
Georgia, Atlanta	WGST	920	1:00 p.m.	Carlsbad	KPBM	740	check sta.	Virginia, Charlottesville	WINA	1280	9:15 a.m.
Augusta	WGAC	580	2:00 p.m.	Clovis	KCLV	1240	1:00 p.m.	Fredericksburg	WFVA	1230	check sta.
Brunswick	WGIG	1440	1:00 p.m.	Los Alamos	KRSN	1490	3:00 p.m.	Marion	WMEV	1010	2:00 p.m.
Cairo	WGRA	1300	3:00 p.m.	Santa Fe	KTRC	1400	3:00 p.m.	Norfolk	WGH	1310	6:30 p.m.
Columbus	WGBA	1460	7:30 a.m.	New York, Albany	WXKK	850	2:00 p.m.	Richmond	WRNL	910	1:30 p.m.
Dawson	WDWD	990	2:00 p.m.	New York	WJZ	770	12:30 p.m.	Washington, Aberdeen	KBKW	1450	10:30 p.m.
Macon	WNEX	1400	1:00 p.m.	Olean	WHDL	1450	1:00 p.m.	Omak	KOMW	680	9:15 a.m.
Rome	WLAQ	670	1:00 p.m.	Rochester	WARC	950	3:00 p.m.	Pasco	KPKW	1340	3:30 p.m.
Savannah	WDAR	1400	1:00 p.m.	Saranac Lake	WEAV	960	2:00 p.m.	Seattle	KJR	950	3:30 p.m.
Valdosta	WGAF	910	1:00 p.m.	Syracuse	WAGE	620	12:00 n.	Spokane	KGA	1510	3:30 p.m.
Idaho, Boise	KGEM	1140	3:00 p.m.	N. Carolina, Asheville	WLOS	1380	1:00 p.m.	Washington, D. C.	WMAL	630	1:00 p.m.
Pocatello	KEIO	1440	9:30 a.m.	Charlotte	WATS	610	1:00 p.m.	W. Virginia, Beckley	WWNR	620	1:30 p.m.
Twin Falls	KTFI	1270	7:30 a.m.	Durham	WTIC	1310	2:00 p.m.	Huntington	WHTN	800	8:00 a.m.
Illinois, Chicago	WENR-WLS	890	2:30 p.m.	Fayetteville	WFLE	1490	1:00 p.m.	Parkersburg, Sat.	WCOM	1230	5:30 p.m.
Quincy	WGEM	1440	8:00 a.m.	Salisbury	WSAT	1230	1:00 p.m.	Wheeling	WKWK	1400	1:00 p.m.
Indiana, Anderson	WHBU	1240	1:30 p.m.	Wilmington	WGNI	1340	8:30 a.m.	Wisconsin, Green Bay	WDUZ	1400	5:30 p.m.
Bloomington	WTTS	1370	1:00 p.m.	Winston-Salem	WAIK	1340	1:00 p.m.	LaCrosse	WKTY	580	4:00 p.m.
Evansville	WJPS	1330	10:15 p.m.	N. Dakota, Fargo	KFGO	790	1:00 p.m.	Madison	WIBA	1320	8:00 a.m.
Ft. Wayne	WGL	1250	1:00 p.m.	Ohio, Cleveland	WJW	850	1:00 p.m.	Milwaukee	WCAN	1250	2:00 p.m.
Iowa, Cedar Rapids	WMT	600	7:30 a.m.	Columbus	WHKC	610	1:00 p.m.	Nenah	WNAI	1280	8:00 a.m.
Davenport	WOC	1420	check sta.	Lima	WIMA	1150	9:00 a.m.	Wasau	WSAU	1400	9:30 a.m.
Des Moines	KSO	1460	1:00 p.m.	Youngstown	WBBW	1240	8:30 a.m.	Wyoming, Casper	KSPR	1470	9:15 p.m.
Sioux City	KSCJ	1360	10:30 p.m.	Oklahoma, Ada	KADA	1230	1:00 p.m.	Cheyenne	KFCB	710	12:00 p.m.
Waterloo	KXEL	1540	5:30 p.m.	Enid	KCRC	1390	1:00 p.m.	Cody	KODI	1400	12:00 p.m.
Kansas, Coffeyville	KGGF	690	2:00 p.m.	McAlester	KTMC	1400	1:00 p.m.	Laramie	KOWB	1340	12:00 p.m.
Topeka	WREN	1250	1:00 p.m.	Muskogee	KBIX	1490	2:00 p.m.	Rawlins	KRAL	1240	12:00 p.m.
Wichita	KWBB	1410	3:30 p.m.	Oklahoma City	KTOK	1000	9:30 a.m.	Riverton	KWRL	1450	12:00 p.m.
Ken., Bowling Green	WKCT	930	1:00 p.m.	Tulsa	KRMG	740	2:00 p.m.	Torrington	KGOS	1490	12:00 p.m.
Harlan	WHLN	1230	3:00 p.m.	Oregon, Eugene	KASH	1600	1:00 p.m.	Worland	KWOR	1490	12:00 p.m.
Louisville	WKLO	1080	1:00 p.m.	Medford	KMED	1440	7:30 a.m.	Alaska, Juneau (Sat.)	KJNO	630	1:00 p.m.
Mayfield	WKTM	1050	4:15 p.m.	Portland	KEX	1190	3:30 p.m.	Canada, Trail, B.C.	CJAT	610	9:30 a.m.
Newport	WNOP	740	2:00 p.m.	Redmond	KSGA	1240	3:30 p.m.	Toronto, Ont.	CKEY	580	9:15 a.m.
Paducah	WKYB	570	check sta.	The Dalles	KODL	1230	1:00 p.m.	Winnipeg, Man.	CKY	580	6:45 a.m.
Louisiana, Baton Rouge	WLCS	910	1:00 p.m.	Penn., Johnstown	WCRO	1230	1:00 p.m.				
Monroe	KMLB	1440	2:00 p.m.								

All times are Sunday unless otherwise indicated.

in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross."

It was by that death, manifesting the great love of Christ, that we may be reconciled to God. Paul tells us in Rom. 5:9-11, "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from the wrath of God through him. For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, shall we be saved by his life; and not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have not received the reconciliation."

But just how great was this love that Christ extended unto us? Let us for a few moments turn our minds back and by faith walk with Christ in his last few hours before his death. Kneel with him as he prays, so fervently that the bitterness of the cup might pass from him if it be the father's will. Feel the drops of sweat fall from his brow as if they were drops of blood, Then stand and feel the loneliness spreading over Christ as he sees his apostles have not been able to resist the temptation of sleep and no longer wait and watch with him. Feel the hated moist, betrayal kiss placed by Judas upon His brow. Walk with him as he marches away from that garden of prayer. Look back with him and see the apostles flee. Hear the false witness brought against him and listen as he hears the cursings of Peter as he denies that he even knew Jesus of Nazareth. Feel the crown of thorns, the cut of the reed as they smite him, the nausea as you see his body made wet with spittle. Stand before Pontius Pilate and hear thousands cry, "Crucify him, crucify him." Feel the weight of the cross as he tries to bear it alone and finally staggers with fatigue and falls. Feel the pain as the nails are driven through his hands and feet. As the Roman soldiers lift the cross, feel the weight of his own body as it tears his flesh held by the nails. Feel the heat of the noontday sun and his loneliness as he cries out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Then hear him though in anguish call, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." This love that he gave, the price that he paid was that you might be saved through obedience to the word. My friends, if you are lost, it will cost heaven the love of Christ given for you. Is it worth the price?

But more than ever this, it will cost heaven the works of the Holy Spirit in confirming the words of the apostles that we might know the truth and by our obedience to it be cleansed from our sins. In the 14th and 15th chapters of John, Christ fortells his death and leaving to the disciples, but he gives them

the promise that he will send the comforter, even the Holy Spirit that he might guide them unto all truth. He says in the 26th verse of the 15th chapter, "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall bear witness of me:" And then again in the 26th verse of the 14th chapter he said, "But the Comforter, even the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you." And again in the 13th verse of the 16th chapter, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he shall guide you into all the truth: for he shall not speak from himself; but what things soever he shall hear, these shall he speak: and he shall declare unto you the things that are to come."

On the day of Pentecost that spirit came for the 4th verse of the 2nd chapter of Acts informs us, "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." And through the ensuing years the Holy Spirit, the comforter, sent from God, worked through Peter, Paul, James, Jude and John that we might by the word of truth so that finally Jude was able to say in Jude 3, ". . . contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints." This was the work of the Holy Spirit that you might have redemption from your sins and that you might enter into the pearly gates and the everlasting home. The words of God were given by him through inspired men. The writer of Hebrews says in Heb. 5:9, "and having been made perfect, he became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation:" This word which the Holy Spirit confirmed is given that which we might obey and be saved. If you are lost the word of God will have been given in vain for you. It will cost heaven the work of the Holy Spirit. Is it worth the price?

My friends, I am persuaded the price paid by any one of these beings would be enough to constrain us to save ourselves by obedience to the gospel. Therefore, will you not resolve right now this day, "I will obey the Lord." I believe that Jesus is the Christ the son of the living God." Will you not today let the goodness of God lead to repentance, resolved to walk in sin no more. Paul tells us in Rom. 2:4, "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" Will you not then also today have the courage to confess your faith in Jesus Christ, not your faith in some manmade creed or tradition but that Jesus is the Christ the son of God? Then hear the words

of Ananias the preacher as he spoke to Saul of Tarsus and also to you in Acts 22 and the 16th verse, "And now why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on his name." My friends, those of you who have done these things but have worshipped God not according to his will, will you not put off the traditions of men and walk in them no more, but repent of every wrong doing and confess these sins and pray that God will forgive you. It will cost heaven the love of God, the love of Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit given for you if you are lost. I would to God that every person in the audience today would say that he will not waste the sacrifice and the price paid for his soul but resolve today, "I will hear the voice of Christ and obey his commandments."