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Churches of Christ Salute You with a Herald of Truth: How Well Do You Love the Lord?

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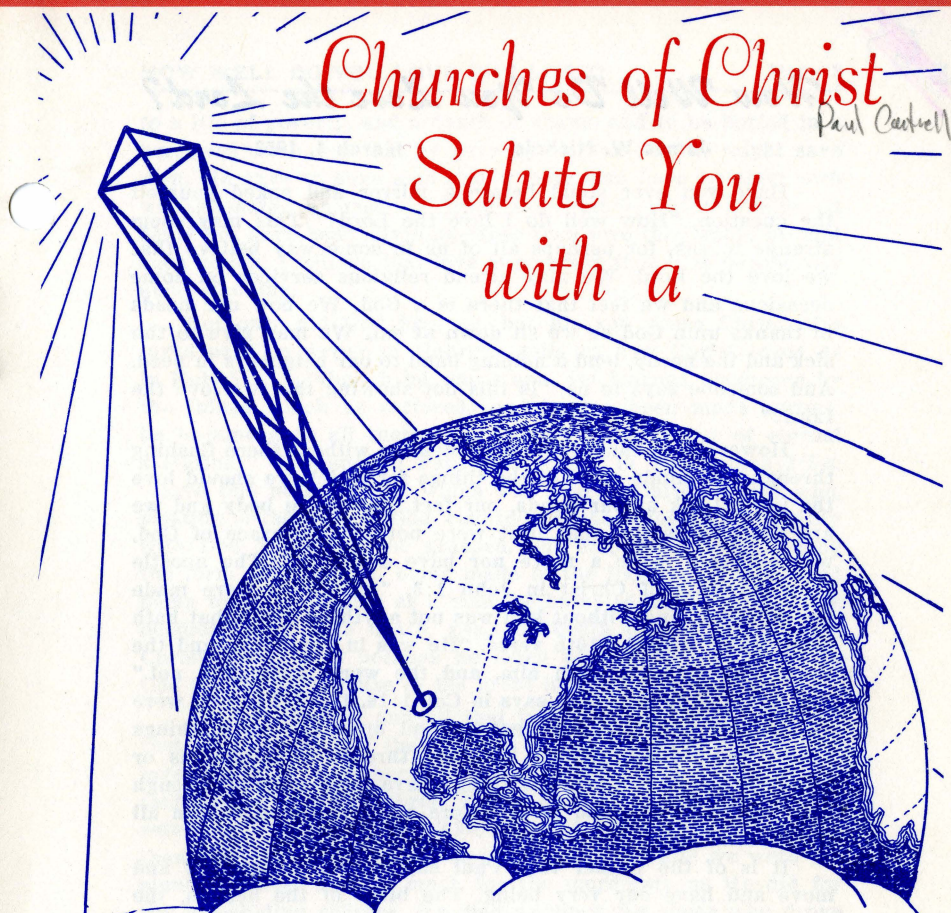
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Churches of Christ
Salute You
with a

Paul Caswell



How Well Do You Love the Lord?

James W. Nichols

March 1, 1953

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Herald of Truth

How Well Do You Love the Lord?

James W. Nichols

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Have you ever stood before a mirror and asked yourself the question, "How well do I love the Lord?" This may seem strange to ask, for perhaps all of us in some way believe that we love the Lord. We may attend religious services on some occasions and we feel that there is a God. We bow our heads in thanks unto God as we sit down at eat. We may give to the sick and the needy, lend a helping hand to our neighbors in need. And someone says to us, "Is this not showing that we love the Lord?"

However, we cannot ask this question without there flashing through our minds some of the things for which we should love the Lord. Look at our hands, our feet, our whole body and we are made to realize that if it were not for the grace of God, we could not make a move nor have a thought. The apostle John speaking of Christ in John 1:3, "All things were made through him; and without him was not anything made that hath been made." and the 10th verse, "He was in the world, and the world was made through him, and the world knew him not." and then the apostle 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."

It is of the Father that Paul says in whom we live and move and have our very being. The birds of the heaven, the beast of the field and the fish of the sea were created for our use and God hath clothed the earth in grass and trees and herbs and set the sun in the sky by day and the moon by night for our blessings. There is not a thing that we do, enjoy or think that is not the grace of God. But man from the very beginning of time has rebelled, cursed, and rejected his creator and in the face of all this rejection, we see the great manifestations of God's love in his willingness to give his son that we might have hope of life everlasting.

Have you ever felt the full import of 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." I want us to pause for a moment and think of a father giving up his son. Not that God the father gave up the son only

to a life of poverty, and a death of shame and to be buried in a borrowed tomb, but that he gave up his son that he might save men. He gave to save men and women who have by their own will alienated themselves from the Father, their creator. It could not have been anything other than love that would prompt such action, I believe that love is so great that it is beyond our understanding.

Not only did God love us, but his son Jesus Christ also loved us. The writer of Hebrews tells us how Christ loved us 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;" The apostle Paul also writes in Philippians 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." Yes, Christ died for us because he loved us and he was given by God the father because of his great love for you and me.

All that is right and all that is good within man cries out that God is love and that his son is the manifestation of that love. But that love becomes even dearer when we recognize that neither God nor Christ waited until we had perfected ourselves in moral goodness. They did not wait for us to turn to them and seek their favor but gave and died while we were yet sinners. Christ died as much for the murderers as He did for the law-abiding citizens. He died as much for those who drove the nails through His hands and through His feet as He did for you and for me. Just think of the love that it must have taken to move even the son of God, who was denied and betrayed by some that were closest to him; who heard thousands, many of whom he had healed, cry "crucify him; crucify him", who felt the sting of whips and ridicule of those for whom he died; who had to bear his own cross, and who, after having his hands and feet pierced with spikes, was lifted in the heat of a noonday sun, to die the painful and shameful death of crucifixion. I say, imagine the love that must have motivated Christ, who endured all these things, to say in the very moment of anguish, "Father, forgive them; they know not what they do." Oh, such wondrous love that should be shed for you and for me.

And hear the words of the beloved apostle Paul, as he said, in Rom. 5:6-8, "For while we were yet weak, in due season

YOU MAY HEAR THE HERALD OF TRUTH OVER THESE STATIONS

Alabama, Anniston	WHMA	1450	1:00 p.m.	New Orleans	WDSU	1280	1:00 p.m.	Philadelphia	WFIL	560	2:00 p.m.
Auburn	WAUD	1230	1:00 p.m.	Shreveport	KRMD	1340	1:00 p.m.	Pittsburg	WCAE	1250	3:00 p.m.
Birmingham	WSGN	610	8:00 a.m.	Maine, Bangor	WABI	910	1:00 p.m.	Wilkes-Barre	WLK	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	WGYY		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	WBRLL	1400	1:00 p.m.	Jackson	WTJS	1890	1:00 p.m.
Tuscaloosa	WJRD	1150	9:00 p.m.	Bay City	WBM	1440	1:00 p.m.	Johnson City	WJHL	910	10:30 p.m.
Arizona, Phoenix	KOY	550	7:00 a.m.	Detroit	WZL	1270	1:00 p.m.	Knoxville	WBIR	1240	1:30 p.m.
Tucson	KCNA	580	3:00 p.m.	Flint	WFDF	910	10:00 p.m.	Memphis	WMPS	650	9:30 p.m.
Arkansas, Eldorado	KDMS	1290	1:00 p.m.	Lansing	WLSL	1320	1:00 p.m.	Morristown	WCRK	1450	check sta.
Ft. Smith	KPSA	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.	Miss., 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	KFRO	1370	1:00 p.m.
Colorado, Craig	KRAI	1230	5:30 p.m.	Rolla	KTTR	1490	8:45 a.m.	Lubbock	KFYO	1340	4:00 p.m.
Denver	KVOD	630	3:00 p.m.	St. Louis	KXOK	630	2:00 p.m.	Midland	KCRS	550	1:30 p.m.
Conn., Bridgeport	WNAB	1450	2:00 p.m.	Springfield	KWTO	560	1:00 p.m.	Nacogdoches	KOSF	1230	1:00 p.m.
Hartford	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	WTSJ	1400	1:00 p.m.	Vermont, Brattleboro	WVTA	1450	1:00 p.m.
Tallahassee	WTNT	1450	5:00 p.m.	Manchester	WMUR	610	3:00 p.m.	Burlington	WJOY	1230	1:00 p.m.
Tampa, St. Pete	WSUN	620	1:00 p.m.	N. Mexico, Albuquerque	KOAT	1450	3:00 p.m.	Montpelier-Barre	WSKI	1240	1:00 p.m.
Georgia, Atlanta	WGST	920	1:00 p.m.	Carlsbad	KPBM	740	check sta.	Virginia, Charlottesville	WINA	1280	9:15 a.m.
Augusta	WGAC	580	2:00 p.m.	Clovis	KCLV	1240	1:00 p.m.	Fredericksburg	WFVA	1230	check sta.
Brunswick	WGIG	1440	1:00 p.m.	Los Alamos	KRSN	1490	3:00 p.m.	Marion	WMEV	1010	2:00 p.m.
Cairo	WGRA	1300	3:00 p.m.	Santa Fe	KTRC	1400	3:00 p.m.	Norfolk	WGH	1310	6:30 p.m.
Columbus	WGBA	1460	7:30 a.m.	New York, Albany	WXKW	850	2:00 p.m.	Richmond	WRNL	910	1:30 p.m.
Dawson	WDWD	990	2:00 p.m.	New York, 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	WGA	910	1:00 p.m.	Syracuse	WAGE	620	12:00 n.	Spokane	KGA	1510	3:30 p.m.
Idaho, Boise	KGEM	1140	2:00 p.m.	N. Carolina, Asheville	WLOS	1380	1:00 p.m.	Washington, D. C.	WMAL	630	1:00 p.m.
Pocatello	KEIO	1440	9:30 a.m.	Charlotte	WAYS	610	1:00 p.m.	W. Virginia, Beckley	WVNR	620	1:30 p.m.
Twin Falls	KTFI	1270	7:30 a.m.	Durham	WTIK	1310	2:00 p.m.	Huntington	WHTN	800	8:00 a.m.
Illinois, Chicago	WENR	890	2:30 p.m.	Fayetteville (Sat.)	WFLB	1490	1:00 p.m.	Parkersburg, Sat.	WCOM	1230	5:30 p.m.
Quincy	WGEM	1440	8:00 a.m.	Salisbury	WSAT	1280	1:00 p.m.	Wheeling	WKWK	1400	1:00 p.m.
Indiana, Anderson	WHBU	1240	1:30 p.m.	Wilmington	WGNJ	1340	8:30 a.m.	Wisconsin, Green Bay	WDUZ	1400	5:30 p.m.
Bloomington	WTTS	1370	1:00 p.m.	Winston-Salem	WAIR	1340	1:00 p.m.	LaCrosse	WKTY	580	4:00 p.m.
Evansville	WJPS	1330	10:15 p.m.	N. Dakota, Fargo	KFGO	790	1:00 p.m.	Madison	WIBA	1320	8:00 a.m.
Ft. Wayne	WGL	1250	1:00 p.m.	Ohio, Cleveland	WJW	850	1:00 p.m.	Milwaukee	WCAN	1250	2:00 p.m.
Iowa, Cedar Rapids	WMT	600	7:30 a.m.	Columbus	WHKC	610	1:00 p.m.	Neenah	WNAW	1280	8:00 a.m.
Davenport	WOC	1420	check sta.	Lima	WMA	1150	9:00 a.m.	Wasau	WSAU	1400	9:30 a.m.
Des Moines	KSO	1460	1:00 p.m.	Youngst.	W	1240	8:30 a.m.	Wyoming, Casper	KSPR	1470	9:15 p.m.
Sioux City	KSCJ	1360	10:30 p.m.	Oklahoma, Ada	KADA	1230	1:00 p.m.	Cheyenne	KFBC	710	12:00 p.m.
Waterloo	KXEL	1540	5:30 p.m.	Enid	KCRC	1390	1:00 p.m.	Cody	KODI	1400	12:00 p.m.
Kansas, Coffeyville	KGGF	690	2:00 p.m.	McAlester	KTRC	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	KTKO	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.	Worldand	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.

Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: for peradventure for the good man some one would even dare to die. But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Is there any soul too cold or heart too hard that would not bow down realizing this wonderous love and cry out in the words of the poet, "Forbid it Lord, lest that I should boast save in the death of Christ my God. All of the vain things that charm one most I sacrifice to his blood. See from his head, his hands, his feet, love and sorrow flow mingled down. Did e're such love or sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown? Were the whole realm of Nature mine, that were a present far too small. Love so amazing, love so divine demands my soul, my life, my all."

But may we pause again and ask just how well do you love the Lord. We read a moment ago where the writer of Hebrews said that he loved us enough that he was willing to learn obedience and Christ explicitly said in John 14:15, "If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments." Then again in the 23rd and 24th verses, "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my word: and my father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my words: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but my Father's who sent me." And in the 15th chapter of John and the 14th verse, "Ye are my friends, if ye do the things which I command you." Then this places upon us a peculiar responsibility and that is if we love the Lord we will obey him even as he loved us and was willing to learn obedience by the things which he suffered.

Austin said, "He loves not Christ at all who does not love Christ above all." Jesus said in Matt. 10:37, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." Therefore, my friends, I am not wrongfully judged when I tell you that if you do not place Christ above all else and have not obeyed the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, you do not truly love the savior of mankind.

Today your love for Christ is being tested by your willingness to obey the things that he has commanded. Your love is being tested in your willingness to believe that he is the son of the living God. The writer of Hebrews says in Heb. 11:6, "and without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that seek after him." But not only is your

love being tested by your willingness to believe that he is the son but by your willingness to turn aside from your sins and repent. The apostle Paul said in Acts 17:30-31, "The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent: inasmuch as he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he raised him from the dead."

Then again your love is being tested in your willingness to confess him before men. There were many who believed in the time that Jesus walked upon the earth that he was the Christ, but they did not love him. Therefore, they would not confess him. John 12:42, 43, "Nevertheless even of the rulers many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess it, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: for they loved the glory that is of men more than the glory that is of God."

Again is your love being tested by your willingness to submit your will unto his by being baptized for the remission of sins. Peter on the day of Pentecost inspired by the Holy Spirit commanded, "Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Then may I with all the kindness possible tell you that if you have not believed, repented, confessed, and been buried with your Lord in baptism, you do not love the Lord.

But more than that, if you have done these things and failed to continue faithful in service and worship to him, you do not love him. I want you to ask yourself the question today, "Do I love the Lord enough that I will be willing to be nothing more nothing less than a Christian as they were in New Testament times?" Acts 11:26 tells us, ". . . and the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." Again, "Do I love the Lord enough that I will be willing to be just a member of the New Testament Church?" realizing the truth found in the words of the apostle Paul in Gal. 1:7, 8, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach unto you any gospel other than that which we preached unto you, let him be anathema." "Do I love the Lord enough that I want to worship him just as he commanded us to worship, to give, to sing, to pray, to study, to grow in nurture and admonition?" The fact is that if I am not willing to do just as the Lord has commanded me, I cannot honestly say that I love the Lord.

There could be no greater joy than for everyone of you in the audience today to resolve right now, "this day will I show my love for Christ. I will obey his will. I would do anything within my power to direct you to that obedience". Won't you do that today? Heeding his loving and tender voice following after his sacrificial life and death in obedience. It is my prayer that these words of Christ found in Luke 6:46 ring through your mind until you have fully submitted your will unto his. "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Won't you obey him today? We are praying and pleading that you will.