

Dr. Robert T. Ketcham
You Are His Epistle Pt. 1
March 9, 1964

Unedited Transcript

00:00:01:22 - 00:00:24:23

Robert T. Ketcham

Oh, I wish I had time to reminisce a little this morning, but we mustn't. We do thank God, however, for. Men down through the years of battle that have stood and been willing to stand and be counted. I don't care much about these fellows who stand, but won't stand up and be counted.

00:00:26:25 - 00:01:03:21

Robert T. Ketcham

Secret disciples, I guess they call them or something. The subject for these morning discussions together is the high cost of writing paper. second currency and. 33 year manifest manifestly declared to be. The pistol, the Christ. You are manifestly declared to be the prisoner of Christ.

00:01:06:13 - 00:01:27:18

Robert T. Ketcham

Now, before we look at that, I'd like to preface those remarks with this observation. When I say to you this morning that there never has been a time in the history of the Christian Church. When a real stalwart.

00:01:28:25 - 00:01:51:29

Robert T. Ketcham

Sounds solid, sensible Christian living is more important than it is today. That sounds trite, you've heard it 1000 times. You're going to hear it again. You've already heard it now 1001. But if I can somehow these days together with you.

00:01:53:12 - 00:02:26:07

Robert T. Ketcham

Take that idea that we are living in a time of such crisis and danger and confusion. As has never been known. In the history of the Christian Church, which in turn calls for a new brand. Of Christian. Young men and young women, as well as old men and older women.

00:02:28:12 - 00:02:51:29

Robert T. Ketcham

Who are realizing and will realize that it is very serious business to be a Christian. The Christian life is not some little Sunday school picnic. Our pleasure. Canoe trip appreciated stream, it may have been that at one time, but no longer.

00:02:54:08 - 00:03:20:14

Robert T. Ketcham

The question right now is a battle to the death. Every day and every hour of every day, the issues of this battle that is closing in on us and the end time is coming closer and closer and impinging more heavily upon every single individual question than it has ever done before, and I'm still thinking of the dark

00:03:20:14 - 00:03:49:00

Robert T. Ketcham

ages. For our enemy, and he's no longer on the outside, pressing in our enemy is on the inside, working from the inside. Using our vernacular. Using our words and. Putting new meaning into them. And the crisis of the hour demands a new brand.

00:03:50:24 - 00:04:10:29

Robert T. Ketcham

Men and women who will take this business of being Christians seriously. Now, I know I know we're all Christians and all that. But my friend, we're going to have to shake ourselves together and shake ourselves up and wake ourselves up to the fact.

00:04:12:15 - 00:04:32:29

Robert T. Ketcham

That's the kind of precedent that is the not only better question. I don't mean that in the sense of the relationship to the Lord, but your father's and your grandfather's and grandmother's. We're not facing the crisis that you're facing.

00:04:35:26 - 00:04:58:12

Robert T. Ketcham

When I entered the ministry 51 years ago, if you meant a modernist. You had you had 40 miles on either side of him to get around him? You didn't have to trust leave just an isolated guy that's no longer true.

00:05:00:04 - 00:05:18:29

Robert T. Ketcham

The coroner has narrowed. And you face them every time you turn around all shades and brands of them. And when you meet them now, you youngsters meet them now. There is no longer any room to get around them.

00:05:19:17 - 00:05:47:16

Robert T. Ketcham

You have to face them, head on and eliminate them or be eliminated, not one or the other. You have to face there for a lot of reason and theories and theologies and doctrines, and enter into combat with them and stand your ground without giving an age.

00:05:52:10 - 00:06:16:20

Robert T. Ketcham

And that's where we are. Now, back to the tax year, manifest was declared to be the official price. We need to get a definition or to straighten out here. first of all, what is an equitable. Some years ago, up in Michigan, I was.

00:06:17:15 - 00:06:43:02

Robert T. Ketcham

Talking to her all about 50 youngsters, I suppose, anywhere from eight to ten years of age. Maybe some of them younger than that. And I haven't used the word Episcopal. And so I stopped and I said, does anyone here know what an official is?

00:06:43:08 - 00:07:11:02

Robert T. Ketcham

Is there anyone who can tell me what any personal is? Little fellow shot up his hand and I said, Yes, sir, what is an official? And he stood up and squared your shoulders and he said. Doctor, get. And a though, is the wife of an apostle that will hardly do.

00:07:13:14 - 00:07:36:13

Robert T. Ketcham

Well, this is a letter, I it. Now, another question we need to get clear why later? Why do people write letters, what's the purpose of a letter? Well, here's a man over here who wants to get a specific definite message to a man over here.

00:07:37:23 - 00:07:56:16

Robert T. Ketcham

They're not together. They're separated. They're far apart. And this man has a message that must be gotten to this man over here. So he writes a letter. That's the purpose of the letter. To convey a message. There's someone who is not with you.

00:07:58:07 - 00:08:19:03

Robert T. Ketcham

The only place that I ever saw people writing letters to people who were sitting right next to them. I was in my balconies or some of my turkey where I prayed at once in a while out of the corner of I could see it going on and Maguire told me.

00:08:20:24 - 00:08:35:25

Robert T. Ketcham

But where people are possessed of all of their senses in their right mind, why right, they do not write letters to someone sitting right next to them. If someone who is a far. And a message must be gotten to them.

00:08:35:29 - 00:09:04:15

Robert T. Ketcham

That's the purpose of a letter. Now that the word of God says that you are the letters of Christ. Jesus Christ has a message that he wants to get to the sinner over here, who is far off from him, separated from him, alienated from him, no line of communication, whatever it all down, is dead.

00:09:04:16 - 00:09:21:10

Robert T. Ketcham

Adam shouted that way back in the garden and pull the wires down, and they've never been put up. There is no communication whatsoever between the mind and spirit of a lost man and the mind and spirit of Jesus Christ.

00:09:21:12 - 00:09:36:01

Robert T. Ketcham

They're foreign to each other in inherited from each other. Far removed from each other. But the Lord Jesus Christ has a message that he wants to

get to this fellow over here. But he'll do certain things. Communication can be set up again.

00:09:36:11 - 00:09:52:04

Robert T. Ketcham

The lines can be rebuilt and he can have conversion and communion and fellowship with a holy god. He doesn't have to walk out there in the crowd and in the misery of sin. He doesn't have to walk out there in the darkness at midnight.

00:09:52:11 - 00:10:08:22

Robert T. Ketcham

He doesn't have to keep his face turned toward the blazing pace of an endless hail. The Lord Jesus Christ has a message that he wants to get to that fella that if you believe and what he did for him on the Crown, that communication will be reestablished.

00:10:08:29 - 00:10:28:15

Robert T. Ketcham

He'll be born anew and again, and he'll have to nature of the very nature of Christ imparted and imputed to him, and that communication can be set up. And he can have his face set toward heaven. That's the message.

00:10:30:06 - 00:11:02:00

Robert T. Ketcham

That's the letter Jesus Christ wants to get to this fellow over here. And the text says that you're it. Now, let's don't optically read this optically correct and mentally wrong. This doesn't say that you are manifestly declared to be a messenger boy or messenger girl carrying a letter.

00:11:03:26 - 00:11:32:13

Robert T. Ketcham

That's not what it said. What it says is that you are the leader. You are manifestly declared to be the latter. Now that puts a little different slant on it. And ties it down a little more tightly to our conduct in our department.

00:11:34:08 - 00:11:55:23

Robert T. Ketcham

You begin to see now where the spotlight is going to focus, don't you? On this matter of the high cost of writing paper. You're it you are the paper that Jesus Christ writes his message on, and you're it.

00:11:58:17 - 00:12:36:05

Robert T. Ketcham

Now let's get at it from this angle. I know nothing in all of my 54 years of being a Christian that shocked me so and rocked me back on my heels more solidly and startlingly than when I discovered that the only crime that the unsafe world will ever see until they face him face to face is the

00:12:36:05 - 00:13:07:16

Robert T. Ketcham

great white throne judgment. The only place that this world will ever see is the Christ facing a new. You want to challenge that? It's better not for a come back and challenge you to show me one place on the face of this ball of dirt.

00:13:08:18 - 00:13:36:11

Robert T. Ketcham

Show me one place anywhere where Jesus Christ can be seen, except in the lives of those who claim to have him living within. The Lord Jesus Christ is corporeal body and presence is up there, the right hand of the father maintaining you and me in that place of acceptance and acceptability.

00:13:39:13 - 00:14:08:24

Robert T. Ketcham

But he has a message that he wants to get to a lost world. And you're if you go out and you say to the UN Fayed, where I am a Christian, that means Christ in the world and the world immediately has a right then to judge Jesus Christ by what they see in you.

00:14:12:29 - 00:14:33:12

Robert T. Ketcham

There is no other place in the world. I want to drive this home, and it doesn't time. There is no other place on this planet. Where an unsafe person can see Jesus Christ. Except as they see him mean you.

00:14:37:29 - 00:15:02:26

Robert T. Ketcham

Now I want to ask you that problem. What kind of a price do they see when they look at you? Yes. All right. This isn't true, I trust here in the crowd of students like this one. But out in an ordinary church, I could say.

00:15:04:29 - 00:15:36:00

Robert T. Ketcham

And I'm not sure, but it might. Strike fairly close to a target. Even here. You say to somebody, I'm a Christian. And if this was no ordinary congregation, I would say, and then they see you smoking the same brand, they smoke, they see you reading the same literature that they read.

00:15:37:29 - 00:15:58:03

Robert T. Ketcham

They see you in your home on your music, that's the same jazzy stuff that they've got in their house. They go to the movie and someone comes in to sit down in the chair and sat in the dark room and the lights come on my turn and they, are you all right?

00:15:58:13 - 00:16:29:08

Robert T. Ketcham

You said. And they say this well. Yeah, so that's the question. So that's great. Now, I don't see why I should take on the air in the expensive church doing. There are no difference between this person who say who says that they're are Christian them, then I'm myself, not a Christian.

00:16:30:09 - 00:16:41:16

Robert T. Ketcham

No difference. They say what I say. They do what I do. They tell me what I think. They read, what I read. They go to the movies I go to, and they did exactly the same things I do.

00:16:42:02 - 00:17:06:21

Robert T. Ketcham

Why in the wide world of the foolish folk who call themselves Christians and join a church that doesn't have to pay for the upkeep of it? I'm not going to do it. Now hear me and let's stop this business of jumping with hard nails, shooting on the unsaved around this world because they do not accept the message

00:17:06:21 - 00:17:22:27

Robert T. Ketcham

of salvation. Let's stop that kind of rhetoric and turn the spotlight in on ourselves and see whether or not the Christ that we have presented to them is attractive enough to them to give them the idea that they should consider it.

00:17:28:24 - 00:18:06:29

Robert T. Ketcham

You are. Paul said I am crucified with Christ. Nevertheless, I live yet not, I don't know, not I, but what Christ live is where in me. In Filipino, he declared, For me to live is great right now. I do not believe that we can exhaust the meaning of that phrase by saying that that applies to his passion

00:18:07:17 - 00:18:31:13

Robert T. Ketcham

, to his objective here. He just wants to live for Christ all the time. For me to live is Christ yesterday the Christ Center and all the rest of it. There is no doubt there, but I think I am within limits of conservative exegesis.

00:18:31:13 - 00:19:05:01

Robert T. Ketcham

When I say that, I think it means that also for me to live, for me, to call myself a Christian and live as a professed Christian for me to live is Christ to somebody. We're has no other place they can go to discover who Christ is and what Christ is only as well of you, all you say

00:19:05:14 - 00:19:33:16

Robert T. Ketcham

, they've got the Bible, they can read it. Wait a minute. They do not have the Bible. You have it, the world doesn't. From where I live. You want to challenge that one better, not. For the same apostle whom I'm quoting in this text says that.

00:19:35:21 - 00:19:56:17

Robert T. Ketcham

That the unsafe man cannot understand this Bible, that he knows nothing about it, it's all foolishness to him and the things of a man, the spirit of a man known and the things of God, the spirit of God.

00:19:56:17 - 00:20:22:01

Robert T. Ketcham

No, and the man who does not have the spirit of God cannot know or understand the things I've got. This book is a closed book to an unsaved man. Beyond the war, this book is put in your hand now as the same person who heard somebody tell you about it and you believe it.

00:20:22:29 - 00:20:44:06

Robert T. Ketcham

And now this book is put into your hands, and you, in turn, are to read this book and study this book and find out what a Christian really is and be that so that this unsaved man out here who cannot understand it through this book, he sure can understand it through you.

00:20:45:19 - 00:21:10:04

Robert T. Ketcham

Do you remember? You are the official, you are the leader of Christ, not simply a letter bearer. You're it. What kind of a Christ? You mentioned you. What kind of a Christ is your father and mother seeing you?

00:21:11:04 - 00:21:46:12

Robert T. Ketcham

What kind of a Christ your brothers and sisters seeing you? What kind of a Christ do your schoolmates see? And you know, no reason. And believe you, me, they're watching you. Sometimes the most simple little thing. Will spell Christ to somebody from a friend of mine, was making dinner with a friend of his and his friend had

00:21:46:12 - 00:22:12:04

Robert T. Ketcham

ordered me mignon steak and when it came, the waiter or did it left? What have you? It was Premiere shown here from you and his friend, a friend of mine, one the waiter to take it back and change it.

00:22:13:01 - 00:22:30:20

Robert T. Ketcham

And his friends are No, no, it's all right. That's all right. I know I ordered the other, but this is OK. Forget it and move on. And the next day, he said to his friend, he said. I learned a lesson.

00:22:31:26 - 00:22:59:10

Robert T. Ketcham

From you yesterday. You can create your reaction to that. We'll do that for you. He said, I know 25 men would have had a scene in that restaurant. You see your friend, you never know. You never know who is watching you and what they're looking for.

00:23:00:28 - 00:23:19:06

Robert T. Ketcham

But that man who sat at that table and ordered the steak and got accepted it with a smile and wouldn't allow it to be corrected, just went on and on. That's what he had originally ordered. That was crazy to somebody else.

00:23:22:17 - 00:23:52:06

Robert T. Ketcham

Now how is price? How does Christ implement this business of being the myth making you the method to some large person? I'll be doing what he does it, first of all, by the purchase of your body for the purchase of your body, first Corinthians six, 19 and 20.

00:23:52:15 - 00:24:11:24

Robert T. Ketcham

What? No, you're not that. You're not your own. You are bought with a price. Therefore, glorify God. Wear glassware in your body. Now, let's not get that all up here in the air, too. Let's bring it down. Your body, your body.

00:24:11:25 - 00:24:27:09

Robert T. Ketcham

Your body. That's what I'm talking about. That thing that you got up out of bed this morning and washes up and down and up and fix it up and broke it up and and and up and all the rest of it and took it down to the breakfast table and stopped it.

00:24:27:20 - 00:24:47:06

Robert T. Ketcham

And you brought it here now and double it up in a letter Z. And it's sitting in those seats. That's the thing I'm talking about. Jesus Christ, walk your body. And he paid the same awful price for your car.

00:24:47:21 - 00:25:05:16

Robert T. Ketcham

He paid for the father or the fellow US who lives inside the. You see, there is a difference between you and your body. You say I felt like you never saw me in your life. I've never seen you.

00:25:07:05 - 00:25:23:27

Robert T. Ketcham

We see the houses that we live in. You were down there looking up at me through a couple of windows and you see me, I'm up here looking down at you. one wonders completely, but the other much good.

00:25:23:27 - 00:25:46:25

Robert T. Ketcham

But I can still see little you. I know you're down in there, but that's not your body. And your tombstone in England had it right when it said, Here lies the body of William Green. Peace isn't here. This is only his pod.

00:25:48:02 - 00:26:17:17

Robert T. Ketcham

He has shell out and gone home are gone now. Pods go on. one of these days do. That's what I'm interested in right now. Right now. What in the wide world? Jesus Christ, what of your body? And it wouldn't be enough just to save your soul, that ego, that thing that has all the senses and what have

00:26:17:17 - 00:26:40:28

Robert T. Ketcham

you learned and take it to heaven? Wouldn't that be enough? What does he want of that body of yours? He wanted for writing paper. And he bought an Apple car, the great standing voice of countless millions of uprooted trees, and you're one of them.

00:26:43:20 - 00:27:04:17

Robert T. Ketcham

So over. Beginning tomorrow, we'll see how that triggers trends. Form from a tree to a piece of writing paper. What we're dealing now with the purchase of Christ, he bought your bodies because that's the only way that he can express himself is through your body.

00:27:05:15 - 00:27:26:28

Robert T. Ketcham

He lives in it for the express purpose of living his life out it. And if he's not in it, then he can express himself. If I see my hand keeps going out of way because I bobcat, you move down in here and he says, go away.

00:27:31:04 - 00:27:44:23

Robert T. Ketcham

Now, one of these days, Bob Ketchum, is going to move out and that hand is going to go that way anymore. I hope, I hope the hope. It'll be up here on my breast with a Lily in it.

00:27:49:17 - 00:28:14:03

Robert T. Ketcham

Let me ask you, what could you do? Without a body that. I think that there isn't a woman in this auditorium this morning that can whip up a mess of pancakes or biscuits tomorrow morning, even with the help of Betty Crocker, if you didn't have a body.

00:28:18:17 - 00:28:40:15

Robert T. Ketcham

You couldn't shovel Hoover over the rug if you didn't have a body. There isn't a man here, the Arkansas border driving the hell of they didn't have a body. I don't know. I mean, at the end of that, we would never have known of a galaxy or a Caruso had there not been possessed of a body.

00:28:42:03 - 00:28:59:27

Robert T. Ketcham

We would never have known of a Patriots game had he not had a body. Now, Joe Schmo, don't you have to have a body through which you're going to express your identity, your personality and your presence beyond that?

00:29:02:03 - 00:29:13:15

Robert T. Ketcham

When I was a pastor, they meet him on the street Monday morning and say, well, I was sorry, I couldn't be there yesterday. You got what? I was there in spirit. But if you're not going to bring your body, leave your spirit at home.

00:29:14:24 - 00:29:37:07

Robert T. Ketcham

I don't want a bunch of ghosts rolling around under my seats. I want them sitting up where I can see, you know what they're doing. Hear me. You are absolutely helpless. To make yourself known or your presence felt, man without a body.

00:29:42:01 - 00:30:12:01

Robert T. Ketcham

Now, I'm convinced that I'm not carried off and left, because when I say that Jesus Christ in this dispensation is just as helpless without a body as you would be. Is corporeal body is up there. But he must have a body down here in which he can live.

00:30:13:24 - 00:30:39:20

Robert T. Ketcham

And through which he can express himself. And that's why he bought you and that body sitting there in that seat this morning no longer belongs to you. You have no more right to that body of yours than I would have to go down here on Main Street and walk into a store or a house and say, This

00:30:39:20 - 00:31:05:26

Robert T. Ketcham

belongs to me. No man. Somebody bought that and paid for it, not. I didn't. And Jesus Christ brought your body, and he bought it for one great purpose that he could have a body millions of years in which he could move and take full possession of it.

00:31:06:27 - 00:31:21:21

Robert T. Ketcham

And dress it, so it'll be a witness to him, put a vocabulary in its vocal organs, there will be a witness to him and put things on it that will go in pairs of righteousness and not ruling that.

00:31:23:16 - 00:31:48:07

Robert T. Ketcham

Put your hands on the thing that will do his bidding. Jesus Christ has no feet to go anywhere in this world without your all all. He must have. He must have faith by which he can tread the powers of the foreign field.

00:31:49:14 - 00:32:05:24

Robert T. Ketcham

He must have hands that can minister to the needy and the Lord around him. He must have vocalizing that he can use to bring the message of salvation and comfort and hope and cheer to those all around us.

00:32:08:05 - 00:32:24:20

Robert T. Ketcham

You have no authority over your body, what you put on it to wear, what kind of clothes you buy, what kind of car you buy, what kind of houses you live in. Put it in live, where you put it to work.

00:32:24:20 - 00:32:49:12

Robert T. Ketcham

It's none of your business that's in the world of. That's who. And this is what I mean by saying that we've come to a day when Christians have got to wake up and know. That being a Christian isn't just a kind of a pleasant tour.

00:32:50:18 - 00:33:16:26

Robert T. Ketcham

Through a foreign world with nice little shady spots where you can take time off to go sightseeing and all the rest of it. No, no, no. We have come to a day now in the development of the purposes and the Council of God, where young men and young women and old ones to marry have got to take

00:33:16:26 - 00:33:33:21

Robert T. Ketcham

themselves in hand and understand that they are bought with a price. Their bodies belong to Jesus Christ, and they are no longer your own. You have no right to direct your step and say, I'll do this or I'll do that.

00:33:34:02 - 00:33:45:23

Robert T. Ketcham

I'll say this, or I'll say that I'll sing this or I'll sing that you have no right to say that anymore. That's for him to say, I'll be this, or I'll be that I'll marry that girl or marry that fellow.

00:33:45:23 - 00:34:07:22

Robert T. Ketcham

That's not for you to say anymore. That's for him to say when I leave here. And he bought, you know that he might make writing paper out of you so that his message gets out with you. You will be his message to a poor.

00:34:11:01 - 00:34:40:04

Robert T. Ketcham

Hell bound world. So much for sort of a preliminary observation, we will bring it down closer to where we live in the next four mornings together. All I want you to see this morning is this one further thought we shall be through this this this moderate this morning that I can have the 45, the other one.

00:34:40:04 - 00:34:59:23

Robert T. Ketcham

The other morning told me I could only have to 40. So I'm going to get there. I'm going to get a raise in salary for the doctor. And we we have a lot to say and the thing about all we are in heaven is in Jesus Christ, right?

00:35:01:18 - 00:35:20:20

Robert T. Ketcham

Well, is it right or wrong? Oh, we are in heaven. Is Jesus Christ. Amen. Great day in the morning. Is there a log in here? Or we are in heaven before the father's faith is in Jesus Christ. Amen.

00:35:22:21 - 00:35:50:00

Robert T. Ketcham

Are you still taking the fifth Amendment there? Well, if that's true, my friend, if all I have in heaven before the father's faith is in Jesus Christ, let's turn it around and face it. Oh, Jesus Christ is in this world before the face of unsafe people is in me.

00:35:53:10 - 00:36:22:27

Robert T. Ketcham

You show me any other place. Where they can see Christ accepting the Christian. That kind of rocked back on your heels a little bit, doesn't it? Jesus Christ is up there presenting our case to the father, you. I advocate why we are down here presenting his case to a lost world.

00:36:23:05 - 00:36:49:05

Robert T. Ketcham

Now I want to ask you this one question and then will be dismissed if Jesus Christ hasn't been doing a better job of presenting your case to the father. In the last 30 days. Yeah. Then you have this year of presenting Jesus Christ to the world around you.

00:36:50:06 - 00:37:22:15

Robert T. Ketcham

How secure would you be? I have a here. Jesus Christ hasn't done a better job on his end of the representation than you have on your end of representation. How far do you think you'd get in heaven? Bang about not we're not on a summer trip, my friend, know this is desperately serious business.

00:37:23:18 - 00:37:54:01

Robert T. Ketcham

For me to live is a crime to somebody. Right? God, help me not to disturb our father. It's all in our hearts and our minds this morning with a third. Get us down out of the clouds of Kansas and hop, skip and jump and play time.

00:37:55:02 - 00:38:11:10

Robert T. Ketcham

And realize that we have the most serious and tremendous job in the universe. Letting the world see what Christ. Through.