Interview with Dr. Jack McArthur

By Louis T. Talbot

[Hymn "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations]

Announcer:

The Bible Institute of Los Angeles Inc., half century old Christian training center of the west presents, "Verse by Verse" with Dr. Louis T. Talbot Biola chancellor and one of America's great evangelical leaders. Now once again your radio Bible teacher Dr. Louis T. Talbot

Louis Talbot:

Thank you Mr. Announcer and good morning my radio friends and friends of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. This is Louis T. Talbot greeting you on this the beginning of another week of broadcasting and I do so in the wonderful name of our soon coming Lord and on behalf of the faculty and the students of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. I trust that all of you folks had a blessed day in worship and service yesterday. I had the privilege yesterday of ministering morning and night at the Brethren, the Grace Brethren Church of Anaheim which Forest Lance is the good pastor. The church has only been organized for about a year and yet they have a beautiful auditorium and a fine congregation. And I predict great things for that pastor and for the church, it is in a rapidly growing community.

On my way to Anaheim yesterday I stopped at La Mirada and Dr. Sutherland and I walked around the campus and the buildings are being rapidly pushed so that everything will be
in readiness for the fall. And I believe that a new chapter and the greatest chapter that has yet
been written in connection with the Bible Institute of Los Angeles will be realized beginning
next fall. Many of the educational offices I mean the furniture and other equipment are already
moved to the offices there and it will be a great time of rejoicing in the fall when we open in our
new home. I will be telling you more about this sometime in the future.

Now my friends in regard to our study in Colossians, we're going to bypass that study this
morning and tomorrow we will take up the first chapter Colossians where we left off yesterday.
And I do this today because as I minister on the Lord's days in various places I come in contact
with pastors that God is using in a marked way. And I want you to get to know some of them
because you have heard them on other radios but not on this radio that I am using to talk to you
this morning. You have heard men like Dr. Lloyd T. Anderson of West Covina and many others.
But we you have in the auditorium in the radio studio this morning a man that you've heard quite
often on other radios and you have seen him on television. But I do not think that he has spoken
over our Biola radio. Although we do carry his program on our FM radio station KBBI, and
doubtless you have heard him on that channel.

Now this brother who is sitting by my side is none other than Dr. Jack McArthur the
pastor of the McArthur Memorial Church in Burbank. A few months ago. Dr. Jack had to go to
the east and he very kindly asked me to take his pulpit on Sunday morning and Sunday night.
And I want to tell you that I was amazed as I went over there and got there about a half an hour
before the service began. I was amazed to see what this young brother is doing. He and his
congregation have secured about seven acres of land and among the buildings already erected is
an auditorium seating about a thousand people. And then there are smaller buildings stretched
out everywhere to house a rapidly growing Sunday school. This auditorium Sunday morning and
Sunday night was packed to the doors and then the following Wednesday at the prayer meeting that I was amazed to find some seven or eight hundred people present. And I was informed by the gentlemen who were showing me around that Jack will soon be erecting on their church grounds an auditorium seating about 3000 people. You know my friends I take off my hat to a man who starts at scratch and builds from nothing in a great flourishing church. When I saw this I just coveted for you an opportunity of hearing him over this radio. And I want to talk to him for a little while this morning about world conditions in the light of the word of God and especially those movements that are taking place in the world that seem to indicate the nearness of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. First of all Jack, say a word of greeting to our wonderful Biola friends.

Jack McArthur:

I certainly count it a wonderful opportunity Dr. Talbot to be here with you today. First I'd like to say that speaking very personally there is no one that I admire and love more than I do you and your matchless ministry across the years. And of course there's a very special place in my heart for Biola because as you know because you were a very close friend of his, my father attended the Bible Institute of Los Angeles and I can remember as a little boy those days myself. And of course as he would see the expansion that's going on today, if he knows about it sometimes I think they know about the good things over and the glory land, I know he would rejoice and certainly we're thrilled at what God is doing with that new campus out in La Mirada.

Louis Talbot:
Yes I remember your father Jack and he was a wonderful friend of mine and a man whose friendship I appreciated more than any word of mine can express. And I'm so glad that you named that work over there The McArthur Memorial Church because the Ministry of your father is of the kind that will go on so long as this age lasts. Now Jack that there that a few questions that I want to ask you this morning because I know that you're a student of the Word of God as well as a student of world conditions in the light of the Word of God. And the only way that we can know just where things are headed and what is the significance of world conditions is by bringing such conditions under the light in the light of Holy writ.

Now what would you consider Jack to be the most outstanding sign in the world today that points to the nearness of the end of the Age and The Coming of the Lord to catch away the church?

Jack McArthur:

I think Dr. Talbot that there is a great accumulation of signs today and a remarkable climax. But I believe without a doubt the most outstanding sign is the restoration of the Jews to their own land after all these thousands of years. And I think without a doubt the most important date in the history of the world since the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ was May the 18th 1948 when the nation of Israel was reborn and became a sovereign nation among the nations of the earth.
I was wondering Jack whether you've ever had the opportunity of visiting Israel as it is today. So many folks are going over there and I have wondered if some good friend of yours hasn't insisted that you go over at his expense. Let's have a word in...

Jack McArthur:

Dr. Talbot I've never found that good friend just yet and I have never had that privilege. I've been in Europe, I've preached in Ireland but I have never been to the Holy Land. I'd like to go, believe me I would.

Talbot:

Well when you realize your dream for the McArthur Memorial Church in Burbank I'm sure if the Lord tarried that you will have the opportunity of seeing that land. But if the Lord come in the meantime Brother Jack I want to tell you that we'll have something better to see than Palestine. Now here is a question that I've been asked Jack a number of times, in the 16th chapter of Revelation where the Spirit of God is referring to a bench leading to the Battle of Armageddon that he writes, "I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon and out the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of a false prophet. These go to all the nations of the earth to gather their armies to Armageddon." What would you consider to be the meaning of those three unclean spirits like frogs? And whatever they are whatever movements they are Do you think that they are in the world today?

McArthur:
I think that they must be in the world today because we're so close to the end of things. I sometimes feel like John Scroggy when he said, "Tt seemed to me I hear the footfalls of the coming King." I think it's been suggested that those three movements in the world today can be definitely designated as rationalism, Spiritism, and Communism. As a matter of fact rationalism is rampant, not only in secular education, but in the church itself today and many of the movements that we're seeing and in the dreadful deterioration that we're seeing in our major denominations because of the inroads of liberalism.

And then of course Spiritism fills the vacuum of a soul that has no God. And I understand Dr. Talbot that today in Russia there is a great resurgence of Spiritism and superstition. And a very evident demonism that some of the leaders of the Kremlin carry a rabbit's foot in their pocket and are engaged in astrology and so forth. Whenever men lose God they become suspicious, they're worried about black cats and ladders. And I think we're seeing a great upsurge of that kind of thing especially in the places that are dominated by the philosophy of Spiritism or the philosophy of communism which is dialectical materialism.

And speaking of that I believe that's the great third one. Communism, which of course is the antithesis to everything that speaks to us of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Talbot:

Yes and these three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon and that would suggest that there are three systems of teaching of some kind and I would say that that third unclean spirit like frogs would include that is in Spiritism all the cults that are growing like African famines in the world today.
Jack tell us how does Russia fit into the picture of the present day according to your understanding of the word of God? Maybe that you would like to throw in red Russia, Red China rather as well.

McArthur:

I think so. I believe that there is no nation of modern times that is more definitely singled out as is Russia. It seems that God is turning the spotlight on her and of course Ezekiel 38 and 39 make it very graphically clear that this great Northeastern Confederacy organizes itself, gathers its cohorts together, and comes down against the land of Palestine. And I believe that we're seeing actually the setup of that very situation today. I don't think there's any doubt about the fact that eventually Russia is going to control Germany. And of course we know that already she's in control of most of the Balkan states. We know that she's already interfering as much as she can in the Middle East and I believe that one of these days she's going to make that big move and we're going to see the great events that are prophesied in the Word of God to their fulfillment.

I don't believe we'll see them Dr. Talbot because we'll be gone, we who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. And yet we may see the beginning of it. I feel very definitely that Russia as the most outstanding nation of modern times to defy God has taken a position that demands divine intervention. No nation has ever clenched its fist and struck a blow in the face of God Almighty as has Russia. And I'm sure that we can include Red China and by the way that may be the other confederacy of the Eastern nations they may organize from that direction. But we know that they're all going to be destroyed in a way that is terrifying on the plains of Megiddo.
And all these confederacies Jack are ruled by bloodthirsty tyrants. And it's a very significant thing that men like Khrushchev, the dictator of Russia and men like the Kaiser of Germany, because he was a dictator and then following in his steps there came a Hitler and Stalin, that they are all shadows of that great man that is going to come to whom the devil will give his throne, his seat, and his great authority. But I believe as you do that the church is going to be translated before the man of sin can really be revealed. And as we see these things in the world today it's certainly a call for us to press the battle.

You know Jack, here is something along political lines. You know that there are a lot of church members that we've been reading about and pastors in the newspapers today who believe that we as a nation ought to recognize Red China. Now do you think that this would be the welfare, for the welfare of American, forestall as they say of coming world conflict?

McArthur:

I do not. I am remembering immediately how at the protest of all of the South American countries, President Roosevelt recognized Russia in 1933 and Maxim Litvinov moved in and then our troubles began. And I believe that because of the godless philosophy of communism that no matter where we see it, if we're going to retain any kind of sanity and spirituality we have no right to recognize any nation officially that is an anti-God nation. And of course Red China has taken a very positive stand with regard to Christian truth. The Communists of Red China are in many ways the worst in the world. And it's estimated by M.R. Thompson, an outstanding authority on missions, that something like 15 million Christians have been slaughtered in Red China. No one knows But China's become a great chamber of horrors. And I think it would be absolutely inconsistent with everything we know and teach and believe for America to politically
give recognition to Red China. In fact I'm shocked that it should even be considered an issue at some of these great ecumenical gatherings of the churches of today.

Talbot:

Well I'm glad that you expressed your thoughts along that line and I tell you that you know that Christianity produces the highest kind of patriotism. And we are Christians and we are citizens and we ought to voice our convictions in regard to this very thing that you have been discussing here.

Now Jack in regard to the coming of the Lord to catch away the church, do you believe that this event can take place that any time? Take place for instance right now? Or do you hold what many are teaching today that the church must go through the Tribulation or go through a part of it which would necessarily make it impossible for Christ to come right now? In other words you believe in the imminence see of Christ or do you not?

McArthur:

I do believe in the immanency of Christ's return. I don't mean by that the immediacy, I don't know when he'll come but I believe with all my heart that we're not going to go through the tribulation period. I believe that the church is going to be delivered from that suffering. And I believe that the rapture of the church, the Parousia could take place any time. As a matter of fact, there are no specific events that have to transpire before the church is raptured. The word of God makes it very clear that the signs pertain to the revelation of Christ who is coming in power and great glory to vindicate himself in majesty as the king of kings and Lord of Lords. But his secret
coming, his coming as a thief in the night for his church, the calling up of his own that could take place any time, any minute. Might happen today Dr. Talbot. I'm sure you feel that way.

Talbot:

Oh that would be a wonderful thing if the Lord interrupted this broadcast right now.

McArthur:

I'd like that.

Talbot:

Well Jack coming back to your church that you are proposing to build, that is you and your good friend and the Lord is leading you to do it, I'd like to ask you just the progress that is being made. You know that I've been deeply interested in the erection of this auditorium that will seat about 3000 people because, not only for what it is going to mean to young people in Los Angeles, and especially to the teenagers that seem to be running wild so many of them today, but also to what it's going to mean in the way of training young men and young women for service in all parts of this world. Just tell us a word about it as to what the plans are, just what kind of an auditorium it's going to be and whether the Lord is raising up for you the friends that you need in order to bring this to a reality. I'm sure my dear Jack that this is going to be a reality. And I'm interested in that as I'm interested in every great Bible evangelistic center in the United States of America whether I am definitely related to it or not. You know Jack that that we are not we are not competitors in the Lord's work, we are co-laborers. And I want you to know that I'm deeply
interested in what you're doing over there as I am in every outstanding work. Tell the radio audience a little about it.

McArthur:

Dr. Talbot there's so much to tell but I would appreciate so much letting folk know that our church now is only four years old. Four years ago I felt the leading of the Lord to step out in this independent work and actually we're not anti-denominational in spirit but we feel in these days when the scourge of apostasy is so evident and when modernism has seized control of almost every major denomination, that churches like Our Church are sorely needed. A church where the great basic truths of the word of God are emphasized, where we preach and believe the things that make Christians one. For example, the infallibility of the word of God, the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, his vicarious death on the cross for the world's sin, the fact of his literal physical resurrection, the glorious truth of his second coming, and the fact that men are saved alone by faith in him. And rallying around those great truths we began to build our church.

By the way we had an interesting thing in the fact that we had an entire church staff but no congregation when we began. And we found a church building that we've used for the past four years and finding that building we announced services and we were certainly delighted by having 700 people present the first time we opened the doors. Of course it leveled off but we find that folk are hungry for the truth these days and our church has had a remarkable growth. Our membership now I think is a little better than a thousand. And so seeing the possibilities for expansion that we began to look around for a location because we thought that this was the thing that God wanted very much in the southern California area and particularly where we are.
And so we found a site of some seven acres and as a matter of fact all the way along it's been a, I suppose you'd call it deficit financing, because we've really never had any big donor that's given us any great amount of money. As a matter of fact we’ve operated on the gifts of the folk who have cared and been concerned and most of those have been small gifts. But anyway we negotiated for the purchase of the seven acres and it was a very expensive piece of property, it cost us three hundred and sixty thousand dollars. But the interesting thing is that the day it went into escrow we were offered four hundred sixty five thousand for it. So it evidently was a very valuable piece of property.

Now we've built the first building, the building that you preached in and that building of course later on will be a social hall. But at the present time we feel it's a very adequate sanctuary. And actually Dr. Talbot it seats about 12 hundred so we have a little more room than you thought. And then our educational building is under construction at the present time. We've been somewhat delayed because of the plaster strike but we're looking forward to the time when it will be completed. And then because of the rapid growth of our church school, we're anticipating the building of our educational wing before we finally build that last auditorium. And if the Lord tarries we hope to have it in the next few years. By the way the plans are all completed and I think the plans are about the only thing that are paid for. All the rest of it we owe. Some preacher said to me the other day, he said that, "Dr. Jack don't you think that your building just about the biggest debt that's ever been built?" And I said, "Well I guess we're coming close to it." He said, "How do you expect to get out of it?" And I said, "I'm banking on the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ."

But as a matter of fact you asked how we were financing our program and we financed it through the Broadway bond plan, by the sale of bonds. And these bonds pay 5 percent interest,
and by the way this is a very wonderful plan because something like 2000 churches have been built with this plan, Four hundred million dollars have been raised without a single default and payment of interest or payment of principal. And of course you can't get the plan for the financing of your program until you've been approved. And we also have been approved by the Authorities of the state that investigate all securities and they've given us their approval. Now believe me we're in very dire need financially. We need to sell bonds to take care of what we've already done and we need the sale of bonds to complete the building program that we're in. And I think that this is a wonderful program because of the fact that it is not anyone giving anything, it's merely making an investment that pays a very good rate of interest and at the time of maturity of course the full face value of the bond is paid back to the person who has purchased it. And by the way the bond is a negotiable security.

And that's the way we've financed our program to date. We've sold about four hundred thousand dollars’ worth of bonds now and we still have in the present issue another hundred thousand left. And by the way we've about exhausted our resources as far as our own folks are concerned because they've done their very best. And we are looking for Christian people who would like to have an investment that it will be their privilege to enjoy both in this life and in the next. And so if any of your wonderful listeners Dr. Talbot would like to have a part, All they have to do is get in touch with me and believe me we'll do the rest.

Talbot:

Yes. Well Jack you evidently believe you know that an investment of this kind is double dividends, you get dividends in this life and also in the life to come.
McArthur:

That's it.

Talbot:

Well you'll be interested Jack to know that last Saturday I was with a lady and a friend of yours and she told me that she had a thousand dollars to invest. You know that and when it comes to the Bible Institute we ask them for the whole thing and that was a gift. But we're not selling bonds. But she said, "well I can't do that Mr. Talbot but I've got a thousand dollars and I'd like to give it to some institution that could, and but I'd like to give the investment rather to return to me possibly four or five percent and I put in a good plug for you.

McArthur:

Well thank you

Talbot:

And I told them that you would be the man to see and I really believe that she's going to do that.

McArthur:

Well listen, let me get a plug in for you because I appreciate this opportunity so much, it's just like you Dr. Talbot to do this and I realize that Biola is in the midst of a great expansion program and I want to encourage folk to invest because I believe with all my heart that there isn't anything more vital to the youth of our day than the institution that you're building. In fact my son Johnny is going to be attending the seminary that's been named after you in just another two
years or so. Our heart is very concerned and very interested in what's going on at La Mirada. We're rejoicing with you in what God has done and we certainly highly recommend that folks send their young people to this excellent...

Talbot:

Well we appreciate those remarks more than any words of mine can express. But I will say Jack you know that I've been interested in what's your plan to do over there because of what it's going to mean to the youth of this part of California. And the Lord has given you a special message for young men and young women. And I've been thinking of other numbers of young men and young women when you have this full equipment that will hear your message and no doubt the Lord will channel a bunch of these folks to the Bible Institute of Los Angeles for full time service.

Jack we’ve got a few more minutes here and you know that I'd like to ask you a question because we at the Bible Institute have received criticism from unexpected sources you know from men who would say, "How can you put up a plant like La Mirada And at the same time be believing that the Lord Jesus Christ could come at any moment?" Now in view of what you are planning to do out there, evidently you do not see any inconsistency between believing in the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, that he could come at any time, and going ahead and planning for the future. How do you feel about that?

McArthur:

I believe that the glorious hope, the blessed hope of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ only gives a greater urgency to our endeavor. And I believe that is not inconsistent but
consistent. I think we ought to build this permanently and as powerfully as though we were going to be here forever and we ought to build with such urgency that we're expecting the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ any minute.

Talbot:

Yes and I tell them Jack that those who put up the Bible Institute of Los Angeles in 1909 I think they believed in the coming of the Lord just as definitely as I do. But if they had taken the stand of some folks that because the Lord may come in our time they ought to be doing anything, this Bible Institute would not have the opportunity of serving for the last 50 years.

But I want to say to all of you folks in radio land that if you have an investment to make, that is to help an institution and at the same time to receive from it four or five percent, if you have bonds my dear friends that are not being used in that way, I do not know a better way for you to collect double dividends than to put it into a work that our brother is endeavoring to do over there in Burbank. You can write to him about it or write to me. And Jack I'm sure will, or rather we'll see the Lord having many of the young people that will come to know the Lord through that great enterprise over there, coming to the Bible Institute of Los Angeles to be prepared for service in all parts of this world. The Lord abundantly bless you Jack and maybe I'll invite you to come back again But I want to be sure that you'll accept the invitation.

Jack McArthur:

I certainly will.

Talbot:
Well the Lord abundantly bless you and tune in tomorrow my friends and we'll take up where we left off in regard to Colossians and I want to say that for some Mondays now I'm going to bring to this radio outstanding pastors, pastors that God is using in a mighty way. Goodbye and God abundantly bless you all.

[Hymn, "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations] 

Announcer:

You've been listening to your radio Bible teacher Dr. Louis T. Talbot, Chancellor of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles Inc. Address all mail to Dr. Louis T. Talbot 558 South Hope Street, Los Angeles 17. California.

[Hymn continues. End of Talbot recording. New recording begins]

Speaker:

In pleasure today. We're delighted to have with us as our guest speaker Dr. Richard H past Minister of the first Southern Baptist Church of Costa Mesa California Here to bring the gospel message to you in just a little bit. But before we listen to him let's relax and enjoy the Ministry of the mitsel-feld [sp] choir as they singing for us first of all this morning, "Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart."

[Choir sings hymn]