

Listener Question & Answer 7

By Louis T. Talbot

[Song, 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. And now once again your radio Bible teacher Dr. Louis T. Talbot.

Dr. Louis T. Talbot:

And welcome my friends and friends of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, this is Louis T. Talbot, welcoming you to another broadcast Bible study, and I do so in the wonderful name of our wonderful Lord. You know that I want to thank you for the privilege of turning on your radio, and in that way welcoming me into your home. I've said before and I say again, that many of you folks in radio-land would love to be enrolled as a student of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles and be attending school in person, down here at the corner of 6th and the Hope Street of Los Angeles, but you're unable to do that. God has not made it possible for you to have that privilege. And so, we bring the Bible Institute right into your home, and you know that what I give to you over the radio at 11:00 is very, very similar to what is given in the class room to these 700 young men and young women. I want you to pray for the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, because in doing so you are praying for your own school, because we want all of you

folks to consider yourselves a part of the student body. We here look upon you as a part of our student body, and we want you to look upon yourselves in the same way.

But, we are dealing with questions now that have come to my desk, and if any of you folks have any questions that you would like to send to my desk, I'd be very, very glad to receive them. And we will get to the answering of them in due time. I trust that this study will be helpful to you. And I wish, my dear friends, that you'd take a little time out, and tell your friends about this particular study. Now I've got a few more questions that I want to bring before you. And here is one that is of great interest and doubtless has been asked of you, if you are a Sunday school teacher. And it reads on this way: "Since God is the God of love, why did He tell His people, Israel, to fight against the heathen nations about them, and especially in the command that was given to Saul that he should exterminate the Amalekites, even to the children, and little babies, and also their cattle? That God gave Saul instructions to wipe them all out? I cannot harmonize this with a God of love." Well my dear friends, my answer to that question is this: that these nations that had their opportunity to receive the truth of God, but they turn their backs upon light and consequently, they sank into the deepest depths of paganism and immorality. You have a description of what their lives were, what kind of lives that they were living in the first chapter Romans. You read the first chapter of Romans, my dear friends, from verse 17 right down to the end and you will have an awful picture of the way that those folks were living. You know that certain parts are the first chapter of Romans beginning at verse 17 cannot be read to a mixed audience. And you know that among other things, you'll find 3 times that they refuse, refuse, to have God in their knowledge; they were idolaters, they were corrupt in bad in their lives, they were perverts, and they were a menace to the people of God.

You know time and time again, that Israel fell into their snares, and the devil just used these pagan, these immoral people to pervert the children of Israel. And you know that oftentimes, you know, that the devil succeeded in affecting the people of Israel because they were led into idol worship, and they intermarried with them all contrary to God's explicit purpose. And of course it was the devil way of trying to bring the wrath and the judgment of God upon that one nation that had come from the loins of Abraham. Now since those nations, that Israel was commanded to exterminate, since they refused to go God's way, there was nothing left for them for God to do but cut them off in the interest of His own chosen people. My friends, just let me illustrate this. You know when a certain part of a human body becomes diseased and is hopelessly incurable, it is often necessary to amputate a limb in order to save the rest of the body. And this is true of the body politic. You know that the command God gave for the extermination of the depraved nations suggest the depths of degradation in which they had sunk, and in permitting them to exist nothing would have been accomplished except release, the release of corrupting influences of infecting surrounding people.

Well you may say "well what about the little children?" Well my dear friends, if you read the first chapter of the book of Romans you could come to the conclusion, easily come to the conclusion, that they were, that even the children, would be afflicted with every social disease. And in exterminating them all, that God was rendering a service, even to those little children. Because I believe that a child, if it dies before reaching the age of accountability, that the blood of the Lord, Jesus Christ, covers that child. But if the children had been allowed in the mercy of God to develop and grow, then that tolerance and forbearance with the life of a little child would in the end be anything but a mercy. You know that this act reveals God in His concern for the human race as a whole, and it reveals Him in His concern particularly for the nation of Israel.

You know that God's ways are always perfect and when it seems as though God is doing an injustice you will readily see, if you can make a study of the situation that our dilemma comes from a lack of knowledge in regard to the people that God commanded should be exterminated. And if you're ever taken to the hospital, my dear friends, and the doctor says that you have to have a limb cut off, well you remember that the cutting off of that limb is for the good of the rest of the body.

Now here is the question, may not interest many of you folks, but it will interest some folks. Somebody asked me: "May I not merit heaven by my own good works?" Why yes, my dear friends, you can get heaven and merit heaven by your own good works. But let me tell you, my dear friends, what you would have to do in order to get to heaven on the ground of your own good works: if your works are absolutely perfect, if you should never break the law of God at any point in word, in thought, and in deed, and that you should do that from the hour of your birth until the moment of your death, and if you do all that God requires of you and all that pleases Him, then you would merit to heaven by your own good works. But my dear friends, this is something that no man but Jesus has ever done. You know in the 3rd chapter Romans we read that there is no difference, "for all of sin and come short of the glory of God." That does not mean of course that all men have sinned in the same degree. But you know that there is no difference in this: that we have all come short. You know that we have all come short of the glory of God, some have fallen short to a greater degree than others, but we're all alike in this that we have all come short. You know that the moment that any man breaks the law of God, at any point, in word, in thought, and in deed he can no longer merit a heaven by his own good works. The law demands perfect obedience. The Epistle of Paul to the Galatians makes that very clear. Nothing but perfect obedience to the law of God will secure heaven and life on the ground

of your own merits. It is therefore no hope, my dear friends, that you ever expect to get to heaven on the ground of your own good works and so you'll have to look around for some other way by which you can get to heaven. And thank God there is a way, for God provided His Son; sent His Son into the world. And you'll remember that in the upper room when He was talking to the disciples about the Father's house, where there are many mansions, and the disciples asked how to get there Jesus says, "I am the way." "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. And no man cometh unto the Father but by me." Let me say again that the moment a man has sinned in any point his only of hope then, is that he must be justified freely through the grace of God in the Lord, Jesus Christ. And I trust that all of you folks in radio-land are trusting in the finest work of the Lord, Jesus Christ, to be saved.

Alright, now here is a question that certainly is very, very practical. And the questioner asks a question, and I've met a number of people who do the very thing that this person suggests, the writer says "some people hold That Christians should not insure; insure their lives or property, because by doing so they say they distrust God and He providential care. What does the Bible teach us as to this?" You know I knew a man in Australia, a very, very godly man and an outstanding business man. And he had a business similar to the May Company down here in the heart of Los Angeles, possibly not as big but I want until it was big for the land of my birth, Australia. This man was an outstanding Christian. He carried no insurance, but the money that He would have given for insurance he gave to foreign missions, and he got other folks to do the same thing. But my dear friends, one day the whole business burned down and not only did his business burn down, but business is right next to him burned down as well. And that man was in a terrible state of dilemma; and he couldn't understand how this should be. I want on to tell you, my dear friends that you cannot enter into any contract such as that man did with God. You have

to find out whether God wants to do a thing like that. Now what does the Bible teach in regard to this? The Bible teaches that there is no conflict between trusting God, and an intelligent and wise provision for the necessities of the future. And for instance, you take in the 6th chapter of Proverbs and verse 6-8 and there Solomon, he was the wisest man in the world and he ought to know what he is talking about, And this is what he says, he says "go to ant, thou sluggard, consider her ways and be wise: which have no guide, overseer, or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest."

When Paul had God's own assurance that both he and all those who are with him on that ship should be saved, and Paul fully believed what God said that He was going to do, even with that, Do you remember that when that Paul saw the sailors trying to get out of the boat, that "saw Paul still among them," And he says "Unless you stay in the vessel, you cannot be saved." Now God said, before Paul made that statement, that not one man on that boat would lose his life; none of them would lose their lives. And then Paul turns around and says to the folks who are climbing overboard, and I guess getting unto rafts, and getting onto the lifeboats if they had any, or what was equivalent to lifeboats, Paul says, "unless you stay on the ship that no man can be safe." Now my dear friends, this was not any act of unbelief on Paul's part. It was simply cooperating with God in the fulfillment of God's promise. Now as to whether it's an intelligent, or a wise provision for the future to ensure one's life, or one's property, it is another question which each man must decide prayerfully for himself. But I think, my dear friends that God has given to us some intelligence, and we ought to use that intelligence, and I think to make every provision possible; that God never does what you can do. When the Lord came to the grave of Lazarus, you know He could have rolled that stone away, but He didn't. He says "take ye away the stone." An Almighty God of heaven and earth never does anything that you can do. But when

the stone was rolled away, they are done the only thing that they could do, and then God started to work and He did something that they couldn't do, and He cried, "Lazarus, come forth." My friends, God wants you to use your own intelligence, and therefore you be very, very careful that you do not do any nonsensical thing, and have your family suffer as a result of it, and then when it doesn't come out your way, or according to the plan that you made with God, then to blame God for it. I know some folks who have gone to such extremes in regard to healing that they have allowed their little children to die without any medical attention. And then when the child died, then they turn around and blame God for it. You know I sometimes wonder where some folks keep their brains.

All right. Now here is another question now. This is one that should interest every one of us, the questioner says "how may I realize a love for souls? I do not have the passion for souls that I think that I should have. And if I really believe that souls were lost, and unconverted men were on the way to hell, as I really do believe, but I wonder whether I believe it," says the questioner, "in view of the fact that I don't have a concern about it." I want to ask you, my listening audience, have you ever felt that way? Well I want to talk to you as I answer this question, there are three things that I want to put before you. First by giving your whole self-up, all of your thoughts, and feelings, and ambitions, and purposes to the control of the Holy Spirit. You know that the Holy Spirit loves souls, and if you give yourself up to His control, He will impart a love for souls to you. The very first part of the description of the fruit of the spirit is love. The second thing is this: you can realize a love for souls by dwelling upon the actual condition of men outside of the Lord, Jesus Christ, as revealed in the word of God and studying what the word of God says about their ultimate destiny. If you reflect upon hell, that awaits lost souls, you will soon have, if you are a Christian at all, a passion for their salvation. And thirdly,

you can develop, or you can have imparted to you, a love for souls by observing the Lord, Jesus Christ, and dwelling upon His conduct toward the lost. One day the Lord, Jesus Christ, looked over the city of Jerusalem and we read that He wept over them. I wonder how long it is, my dear friends, since you shed a tear over the city of Los Angeles? Or the city of San Diego, or wherever you happen to be? Well the Lord Jesus wept over His city, and we read that He was moved with compassion. And I tell you, my dear friends, why He was moved with compassion. He not only loved them but He also knew where they were going. And He went on to say "how often would I have gathered you as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings that ye would not and therefore, your city and your life is left on you desolate." Oh, that we might have, every one of us, that we might have the passion that was in the heart of the Apostle Paul when he said I could wish myself accursed from Christ for my brethren's sake.

Now I think, my friends, that we have just time for another question. The questioner asks, "what is meant by the words of John the Baptist, recorded in Matthew Chapter 3 verse 11: 'He that cometh after me is mightier than I. He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.' Is a believer baptized with fire, as well as the Holy Ghost?" No my dear friend, we are not baptized with fire at all, we are baptized with the Holy Ghost. John the Baptist said "He is going to baptize with the Holy Ghost and with fire." But listen, John the Baptist was speaking to a mixed company of saved and unsaved. The saved were to be baptized with a Holy Ghost into the body of Christ, the unsaved were to be baptized with a fire of judgment at the return of Christ. Now, John the Baptist makes that very clear because in the 12th verse, the very next verse, he makes it very, very clear when he says this "whose fan is in his hands, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather the wheat into the garner, but he will burn them," fire, Burn the chaff," rather, "with unquenchable fire." John the Baptist was talking to two classes: the saved

and the lost. With the saved he was going to be baptized; Christ would baptize them with the Holy Ghost and He did that on the day of Pentecost, and He'll baptize the un-regenerated with fire. And that will be when Christ is revealed from Heaven where the Holy Angels, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and when He comes He will come with flaming fire. This is a very, very solemn thing. And my friends, you are either in the one class or in the other.

Now I see that my time is up. We'll have a word a prayer and then we will be dismissed. Our God and Father, We pray that thou will take this question hour and use it as a means of inspiration and information to all of Thy people, in Christ name, amen and amen.

[Musical Outro]

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

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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 S Hope Street, Los Angeles 17, California.