

Talbot Listener Question & Answer 2

By. Louis T. Talbot

Dr. Louis T. Talbot:

[Cut Off] women who form the students of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. Now just a word
By way of announcements: tomorrow you know is Thanksgiving Day, and I trust that all of you
will have a wonderful time with your relatives and friends. I would suggest that you try to attend
a thanksgiving service in the morning, if possible. There will in all probability be a service in the
community somewhere for you to attend; of course, you want to attend a thanksgiving service in
a church that stands for the things of God. Now I will be having a Thanksgiving message for you
at 11:00, and so I trust that at 11:00 you will be gathered around the radio because most of the
Thanksgiving services tomorrow morning will begin at 10:00, or even before that time. Now
tomorrow morning at 10:00 that I will be addressing the Thanksgiving Day service in the San
Gabriel Union Church, of which Dr. Hemphill is the pastor. This church, as you know, is located
at the corner of Las Tunas and Pine in San Gabriel; and it's always a joy to be associated with
and Dr. Hemphill. And he has a dedicated congregation, and he himself is a Brother beloved, and
he has been a wonderful friend to the Bible Institute of Los Angeles.

I want to say my friends that yesterday I had a 2 hour fellowship with Dr. Jack
MacArthur, the founder and the pastor of the MacArthur Memorial Bible Church of Burbank
California. I have the privilege of preaching and that church a number of times. But yesterday
Dr. MacArthur took me over his plant and it thrilled me just to see it. His auditorium at present
and is just a temporary auditorium. it seats about a thousand people and it is filled every Sunday

morning and evening; and very soon he is going to erect under the leading of the Holy Spirit an auditorium which will seat about 2500. And he needs this new auditorium to take care of this growing church. His membership at present is about 1500, and the remarkable thing is that these, a greater number of these, have come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as a result of his own ministry. You know that the remarkable thing about Dr. MacArthur and his church is that he started from scratch; that is he did not inherit anything from anybody else. I cannot say that; I have never had a church that I started with from scratch. That is I started from somebody else. Before I became the pastor of the Church of the Open Door, Dr. [inaudible] preceded me, and then Dr. Torrey preceded him. And of course those men were the ones who laid the foundation about that great work. But you know with Dr. MacArthur that he just started from scratch, and I always take my hat off to a man who begins that way. He and his friends, a few years ago, purchased about seven acres of land and started to build and God has blessed them. And a great number of the men and the women who belong to that church were saved through the Ministry of this young pastor. And during the week as a radio ministry and a television ministry, and expects in the future to erect also a Christian day school.

You know my friends, I speak these few words because we Christians are not competitors in the work; we are co-laborers, one with another. and I think that Christian ministers and Christian workers ought to rejoice in the work that is being blessed of God--not only that own work but also any other work. I think that the competitive spirit is something that is displeasing to God. And so I want to say a few words about this splendid man. And I want to say in passing, my dear friends, that I am going to take a little of my time each morning to salute other churches that are just like the work of Dr. MacArthur; the work that he is doing. By the way, Dr. MacArthur's son is going to enter the Theological Seminary in connection with the Bible

Institute at La Mirada. He is going to enter our seminary in the fall. And also I want to mention that Mr. Reiner Anderson [sp], some of you folks have heard him, he's quite a Bible teacher. He is going to be connected with the work of this particular church, which I have been speaking. the Lord abundantly bless Dr. MacArthur, and give him good health, and strength, and keep him in this world doing the work that he is doing for many, many years because we need such a man as he. All right you'll hear about some other churches as I go along.

Now my friends I want to just take up this question hour. I'm so glad that some of you folks have gotten so much help as a result of the question hour period; and I stated in former broadcast that I do not know a better way of studying the Word of God than in this way than the raising of questions and bringing them under the lens of Holy Writ. No somebody has asked me this question "what happened to Zechariah the priest, the father of John the Baptist, for not believing the message of Gabriel? Is it true, as someone has told me that he was made deaf as well as dumb?" Yes my dear friends that is the record in the word of God. The angel Gabriel came to him from the throne of God and communicated to him that he was to have a son, and that that son would be John the Baptist, and Zechariah didn't believe it. And so in, because of his unbelief, he was struck with dumbness for a period of time. And I want to tell you my dear friends, that that is not a remarkable thing, because unbelief does the same thing to people today. For instance, what a lot of dumb men, that is, as far as preaching the gospel is concerned, You know you take a man who stands in the pulpit, and doesn't believe this and doesn't believe that, he is what you would call a dumb preacher. And what I mean by that, is that he is not dumb mentally, He may be a very, very brilliant man. But as far as God giving him a message is concerned, He is dumb. And I guess that you have listened to some men that are in that category. Any man who does not believe the Bible to be the word of God, he puts himself in that category

of Zechariah, and he has inflicted with deafness and also with dumbness; and you know that a man who doesn't believe God is deaf, that is to the word of God. God can't communicate anything to him, or give him any degree of leading. If you and I are going to be used of God, We must believe God. And then we don't believe God, then we're unbelievers, that's all. And as a result we are made deaf and we are made dumb as far as the things of God are concerned.

Now here is a message of, a question of great interest, somebody writes: "in a men's Bible class we were studying a story in the 8th chapter of John where we find Christ writing on the ground with his finger. And the question came as to what it was that Jesus wrote on the ground? We have heard it said that that there is some version of scripture that makes known what it was that Jesus wrote on the ground." Well my dear friend, if there is a version of scripture somewhere and that tells what it was that the Lord Jesus Christ wrote on the ground, I do not know it. I know that I have my Bible open before me right now, and there is no record as to what the Lord Jesus Christ wrote. And my dear friends, we do not need to know what the Lord Jesus Christ wrote on that occasion. Just simply because it was not what Christ wrote that was significant, but it was the fact of the writing. The fact that he wrote at that time, you will remember the story and you read it at the close of this broadcast, You remember how the Pharisees dragged before the Lord Jesus a poor woman who was taken in adultery and they said to the Lord "why we took this, we found this woman committing adultery and we caught her in the very act" and they dragged her before the Lord. I've often wondered, my dear friends, why they didn't drag the man in, too? Because if she was caught in the very act, than the man must have been there, but they didn't drag him.

For some reason they dragged the woman before the Lord, and they threw her at his feet. And then they said to the Lord, "now Moses said that this woman should be stoned. But what

sayeth thou?" and you know that these Pharisees were not concerned about the law of Moses all that they were trying to do was to entrap, to trap, the Lord and to break his influence over the people. The Lord at the time was teaching in the temple and no doubt He had quite a crowd gathered before Him, and the Pharisees tried to somehow rather discredit the Lord before his peers, The people. And so they said, "Now Moses said that this woman should be stoned, but what sayeth thou?" And then the word of God, "This they said in order to ensnare Him." and my dear friend, if there was ever a time when it seemed as though the Lord was on the horns of a dilemma, it was then. Because if he had said "well don't stone her because I have come for grace, and therefore don't stone this woman" why they would have turned to the crowd and said "Why this man doesn't believe Moses and therefore He can't believe God. Moses said that this woman should be stoned and he says no don't stone her." But suppose that the Lord had said "will you take her out and stone her Because Moses said so." then they would have said, "but you said a few days ago that you came not into the world to condemn the world." And so it seemed as though they had him no matter what he said.

But you know that the Lord didn't say anything. He just stooped and He wrote on the ground with his finger. Now you ask "well what was the significance of that?" And he wrote twice with his finger. My friends the reason why He wrote with His finger on the ground was because they quoted the Law of Moses and Moses, the Law of Moses, was given by Jehovah on Mt. Sinai. And Jehovah wrote it with his finger. Do you remember how that God called Moses up to the mountain gave him the law; the Ten Commandments that were written by the finger of God? And do you remember that when Moses took the law down to the people he found them all dancing around a calf? And Moses knew that it would be death to take that law in among those idolatrous people, and so he dashed the law to the ground and it broke into pieces.

And we read that Moses, or rather God, wrote the law a second time. Now when you come into the 8th chapter of The Gospel According to John, you'll find the Lord not only a writing once with his finger, but writing twice. And then he fleshed the law before them. But you know, why did the Lord Jesus Christ write on the ground twice? Then He quoted the Law of Moses and the Lord Jesus was presenting Himself to them as the one who wrote the law; and that was the thing that made the Pharisees angry and determined to kill Him, because He made Himself God. That was the thing that they charged Him with when He stood before Pilate. And here was the Lord Jesus, restating in unmistakable language the fact that the God of the Old Testament, and he, are one and the same.

And so you see it is not what Jesus wrote that is of significance, but rather the fact to the writing. And He wrote once with His finger, and then He wrote twice with his finger, and thus He identified Himself with the one who gave the law at Mount Sinai. My dear friends, you know that this is the great doctrine under the word of God: is that Christ is Jehovah manifest in the flesh. I think, and I have said before, that the greatest blasphemer that God lets live is the one who denies the eternal deity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the God of the old testament and the Lord Jesus of the New Testament are one and the same. Now when the Lord Jesus, let me put this in, when the Lord Jesus Christ said to the woman "neither do I condemn the" after he got rid of those accusers, then he said to the woman "doth no man condemn the?" and the woman says "no all my accusers are gone." Jesus said "Neither do I condemn the." know the Lord was not minimizing what that woman had done. He said "Neither do I condemn the," because he was on his way to Calvary and he was going to die to atone for that woman's death. He was going to stand in the place of condemnation that belonged to her. And so He said, "neither do I condemn the" because He was going to stand in her condemnation and take that condemnation upon

Himself. And my dear friends, that is true of you, and true of me; "in my place condemned He stood, sealed my pardon with his blood, Hallelujah, what a savior."

All right, now here is another question: Jude chapter, or verse 21. There there's only 1 chapter in Jude and in verse 21 we read this: "Keep yourselves in the love of God." And the question wants to know just how this is done? How do we keep ourselves in the love of God? Well my friends, we keep ourselves in the love of God by obedience. Do you remember how that in the 15th chapter of John in verse 10, the Lord Jesus says "if ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my father's commandments and abide in his love." And you know that the Commandment that the Lord Jesus Christ refers to, is that we love one another. And keeping ourselves in the love of God does not mean that you can get to the place where God doesn't love you anymore, that is not the thought. It is rather that you live in a way you so that you will be conscious, you will have a consciousness of the love of God warming your heart. And if you want that, my dear friends, then Jesus says that way, "That ye keep my commandments ye shall abide in my love." And then he says "this is my commandment, that you love one another." Do you know my dear friends, that many believers because they hate, because they carry malice in their heart, and resentment against other believers, and they carry around ill will; and some folks they carry it on for months, and months, and they never seem to get over it. And you, know my dear friends that trouble, the thing that happens to them, is that they miss fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ and they lose a consciousness of His presence that is all. How this command needs to be pressed upon the conscience of Christians today. To keep ourselves in the love of God, My friends, also includes Bible reading--not in any legal way budgets in order that you might know just what God requires of you--and then taking a little time and fellowship with the Lord, Jesus Christ, in prayer, and so on. But you know that if you're

going to keep yourselves in the love of God, you certainly must have love in your heart; and my friends, that is love for other Christians. and I want to say that if any of you folks listening to me this morning have hate in your heart for anybody, Then you do not have a consciousness of the love of God, no matter how much you may profess to have it.

Now here is somebody who writes a question that he is certainly pertinent for these days and it reads on this way: "If Christ died to destroy the works of the devil, why is it that our bodies are not healed? Is it because of a lack of faith?" My dear friends, there is no subject about which there is so much confusion as the subject of the healing of the body. Now I cannot go into this subject fully this morning especially on an hour like this when my hand is filled with a bunch of questions, but I can just give you, I trust, a satisfactory answer to this question. Let me say in the first place that Christ did come to destroy the works of the devil and He came to nullify the work of sin. Now without a doubt, sin affected a man's soul, and affected a man's body, and it also affected the earth. Because when sin came, you'll remember that Adam lost his dominion and thorns, and briars, and deserts, and what have you, and cyclones, and the hurricanes, they all came as a result of sin. But the Lord came to destroy the works of the devil. Now my friends the second thing that you have to bear in mind is that there is an order in the new creation, just as there is an order in the old creation; that when God created the old creation, that is as recorded in the in the first chapter of Genesis then the second chapter of Genesis, you will note that there was an order there. The first thing that God created was the earth. And so we read "in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Now that was before Adam came on the scene. And so the earth was created first. And then secondly, God created the body of man. That is we read "and out to the dust the Lord God formed the body of man." And then thirdly we read that, after he formed the body of man, that he breathed into that body the breath

of life and man became a living soul. Now my friends, there is the order. It was the order of the old creation: The earth was first, the body of man was second, and the spirit of man was third.

Now when we come to the new creation, we find that the order is just reversed. It is the spirit that is created, recreated, first, and then the body is recreated second, and the earth is recreated third. Do you see that the order is reversed? Now the Lord Jesus, My dear friends, when He died on Calvary, He came to destroy the works of the devil. That is, all the work of the devil. For instance He bore the crown of thorns, and the crown of thorns, the Thorn was the emblem of the earth's curse. And so Jesus came to bring to naught everything that came into God's creation as a result of the devil's temptation and the accomplishment of it. But you remember that in the new creation there is an order. The order in the new creation is the very reverse from the order of the old creation. In the new creation, it is the Spirit first. For instance, you and I, and when I speak about the spirit, I am speaking about your spirit. I'm not speaking about the Holy Spirit. I'm speaking about your spirit; and my friends Man is a spirit, and he has a soul, and he has a body. Now when you put your trust in the Lord, Jesus Christ, that your spirit was renewed; your spirit was illumined, and our spirits have been redeemed. But my friends, our body is not redeemed. The body is going to be redeemed when the Lord Jesus Christ comes in glory so that you and I have a redeemed spirit in a non-redeemed body. That's the reason why we grow old. That's the reason why our bodies have rheumatism, no matter how godly you may be or how much time is spent in prayer. Your spirit is redeemed. Your spirit my dear friend, right now is fitted for heaven. And that's the reason why when you die, your spirit goes on immediately to heaven because your spirit is redeemed, but your body, well that's another thing. Some of you folks, no doubt listening to me, are all crippled up with rheumatism. And you have a redeemed spirit in a body that is all crippled with rheumatism, and with other things that with

which our bodies are our afflicted. Now my friends, when Jesus died on the cross He died to redeem your body as well. But let me bear in mind that there is an order in the new creation and the spirit is redeemed first, but the body is going to be redeemed when the Lord Jesus Christ comes to catch away the church, and then the dead shall be raised, and the living shall be changed.

And then the third in the new creation is the Earth. And the earth is going to be redeemed at the close of the millennium when, because as you read in the 22 chapter of Revelation, "and I saw a new earth and a new heaven." Do you see when Christ died on Calvary, He redeems your spirit, and He redeems your body, and He redeems the earth. Now that is the order in the new creation. In the old creation it was the very reverse. It was the earth first, and the body is second, and the spirit third, you bear that in mind, my dear friends. That is why the apostle Paul writes in the 8th chapter of Romans and he says, "We wait for the adoption to wit the redemption of the body." We're not waiting for the redemption of the spirit, my dear friends, we already have redeemed spirits. We are waiting for the redemption of the body; and the whole physical creation is waiting for the redemption of the physical earth, when there will be a new heaven and a new earth.

I've got about 20 questions in my hand, but we'll have to reserve them until Friday. Tomorrow I will give a Thanksgiving message; get your family, and all your children, everybody around the radio to hear it. Thank you for listening and God abundantly bless you all

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

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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.