

New Year's Message

By Louis T. Talbot

Louis T. Talbot:

And good morning my radio friends and friends of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. This is Louis T. Talbot speaking in the name of the Lord and on behalf of the Bible Institute faculty and students, as I wish for you a blessed new year in his glad service. You know that we today, enter upon another year of service for Christ. There are 365 days that are before us and we do not know what the day is, may hold in store... How for and every one of us.

But I want this morning instead of continuing the study in the book of Colossians, I want to bring to you a text that I think that will help you as you face the New Year. It's a promise that God has given for every day in the year. It is the thirty third chapter of Deuteronomy, and verse twenty-five. If you have a habit of just writing a text in the Bible, on the fly leap of your Bible at the beginning of each year to be your... the text for the year; I do not think that you could get a better text than this one.

Deuteronomy chapter thirty-three, and verse twenty five. And there you read this: "thy shoes shall be as iron and brass and as thy days, so shall thy strength be." I want you to note my dear friends that had the latter part of that verse "as thy days, so shall thy strength be." And you know that as we enter upon the beginning of a new life...a new year, that I think it would be well for us to ponder this wonderful portion of God's word. There are hundreds and hundreds of promises that God has given to us in His Word, but this is one of the most wonderful and the richest of all; and especially one that is appropriate for us to remember, as we enter upon a new

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year when all the days of it are before us. The Lord says here as thy days so shall thy strength be. My friends our heartening it is that over against our weakness, God has given to us this promise of strength. You know that every man has his weakness and every woman hers. And I know that I for one have reason to confess my own weakness a hundred times a day.

But as... but over against that weakness God has given to answer this promise of strength. And you know that all of you folks have your own weakness whether you be a preacher or whether you be a professional man or home tailor. You have your own weakness. But God has given to you, your promise of strength. We find out how weak we are in the out of duty. When we perform our duties, how often we say, "who is capable, who is sufficient for these things" But you know that God comes along here when we are facing our duty and gives to us that tanks like this, "as thy days, so shall thy strength be."

And that is another thing that reveals to us how weak we are. And that is when we can set up programs that we have made in the Christian life. I do not know whether you have been making an appraisal of your growth in the Christian life for nineteen one hundred and fifty seven, but it is not does what it should be. I know that as I look over the past that mine is far from what my goal has been. And my friend if you should take up the biography of some great servant of God, a man like David Livingston or David Brein and or Robert Morrison - the first missionary to China. And then after reading that biography, that you should say I am going to have the passion for never dying souls at this as these men have had; and I'm going to be as faithful as they have been, and I'm going to have the burden for lost souls as these men had such a burden and then you trying to get it. My friend, you come to realize just how weak you are. You know that, I oftentimes at the beginning of the other year covenant that I'm going to love the

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Lord and be more faithful to him than I've ever been before.

And then when I tried to experience the thing that I'm covering to do, I come to realize my own weakness. But God has given to us this wonderful promise and he'll send it over against our weakness, he says, "as thy day, so shall thy strength be." But you know that very especially does this text come to reinforce us and to encourage us. When we come to think about our besetting sin or sins and lives battle. You know that every man has his own besetment, and every woman her with one it is one thing and with another it is another.

You'll remember that the apostle Paul says in the eleven chapter of Hebrews that we had to lay aside the sin which doth so easily beset us. Every one of us has certain sin that is our what we call our besetting sin. I know a man in the city of Los Angeles, so who is besetting sin me is that of an appetite for a strong drink. His grandfather died a drunkard and his mother and his father was a drunkard and he himself was a drunk good for years, and then he came to know the Lord Jesus Christ. And ever since he put his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, he is... had to battle that thing.

You know sometimes, the Lord takes the higher the craving of strong drink away you a person but how with others he just leaves it they are in order that that person saved may come to be an object lesson of the sufficiency of the grace of God. So, I know a man own two eyes that as his best setting sin. But you know that... that may be not you all besettings... in my my friend. It may be the job of setting sin is uncharitableness and unkindness, and censoriousness.

You know that that is a very very serious thing. How damaging an attitude of that kind is to other Christians and especially to young Christians. Do you remember how that the Lord Jesus Christ spoke about that matter when he says judge not that you be not judged. For with what

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judgment did you mete to others the same will be meted out to you. And then the Lord Jesus asked the biting question, "why not remove the little splinter out of out of your eye that you may be able to minister onto one who has a beam in his own eye." You know that that is what the Lord Jesus Christ is talking about when I refer to censoriousness and to uncharitableness as our besetting sin. And if that is your besetting sin. My dear friends then you just put it out of your life. I know some men who have, who who are strong men and great men but whose ministry is just being blighted because of this sin. There is sin, this besetting sin, of uncharitableness and unkindness. That some of you may say, but Mr. Talbot, that is not my besetting sin. None of these that you have named; my besetting sin is fear and anxiety.

Well I guess that comes to all of us, and that is the reason why the Lord Jesus Christ said in his sermon on the Mount, "Consider the lilies of the field how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin. And yet I say that Solomon in all of his glory was not arrayed like one of these." He said to his disciples who were worrying about the things that perish where they using (inaudible) "just look at the birds of their air and look at the birds in the field look at the sparrows as they don't build barns, and yet and yet my father looked after them.

And ye are more value than sparrows." And yet my dear friends it's a strange thing that in spite of all the exhortations and the Word of God that we fear not, and there are about three hundred and sixty five of them in the Word of God, one for every day. Yet there are many many Christians people who love the Lord that are just worrying themselves into their graves. I sometimes wonder whether when I go to a cemetery just how many people are in the cemetery that die just as a result of anxiety and fear. The Lord Jesus, my dear friends, comes to you with all of your anxiety and fear, comes to you with a wonderful text such as this, that is in the thirty

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third chapter of Deuteronomy. "As thy days so shall thy strength be."

I want you to note my friends, the limitation of that text and then I wanted to know the extensiveness of it. The text is limited to this: "as thy days so shall my strength be." The Lord doesn't say as thy weeks, or as by months or as thy years but it says as they days. In other words, God wants you my dear friends, to live a day at a time. He does not want you to bring build bridges before you come to them. You cannot borrow grace for tomorrow's need and therefore why should you borrow its care?

God does not say as thy weeks he says and thy days. And yet there is an extensiveness about this...this texts because the the word is as thy days so shall thy strength be, and matters not what the days may bring. They may be great days, they may be insignificant ones, they may be days that bring great sorrow and great heartache... into your heart. But my dear friends God is promising you strength for the day. He is promising you strength for the duties of it, and if you need great grace to meet great needs and great sorrow, then the promise there that such will be given. A few days ago there came into my office a man who gave me a calendar, and after he had left, that I... I sent before my desk and I turned over the first leaf representing January and then February and then March and April and May and June and July and August all the twelve months 365 days, and I was wondering my dear friends just what those days held for me. I was wondering whether there are... there are days... there in that calendar, unmarked that when I come to them that I will no more sorrow and more tears and more heartaches than I have ever known in some five or six years beside. I was wondering whether there would be days of temptation that would come with greater force than any temptation than I have ever known; it

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may be that that a day use in that calendar, I thought to myself, when the Lord would call me into a service that would be greater and would call for more strength and more grace and more patience than any service that I have been privileged to render.

And then there was another great thought that came into my mind and a very solemn one; I was wondering whether there was a day marked in that calendar, which when I came to it would prove to me be my last day. My last day upon this earth. Do you know my dear friends that all these possibilities are wrapped up in that new calendar that you have hanging on your wall for the year that is before you. But I want to bring to you a text that will hearten you, and be a bomb* and a consolation and a strength dear heart, because the Lord says through his prophet here, and "thy days so shall by his strength be."

And I tell you that God metes out his grace, and he meets out his strength to meet the need of the day through which you are passing. You know that there are four great days that come into the experience of a believer, and if you haven't known those four days my dear friends... well you'll come to know them one of these days. And it may be that they will prove to be in your calendar for nineteen hundred and fifty eight. The day the first of the four days that I have in mind is the day of great sorrow. And you know that better days when you have more tears, and more sorrow, and more heartache, and more tragedy packed in to one day than in all many years beside. And that maybe in your calendar my friends for nineteen one hundred and fifty eight you know that Job knew such a day as that and there may be times in your life when the only book in the Bible that you want to read is the book of Job. You remember how that in the first chapter that that the devil challenged God concerning Job and... and he said to the Lord does Job serve thee for naught. And there was that conversation between the Lord and the devil

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going on concerning Job and Job knew nothing about it whatever.

And he was down there in the land of ours and the devil said to the Lord, let me get a hold of that man, and before I'm through with him he'll just curse you at face. And do you remember how that God trusted Job and he just allowed the devil just to do whatever he pleased with him except to take his life. And then that great and aggregation of sorrow and tears and a heartache came into the experience of Job. How white...a dark robe messenger came running into his house one day and said, 'old master the ox and asses were plowing in the fields, and the Sabaeans came and fell upon them and took them all away and only I am left and while that dark robed messenger was reporting that tragedy, another one came and said, "oh master, the sheep were feeding in the fields and fire came from God and devour them all and I am the only one that's left." And then there was another one came and told held that the Chaldeans had come and swept away and taken away all of his camels, and he said all of the servants that were with them and I alone am left. And then there came the greatest tragedy of all...because there was a dark robbed messenger that came and told Job and said, 'thy sons were eating together.

And there was an east wind that blew upon my house and then collapsed and all the dying sons are dead; all of them and been wiped away wiped away." And you know old Job was standing there listening to this list of tragedy and sorrow and a heart ache. But I want to tell you my dear friends that there was more than heartache for him that day, because the flood gates of God's grace who are open. And you know that the stream of grace just flowed toward Job. And you know that Job found strength and you found grace that day, such as he had never known before... so that he was able to stand on and saying the Lord have given him and the Lord taken away Blessed be the name of the Lord. My dear friends when you and I get to heaven, and we
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meet Job, that we will in all probability, say "job that was a big day the Job you had down there when you lost all your property and lost all of your sons." And he will say to you, "yes it was a big day but there was great grace that came to me that day. I came to know the sustaining grace of God and such as I have never known before."

I want to say to you my dear friend. My dear friend. Listen to me. If during the days that are before you. The days of this new year; there should come one day, that you'll never forget. A day that will and tears, and sorrows, and heartache, and tragedy, and disappointment, and shock come to you. Then let me assure you all this, that during that day, you will have grace and strength such as you will never experience, in all of your life again. For this text says, "s thy days so shall thy strength be". According to the tears, according to the heartache, according until the service, according to whatever it is, that God meets out to you. According to that thing, he measures the abundance of his grace. And so during this year there may be this first day that will come into your life. The day of great sorrow, the day of great heartache. But this text in Deuteronomy chapter thirty three and verse twenty five covers it all.

Then my dear friends, there is another day that may come into your life during the year that is before you, and that is the day of great temptation. And you know that all of us know what it is to be tempted. The Lord Jesus Christ knew such a day when he was with the devil forty days and forty nights. And you know that when he was through he was exhausted by news, the Lord Jesus was and angels came and ministered on to him. And we read that the devil just left Him for a season. And every day is a day of temptation, for you and for me and for all of God's children. But listen. There may come a day my friends when the devil will test...test every part of your moral makeup and tempt you along the line... that along which you have never been tempted

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before. A temptation to do things that would destroy your life, destroy your ministry, destroy your home. And if that ever comes, my dear friend, let me tell you that there will be grace given to you for "as thy days, so shall thy strength be".

I remember years ago when I was living in Minneapolis Minnesota. There was a tree that was... not far from our home and had been standing there growing for many many years, and many many winds came and blew against that tree. But it was fast rooted into the ground, and then the rain came, and then this hail came, and then the snow came but nothing seemed to be able to touch that tree. And then they're swept through that part of the city a cyclone. A cyclone the like of which that city had never known before. And you know that within a few moments that that tree was in the grip of that... of that mighty wind and was pulled up by the roots as though it were a little thing - and there it was destroyed in just a moment.

And I tell you that sometimes the devil comes with a day of temptation just like that, and when that time comes my dear brother. The Lord wants you to rest upon his mighty arm. And he'll see you through, no matter what the temptation may be. And then there is another day that may be in that calendar of nineteen hundred and fifty eight, and that may be a day of special service - a kind of a service that the Lord has never required of you in all the years gone by. Every day ought to be a day of blessed service for the Lord Jesus, a great day of testimony. But it may be my dear friends that the Lord will call upon you to do something that will be a little harder in the way of testimony than anything that he has ever asked you to do here to Paul. I may be talking to young men and young women who are just about to graduate from a high school or university, and you got your face turned toward an engineering course. Or maybe that you are

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planning to be a medical doctor and then the Lord Jesus Christ may come to you this year and point out to you HIS pathway that will lead to India and to Africa. And if the devil ever comes, or rather if the Lord ever comes and points out that as to be your future.

The devil will certainly come along, and he'll say to you 'leave home and leave loved ones, and go out there and live among filth and dirt and disease and dust and devilry. And the devil will try and frustrate the plan, and the purpose of God in your life. But my friend, I want to tell you this, that if the call of God ever comes to you along that line, or along any other line in the way of testimony and service... and you shrink from it because of a sense of your own weakness, you remember that in that text here that I ever read you from the thirty third chapter of Deuteronomy and verse twenty-five.

There is the promise, "As thy days, so shall thy strength be". And then my dear friends, there is one other word and I am through. There maybe on that calendar for you sometime, it might be early in the year or in the middle or toward the end of the year. But maybe... there maybe might one day, that will prove the last day in your life. And you will be coming to the end of it, how many of God's people that I knew during 1957 and they began the year with all hope and with the assurance of prosperity and how increase in bodily health and the day came some months ago when they were taken out of this world. And my friends if you come to the end of life's pilgrimage.

Some time, in one of these days, you go to make up nineteen hundred and fifty eight. Let me tell you that "as that day is so shall your strength be." Somebody asked, DL Moody how whether he had dying grace and he says, "why why do I need dying grace for? What I need is

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living grace. When I come to die I love dying grace." My friends when he came to die and he died unexpectedly, as he was going out to his world he said to the members of his family that was standing around him, earth is receding heaven is opening,

God he is calling and I must be away. And he went out in this world saying "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow. I will fear no evil." My friends "as thy days, so shall thy strength be". And god is given to you that promise for nineteen hundred and fifty eight and it's a promise that covers every day in the whole year. Lay whole upon it my friend, and write it on the front page of your Bible. The Lord bless you all.

And we'll continue the study and Colossians tomorrow. The Lord's benediction...