

North Long Beach Brethren Church Dedication

By Louis T. Talbot

Al Sanders:

Hello there friends, in just a moment your radio Bible teacher will be here for a special program of inspiration. Hello there friends, in just a moment your radio Bible teacher will be here for a special program of inspiration we know will be a challenge to your heart. This is Al Sanders stepping in for just a moment to express our sincere appreciation to each of you for the way in which you are remembering to pray for the work of the Lord as we seek to carry it forth here at Biola. For 50 years God has blessed this West Coast evangelical lighthouse and spiritual training center. Through the past half century, hundreds of young men and women have been prepared for service around the world. Truly, the sun never sets on the work of bipolar missionaries around the globe. When you invest in these daily Bible studies, you actually help us to prepare Christ's dedicated youth with the truth of the Living Word of God, in addition to keeping these programs on the air.

Today, however, we have something about which Dr. Talbot has asked me to speak, which weighs very heavily upon our hearts. I'm sure I don't need to tell you that what 10 dollars bought last year, it now takes nearly 12 dollars and 50 cents for the same purchases today. Prices have gone up, just that way. Costs of maintaining these programs have likewise increased. While we hate to think of curtailment, yet we do not believe that it is honoring to the Lord to go into debt. I wonder, how long has it been since you've written to Dr. Talbot with a special gift for his Bible study ministry? On this station, we're able to bring you a half hour of Bible study, while on

our network programs the time is limited to 10 minutes. I'm sure you appreciate this fact, and thank God that you can study His precious word under the instruction of such a helpful spirit filled teacher.

Have you ever gotten a word of thanks or a letter of gratitude from a friend? Do you know how it rejoiced your heart? I'm sure you do. Well that's just exactly what your letter will mean to Dr. Talbot when you write today. You've no idea the heavy weight he must carry realizing the tremendous pressure of this financial load. Just your letter would mean more than you can imagine. But don't think there'll be plenty of other people who will respond. Perhaps you don't have time, but if you knew these programs might not be on the air the next time you listened, and that your letter could have kept them on I'm sure that you would write. So, our thanks for that sacrificial help right at this particular time of the month. Address the Bible Institute Hour, Los Angeles 17, California. That's our only address, and your letters will come directly to us. Bible Institute, Los Angeles 17. You might just like to say in that letter to Dr. Talbot: this is a special gift to help in this special time of need in your broadcasts, thanks so much.

Recently Dr. Talbot spoke at the dedication of a church here in Southern California. His message was so inspiring that we ask if we couldn't rebroadcast it so that all of his listeners could share in the challenge which was presented. Addressing the members and friends of the North Long Beach Brethren Church, Dr. George Peake, pastor, Dr. Talbot has much to say regarding the difficult hour in which we live, and further, our great responsibilities to live for Christ 24 hours a day. Dr. Talbot.

Dr. Louis T. Talbot:

I want to talk how the early fishermen conquered Rome. Every now and again I take my Bible, and I read what the early Christians did; how they lived. And I tell you when I note how they preached and how they lived, it doesn't amaze me to see what they accomplished. Here in the second chapter we read, "And they continued steadfastly on the Apostles' doctrine." I tell you that we're living in a day when fundamentalism is being attacked, these days. These early disciples, they continued steadfastly in the Apostles doctrine. We have come to the place in church history when the value of doctrine is minimized. I tell you the church will be on the skits. The early church they continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine, and in fellowship, and in the breaking of bread, and in prayers, and great fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles; and all that believed were all together. And they had things common; and they sold their possessions and goods. And parted them to all men that had need. And then in another place we read that they got rid of their possessions, and they lay them at the apostles' feet. They were not communists, brother. They were Christians. They were parting with their, what we'd call, necessary goods, in order that the Gospel might be known. And then we read, and they continued steadfastly, one accord in the temple; and breaking bread, and from house to house praising God, and having favor with all people, and the Lord and to the church daily. You know when we had about a dozen folks monthly, and some folks, well they just go around cackling like a hen. But these folks, they are added to the church, daily.

Then in the 8th chapter of Acts, one word here: "and Saul was consenting unto his death," that is, Stephen's death. At that time, there was great persecution against the church, which was at Jerusalem, and they were scattered abroad. And then we read that all that were scattered abroad went everywhere, preaching the gospel, with the exception of the Apostles. My friends, the outstanding miracle of the world's history is the success of the early church. Humanly

speaking, nothing was apparently less likely to affect this world than the church of Jesus Christ, which at its beginning was made up of the poor and the outcasts; whose claim the distinction was that they believed in and worship as God a man who had been crucified; death on the criminals' cross. Nothing seemed less likely to win its way in the world. Then the story of these fishermen, that this person had been raised from His grave, and that He ascended to the right hand of God, and that the eternal destiny of every man, and woman, and boy, and girl, is dependent upon his and her relation to that crucified, and buried, and raised, and ascended person. Why, men and women, you would have thought that the story of those fishermen would have been ridiculed. You would have thought that it would have been generally disbelieved. You would have thought that the influence of that man would have perished within a few years.

But listen, instead of the influence of that crucified peasant passing away, those early Christians faced an infinitely a hostile world; filled with selfishness, sensuality, and materialism, and they preached the gospel everywhere. You know that we have reason to believe that at the close of the 1st century, those early Christians had won 200,000 to Christ? We have reason to believe that at the close of the 4th century, that that number had increased to 15 million. So tremendous was the success of the early Christian church and its influence that when Constantine came to the throne, he with the intuition of a politician saw that it was necessary to favor those Christians rather than fight them. The other Roman emperors threw them to the lions. Constantine, he was a politician. He saw that it's on the side of the bread that buttered for me to favor these Christians. And so He professed conversion. That's one of the great tragedies of the church, because when Constantine professed conversion, the whole trend of the trucks changed. But what I am trying to get over to you is this: that those early Christians, they had made such an impact upon the world that by the 4th century Constantine said I'm going to join. You know that

the slogan of many organizations is this: that you can't whip them, then join them. Constantine instituted that policy.

You know what was the secret; what was it that made the early Church what it was? Was it that those early fishermen were able to conquer Rome? I'll tell you this. It's a wonder to me sometimes why the church does not read the book of Acts. Well, if you were finding out what that early church preached, how they believed, what was their manner of belief and living, and then determined, by the grace of God, that we'll preach as they preach, and we'll live as they lived. Now, I believe that if we ever determined to do that, we would see the blessing of God resting upon our work as what rested upon the work of those early Christians.

I want to put before you 4 things, and briefly. There are all things that I wanted to put before you concerning the early church. The first secret of success was this: it was the message that they proclaimed to the world. Those early Christians, whose lives had been transformed by the Risen Christ, had one message. And that message is expressed in a concrete statement made by the apostle Paul: We have determined not to know anything among men, say of Christ and Him crucified. And you know that when they preached, they preached with a conviction. Those early Christians were not preaching something that they've read out of a book. They were not preaching something that they hoped to be true, men and women. Those early Christians had seen the Lord. They handled Him, they walked with Him, and they watched Him go back to heaven. He changed their lives, and they preached something that they absolutely knew to be true.

Take Peter on the day of Pentecost. He just gets up, a plain simple man, born and bred among the fishermen. If you had been by Peter on the day of Pentecost, brother, you would have smelled the fish that was still on his hand. He got up and preached. What did he preach? He

preached Christ crucified, buried, risen, ascended, coming back again, and the certain judgement of God on everybody a body that refuses to put their faith in Him. Right in the midst of his address, the Spirit of God swept through the crowd, and 3,000 people were born into the Kingdom of God.

Then the Apostle Paul: he goes on an evangelistic, missionary campaign through Europe and Asia. He goes to Corinth, and men and women, Corinth was not only a city of commerce and beauty, it was a place where vice was virtue and virtue was vice. He went into that city. I am not unfairly criticizing anybody. But he went into that city, brother, and he had no syndicate of rich men behind him. He had no advertising campaign, no intention to get a rich man into his pocket. He went into Corinth, and do you know what he did? He worked as a day laborer. He made tents, and in his spare time he preached that gospel, concerning a crucified Christ, and brother, the apostle Paul knew as well as we do, and possibly more than we do, that that preaching of the cross is to the Jew a stumbling block, and to the Greek it was foolishness. But he preached it. And out of that preaching, out of that mass of men and women, who fall in this city of Corinth, he brought out the church of Corinth that stands for gospel order throughout all of history. He also goes to Ephesus. Ephesus was the most fanatical city in the world. That's the place where they worship Diana. Now I want to tell your brother, the Apostle Paul, when he went there he did not consider his message and adapt it to the people. He preached the same as what Peter did on the day of Pentecost. He brought out of that material the church to which he, under God, revealed the greatest revelation in all the word of God. I want to ask him: do we have this message today?

I went by a church some little time ago and I stopped. There was something that I saw on the billboard that I just admired. I stopped my car and I saw on the billboard outside of a church this title: "The folksy church folksy folks who like a folksy time." I want to say, man and women,

there is nothing that stirs the heart of men and women like the gospel of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Calvary. The Ascension of Christ. The miracle of Calvary and His glorious return to this earth. Here is another thing. You know in the 9th, or the 8th chapter of Acts; we learn in the 8th chapter of Acts that each individual in that early church had a sense of individual responsibility. That evidenced itself in an individual effort to win men to Christ. You read of that, the first great dissemination of gospel truth, how that, when that great persecution took place, that the Apostles stood and remained in Jerusalem. Now why that was? I do not know, but we read that all the rest of them that were there, they went everywhere. And what did they do? They preached the gospel. But I want to tell you this, brother. You know that while in those days the emphasis was laid upon the individual, to be individual soul winners, we're living in a day when the average church as placed the emphasis upon the organization. And we think that through a well-organized Sunday school and a well-organized church, we ground out results. And I'll tell you what it was the result of it: that 90% of church members today, all that they're doing for the evangelization of the world is come to church Sunday morning, and then go home, and possibly send a check at the end of the month to pay the preacher's expenses. The early church didn't do that. Every member of the early church was a soul winner.

I was on the train some little time ago, and I'd been on the train for two days and a night, sitting in my Pullman, and the door opened, and in came a fellow with long whiskers. You know, I've been studying the cults so long that I can smell them. I looked at this fellow and I wondered; he gave to every person on the train a piece of literature. Then he came to me and he said "sir, will you read this?" I looked at it, I stood to my feet, and I was going to go back after him, when brother, the Lord seemed to say to me "what are you have [unintelligible]? You have been on this train for two days, and you haven't done a thing." He said "What do you have

[unintelligible]?" I tell you, brother, I got up and instead of chasing him I got down my grip, and I got a bunch of tracks out, and I made two journeys through that train. The first journey was to gather up all the literature that he had passed out.

[Audience Laughter]

And I took the leaflets up and to the back of the train, and I dumped it all over. Then I went through again, and I gave them all a copy of Safety, Certainty, and Enjoyment. No wonder that they had an impact upon a world.

One other thing. Those early Christians, they lived God glorifying and Holy lives. They not only did that, but none of them looked upon anything as belonging to his own. We read that they brought their possessions and they laid them at the apostles' feet. They said that they weren't communists, but they were Christians. Do you know what is the difference, brother, between a communist and a Christian? A communist says "all that you have is mine," and a Christian says "all that I have is yours." Oh, we sing about these things. We get up and we sing, "Take my life and let it be," and especially the second verse, "take my silver, my gold, not a mite will I withhold." I sometimes wonder whether it's just as bad to sing a lie as to tell one. I once heard of an old fellow that his wife died. And you know nobody could console him any. His own daughters went to him and said "oh well mother's now in heaven." "Yes," he said, "I don't want to stay upon this earth; I want to go to heaven and be with my wife." And that's what he said all the time. And one of the daughters said "will you come, Dad, and stay with us?" And she thought that the best thing to do was to give the old fellow something to do. And so she sent him out in the garden to pull radishes and cut lettuce. And she says "now Dad, do a good job, and I want a

lot of it done." And you know there was the old fellow now, while he was stooping a balloon went by. And the fellow in the balloon trying to make a landing and he had a hook; and at the end of the rope there was a hook, and he threw out hoping to catch the limb of the tree but he caught the back of the man's pants. And as the balloon went by, up the old fellow went, and he thought that when he was taking up, that the Lord was answering his prayer and taking him to heaven; and he went up shouting "Lord, Lord, I didn't mean it, I didn't!"

[Audience Laughter]

I think when we sing some hymns like this "take my silver and my gold," we sing things that we don't mean, but brother, that early church. You know that John Wesley said "give me a hundred men. I don't care whether they're preachers or whether they're laymen. Give me 100 men who want nothing but God and fear nothing but sin and I'll change the face of English society." Brother, so he did.

Now the thing about those older Christians was this. Those early Christians, brother, you know that every one of them were waiting and looking for the coming of the Lord. They weren't looking for the tribulation, brother. They were looking for the coming of the Lord. And the coming of the Lord was the pole star of the church. Then one other thing, and then I'm through. Those early Christians knew something else, brother. The one power that those early Christians knew was the power of the Holy Ghost. You can't find one of them, with the exception of the Apostle Paul, that had the stamp of the calling of the body; they did not of any education, and if they were educated, they were self-educated. None of them had any political pull. Why brother, they did not have enough political pull to keep out of jail. But I tell you, brothers, they had power

that would wreck the prison. Oh, my. The church today is the reverse; she has the political pull, but she doesn't have the power. I want to say on this day, that we all dedicate ourselves afresh to the ministry to which God has called us. He hasn't called us to amuse people. He has called us to put before men the way of life and the way of death. And when we stand before the Lord at the close of the ministry, I trust that we'll be able to say with the apostle Paul, "my soul, my garments, my hands are free from the blood of lost souls."

Al Sanders:

You've just heard a special message by Dr. Louis T. Talbot, coming to you today from the new auditorium of the North Long Beach Brethren Church, the Reverend George Peak, pastor, in Long Beach California. Our regular Bible study series will continue next time. We just felt that you might like to share in the inspiration of this special program. Tell your friends of these broadcasts, which are heard every day at the same time, and over this same station. Remember our mailing address is the Bible Institute, Los Angeles 17, California. And before we conclude our program today let's listen to the singing of our musical Biolans from their new long playing high fidelity album, singing the favorite song here at by Biola for many years entitled simply "The King's Business."

[Biola Choir sings The King's Business with accompaniment]