

History and Vision of Talbot

Charles Feinberg

Announcer:

Paul writes who is sufficient for these things. That's how I feel trying to introduce Dr. Feinberg who is sufficient to introduce a man of this stature and walk with the Lord Feinberg Hall named after him. There is his picture up there and every time I walk in here my knees kind of twitch to genuflex. But I know that that would not be appropriate. Doctor Feinberg wanted me to use the Lazarus introduction which is simply loosed him and let him go. But. There might be someone here from Duluth who has never heard of Dr. Feinberg and so I would like to give honor to whom honor is due. He was raised in an Orthodox Jewish home prepared to be a rabbi for 14 years. Born again in 1930 in the Ming Dynasty graduated from the University of Pennsylvania uh Pittsburgh. 1935 graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary summa cum laude and just a few hours after he graduated was married to Mrs. Feinberg and she is here. Mrs. Feinberg we'd like to have you stand.

[Applause]

They have three children and many grandchildren. How many. Eight. And Dr. Feinberg was in Dallas working on his Th.D. got kind of tough. Certain courses C E courses for some reason game a lot of trouble. And every night before the C E exam he'd go out there in the [inaudible] apartment and look up at the sky and say Lord please come tonight. This went on for

three years until the day before he used to get his Th.D. and get married and he walked out on the balcony that night and said not tonight Lord. Went on and got another M.A. at Southern Methodist University in 43 and 45 his Ph.D. from the John Hopkins University. Listen who's who in America the International Who's who. Who's who in the world he's a musician. Perhaps you know that besides his singing. Those of us who had him in Hebrew class had a singing lesson every morning as we parsed our verbs [Hebrew words] and he's an author lecturer a teacher preacher. But as I think of him most of all I think of a servant of God with a heart after the Lord. So we welcome you Dr. Feinberg.

[Applause]

Dr. Feinberg:

Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you. President Cook. Dean O'Neil, esteemed faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends. Years ago I said in one chapel as I go around and minister in many places and around the world I'm always on the lookout to find a better student body than one at Talbot. And I said when I do I will report it to you. I'm here to report to you this morning hour. I haven't found the better one yet.

[Applause]

That's to keep you posted. Dr. Cook asked if I might not speak with reference to our 30th anniversary Dr. Ironside always said the best men come out on top. And so in thirty years this seminary has come out on top. Thirty years. That's a very significant time in the Word of God

the Levitical priests began their ministry at thirty years and they went on and were retired at 50. Twenty years I don't know what they did in their retirement I suppose stayed home and get acquainted with the family who the times that they were gone at the central sanctuary in Jerusalem. But thirty an important time going out of young adulthood into mature adulthood and then we remember how important it was in the life of our blessed Lord being about 30 years of age he began that incomparable never to be repeated. Marvelous Ministry of his ended on earth with the crucifixion. But it didn't end there didn't end with a burial didn't end with the resurrection or the ascension.

For now he sitteth at the right hand of God the Father wonderful Psalm 110 verse one the most prophesied of the most quoted the most expounded passage in all of the Old Testament. Christ seated at the right hand of God the Father in a very real sense the Epistle to the Hebrews is the Holy Spirit's commentary on Psalm 110 one the session of our Lord Jesus friends when we consider and this is supposed to be thirty years packed into thirty minutes. So if I appear to be a little rapid forgive me some students of mine have often said I reminded them of an Egyptian mummy pressed for time well I really am right now. I really am.

Now when we consider the formation growth present status future potential of Talbot Theological Seminary we can only exclaim in the words of scripture from numbers 23 23. What hath God wrought and then from Psalm hundred fifteen one not unto us oh Lord not unto us but unto thy name give glory for thy mercy and for thy truth's sake. It's always salutary friends at different times in life to look back at our origin to see whence we've come. It was the majestic Isaiah who wrote listen to me you who pursue righteousness who seek the Lord look to the rock from which you are hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug.

Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who gave birth to you in pain when he was one I called him then I blessed him and multiplied him Isaiah 51 1 and 2. In taking stock then we look at our background I can tell you beloved that the background of Talbot seminary and the schools that are related to it it has been long and honorable in the first decade of this century the city of Los Angeles was greatly blessed through the vision and work of two godly men the reverend T.C. Horton and Mr. Lyman Stewart who were burdened for Bible study and soul winning activity soul winning clubs and those two facets those prongs those thrusts have remained with this institution from that hour to this Bible study, soul winning.

Out of this impetus was born in the fall of 1907. The Bible Institute of Los Angeles known worldwide as Biola. The following year 1908 saw the formal permanent organization of the school when Mr. Lyman Stewart was elected first president. Through the blessing of God substantial growth was experienced each year until in 1912 Dr. Reuben Archer Torrey the highly trained in Semitics incidentally went to Leipzig to study Semitics. Incidentally our own president Emeritus was once offered the opportunity also when he studied under Dr. Robert Dick Wilson. Most folk don't know they don't tell him I told you. The highly trained well renowned evangelist was invited to be the first Dean.

By 1936 the academic program had so expanded under the leadership of Lewis Dr. Lewis T. Talbot who was also pastor of the historic church of the open door of Los Angeles. It was so expanded that a four year course of study leading to the degrees in theology Christian education and sacred music that kind of a four year course was inaugurated. Sensitive to the needs of the Christian public the leaders enlarged the curriculum in 1949 to embrace work for the Bachelor of Arts degree recognized and accredited by the Accrediting Association of Bible schools and

colleges and there were some very very important meetings long and labored and cut discussed and often contested. But.

There was the founding of this accrediting association of Bible schools and colleges and it accredited Biola, known then as Biola College and Dr. Samuel H. Sutherland may it be said and repeated played a significant indispensable role. I've talked to men who were on those committees. They met at Wynona lake long sessions and all and he was responsible for a great deal of valuable input. The school I say was then called Biola college as Dean and then President Dr. Sutherland worked long and indefatigably to sharpen the training along every line. No one can found a school as a dean unless he has a knowledgeable president with a vision with a purpose with the ultimate glory of God in mind.

And we have certainly had it in the tremendously energetic and knowledgeable Dr. Samuel H. Sutherland. One of the most significant results was that the old course leading to a Bachelor of Theology degree a curriculum partly academic and partly theological given under the name of the Los Angeles Bible Theological Seminary was enlarged and deepened to meet the claimant needs of the ministry. The result was the founding of the Talbot Theological Seminary in the fall of 1952. If Dr. James H Christian is here is he here this morning. He is the senior member of the faculty with us at that time. Dr. O'Neil came very very shortly thereafter and they have been two who remained with us through the years the seminary was founded then in 1952. We are now under God entering our thirty first year.

The choice of the name for the institution was indeed a happy one in our discussions it became clear that this name stood throughout Christendom for first of all doctrinal purity no question throughout the country and abroad as to what the name Talbot stood for. Then evangelistic zeal. I've heard more than once Dr. Talbot tell how when he had heard he was a

student of Moody when he had heard and Moody had gone on to be with the Lord when he had heard that D.L. Moody promised God that he would never let a day pass. But what he would speak to some soul about acceptance of the Lord Jesus as savior. He said I am going to make it a point at. And it will be an irremovable point in my ministry never to preach on the Lord's Day unless in one or both services I present the claims of Christ and ask folk to receive the Lord Jesus Christ. He would do it too.

I don't know very many other men in one service who would take three offerings but I'll go on from there and that stirred his actions and then missionary vision. The missionary map of the Church of the open door and his documented films of the mission fields of the world. His messages on missions revealed only the tip of the iceberg of his burden for a world out of Christ. Well what indeed was the need that had to be met? Well previous programs good and solid as they were needed deepening broadening, implementing on a graduate level. Now since the name seminary quote unquote has more than one dictionary definition. You look it up. It was wisely seen that the important words theological was a needed addition. As such it conveys the correct concept of an institution for the training properly on a graduate level of candidates. Men and women for the Ministry of the gospel throughout the world.

In the first bulletin of Talbot Theological Seminary in the fall of 1952 an introductory word from president then president now president emeritus president Samuel A. Sutherland stated it this way the Talbot Theological Seminary has come into existence for just such a time as this. It's the product of years of study and development on the part of the faculty and administration of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. The dean we were then known as director. That was a sort of a carryover from the similar position at Hopkins with Dr. Albright but the Dean presented the new seminary under three heads and this is what we wrote in The Talbot

seminary Bulletin at the time the theme, the Magna Carta of all institutions of learning that train men for the service of God is 2 Timothy 2:1-2.

"Now therefore my son be strong in the Grace that's in Christ Jesus and the things that thou hast heard from me among many witnesses the same commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also." That is the line all commitment. That's the line of transmission that is the absolutely sine qua non of the message of the gospel for the world. The declared purpose of Talbot Theological Seminary is to train men for competent life service for Christ as pastors, teachers, evangelists, missionaries in order that these men in turn may teach others the truth of God committed to them. That's the theme. Now the curriculum. The curriculum is designedly Bible-centered. It aims not to indoctrinate men and women in the intricacies of philosophical reasoning about the Bible but to prepare them for an expository ministry of the word itself at home and abroad. The course of study includes the regular disciplines of a theological curriculum with the emphasis already indicated.

Now the purpose in a day of blatant denial of truth the seminary stands unashamedly for the historic faith of the Christian church without compromise with infidelity or neo-orthodoxy or any other new views on the horizon. Our day of encyclopedic knowledge requires the minister of God to hold his place of leadership with adequate academic equipment. This preparation is best supplied by seminary training carried out on the graduate level. The presentation of the message of redemption calls for the best both academically and spiritually. High goals in both those fields are the avowed commitment of the seminary in order effectively to prosecute such a program men of high spiritual academic achievement are required for the task. If you think it is easy you get at the task someday. The faculty of Talbot seminary consists of men of demonstrated

Christian character and leadership and definite competence in the respective fields of their specialized study.

Our friends are earnestly invited to a continuous Ministry of intercession on behalf of the seminary that under God. It may realize every objective and bring glory to the Lord we serve. That's our background. What about our present status. What is the present state of affairs doctrinal distinctive. These have been faithfully we assure you under God. These have been faithfully preserved all through the seminary's existence to this hour. They are first an infallible and inerrant word of God. Secondly a literal grammatical historical approach to the Scriptures. Thirdly the necessity of dependence upon the Holy Spirit for a correct proper understanding of the Bible. Fourthly the soul ground of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for eternal salvation. Fifth his virgin birth sinless life divine works his satisfaction for the sins of the world accomplished at Calvary his bodily resurrection from the tomb, his ascension to heaven his present session at the right hand of the Father in heaven his promise of return for his church.

Sixth a single hermeneutic throughout the scripture resulting in a pre-millennial pre tribulation dispensational approach to the Bible and seven and it's not last because it's unimportant a godly life manifested in conduct pleasing to God and at the same time accompanied by an undying concern for the lost of the whole world. Now the evidence of the pros- that those are the doctrine with distinctive evidences of the prospering of God. Think it. Think of it hear it. Faculty at first there were ten men and they weren't all full time either. Then twelve now about twenty seven full time and twenty adjunct. And don't forget that word has a t at the end of it it's not just adding junk. I'm very very insistent on that because I am an adjunct professor myself naturally. There are eighteen doctorates with others in progress.

Others are working to that end for the full time faculty there are 11 doctorates among the adjunct with others in progress. Thank God for a student body such as this the seminary began was amazing. Talbot Sumner began with the same number of men the Dallas Seminary began with thirteen the seminary began with 13 men now over 700 students including off campus extensions. They come from thirty forty denominations from over 12 foreign colleges and universities and hearing from over one hundred and fifty colleges and universities in the United States of America. Degrees offered there are eight different degrees offered including the doctor of ministry. What about academic recognition it was marvelous the way God blessed in the very first year we had a professor in church history.

He had been a chaplain in World War 2. Name was Dr. Donald G. Donald Gordon Davis a blessed memory with the lord a number of years. In the first year of the seminary it was recognized by the United States government for the training of men for the chaplaincy and the branches of armed of the armed forces. We discussed it. We doubted whether it would be worth spending the money for him to go back to Washington but he said let's trust God and did and sent him there and he had practically been turned down and was ready to take the plane back when he thought of another individual that he might contact. Contacted him and we were recognized. Other U.S. agencies recognized Talbot as well as a graduate school of Biola University the seminary is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The school is also an accredited member of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada which is the internationally recognized accrediting body of seminaries.

But after all the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Calorie wise and everything else. What else shall we say? What say the students? Well in the final analysis the school exists for the benefit of the students to the glory of God as they have been vocal. We can recount to you some

of their heartfelt expressions. For a number of years in the bulletin we used to have a heading why I chose Talbot Sumner and I've just taken out word for word a few of them and very few actually only 12 a jury of witnesses many testimonies of the students we're choosing well and they include students from at home and abroad. Here they are, for the past year. God has placed upon my heart the necessity of furthering my education while investigating various schools I heard of the new (remember this was just in the fall of 1952 and yes in early fifty three) I heard of the new Talbot Theological Seminary.

Upon examining the proposed curriculum and noting the faculty I became deeply interested and took steps toward enrollment. The warm reception accorded me by the seminary. My circumstances at home as well as at work and the assurance I felt in prayer all gave me evidence that God was leading me to the Talbot Theological Seminary. Another I especially appreciate the dispensation, pre millennial emphasis taught here. (I wonder where he got that idea.) Thirdly the beliefs and standards of the Talbot Seminary are those of which I can hardly [inaudible]. The result is that I am enjoying this training very much (remember that during exam time too) both the good faculty and the doctoral position.

Another, since my wife and I are interested in foreign mission work we felt led of the Lord to look for a school where I could continue my seminary training and she could go to a Bible school. We felt that Biola and Talbot seminary were the place where we could receive a sound Christian training. The Lord opened doors and we came. A student from China. I chose Talbot seminary because of its theological emphasis the sound dispensational, pre-millennial pre-tribulational evangelical emphasis on theology which is being taught here assures me of building a solid scriptural foundation for my future ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ. Another I chose Talbot Theological Seminar because I desired to have the Bible as the emphasis upon learning

the emphasis which Talbot seminary intended to impress upon students that of an evangelical dispensational, pre-millennial Bible believing stress my confidence was established in the school. Another I chose Talbot Seminary for a number of reasons.

I believe God led me to Talbot. I knew of the staunch uncompromising stand upon the word of God which would be found at Talbot the scholastic spiritual qualifications of the faculty members and the interdenominational pre- millennial position of the school being greatly interested in missionary endeavor. I knew Talbot seminary would foster a strong missionary emphasis. Again. Although it was necessary for me to travel 60 miles a day in order to study at Talbot says the student I consider it a rare privilege five reasons readily come to mind first a strong spiritual faculty second a fundamental emphasis on the authority and exposition of the word of God. Thirdly a pre-millennial dispensational theological position. Fourthly an interdenominational atmosphere and fellowship. Fifth high academic standards. I enthusiastically recommend Talbot Seminary to all who are called of God and who aspire to excel in preaching the Word. Another.

I want to learn from a consecrated faculty who taught what the apostles believed especially the missionary emphasis and who didn't cool and polished their students into preachers so heavenly bound that they are no earthly good. Yet another. I chose Talbot theological seminary because first by comparison of the curriculums offered in other seminaries I felt that Talbot's offered the one that would profit me most. Secondly I knew that I agreed wholeheartedly with the doctrinal position of this school. Thirdly I wanted a Bible Centered training which emphasized expository preaching. I felt led of the lord to this place though I was ready to be sent elsewhere. Another I have had fellowship with men from other seminaries. This

is the way to test it and didn't feel that their schools had grounded the men as to what they really believe.

Some had no concrete position. They remained inconcrete too I'm afraid and in the abstract some had no concrete position were not able to lead their people in a definite school of thought. Therefore I chose Talbot because I knew I would be well grounded in a concrete biblical position. Another. I was influenced. This is the last I was influenced in my choice of Talbot Theological Seminary as a place of preparation for our Lord's service by a student. They are our best they are our best examples by a student already attending the seminary and by my pastor it is my understanding that there are very few fundamental schools of the caliber of Talbot in the nation today. And I do praise God for the call he has given me and for leading me to this school. What about the facilities. Well the trick has been quite a one from the facilities at 558 south hope mark the word hope where chapel was held in the faculty lounge.

Classes were conducted in rooms not already assigned to the important instruction of the college to the new campus in La Mirada. Nineteen hundred and fifty nine where we avail ourselves first of classroom space in the newly erected Sutherland hall to the present quarters for instruction and worship in Myers Hall and his name is remembered in blessing. The Scripture says the memory of the righteous is a blessing. [Says a Hebrew phrase]. Dr. Ray A. Myers after whom is named his family as well his daughter especially Nancy Norman Myers Myers Norman been a tremendous help in the ongoing of the work. So we have the present quarters of instruction in worship in Myers Hall and the seminary chapel.

An important part of seminary life is the library. Talbot Seminary in conjunction with the other schools of Biola University enjoys a fine and I've seen some others and nowhere come near it and increasingly enlarging theological library for the use of students faculty alumni and

friends. Now the alumni these godly men and women have an ineradicable place in our hearts very very close to us. We have built into them. They have built into us our building into their lives and ministries has not been in vain or fruitless as the sacred writer has said time would fail me to tell.

In short God is using our alumni throughout the world and I've seen them in many parts as I've gone. It's true that the sun never sets on the ministry and influence of Talbot seminary and in a true sense Dr. Lewis T. Talbot though did yet spoke through them and their witness in at least eight areas they are holding forth the Word of God in a prominent way. First as pastors secondly as teachers and professors here on campus and elsewhere at home or abroad. Thirdly missionaries. Fourth evangelists. Fifth administrators including our own president Clyde Cook to be formally inaugurated tomorrow God willing with blessing and we trust with a tremendous impetus of prayer behind him from all of us sixthly writers authors bible translators 7th chaplains in the different branches of the armed forces 8th Christian education directors all equally important. Unseen and unsung elements of our present status.

And I wouldn't dare leave them out are in addition to our board and they serve as godly men marvelous way never meet but what every single one of them on his knees is before God in prayer. They don't just sit and pray they kneel and pray. In addition to the board the administration the faculty the godly helpers who are made up of wives of students wives of faculty office staffs. Where would we be? There was an old statement that old deans don't die they just lose their faculties. And I always used to add yes. But even worse if they lose their secretary. Office staff support personnel prayer warriors and donors God bless them everyone. What's our prospect? First and foremost we anticipate and pray for increased usefulness for God

in direct proportion to one unswerving adherence to our biblical position and distinctive and secondly utter yieldedness to God's leading at all times.

Then we devoutly wish for a sensitivity to all that will make the students more effective any program that will make them more effective servants of Christ and already tried and proved as well as new methods to reach the last and the least of the lost everywhere in the world. As has been truthfully said many times before the future is as bright as the promises of God. Finally beloved I exhort us all most earnestly to labor to pray to serve in the light of this glorious prospect the hour is late. The time comes when no man can work hear this glorious prospect revelation 5 11 and 12 and I looked and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders and the number of them was myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands saying with a loud voice. Worthy is the lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing all seven wonderful that Dr. Cook will be the seventh president of our institution.

I didn't realize till I was thinking it over recently that I've known five of them. I've known them all except the first two. Maybe it's because I'm not old enough. May God graciously hasten that hour of which we read in the wonderful Capstone of revelation namely the book of the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ which God gave to our Lord Jesus who gave it to the angel who gave it to John to give it to all of us. Our Father how we thank thee this morning hour for the way thou hast raised up not just methods not just institutions of material things but institutions that are manned that are promoted that are lived in built in through human flesh and blood touched by the mighty power and fire of the Holy Spirit of God. We thank thee for the beginning in 1907. We thank thee for the beginning of this academic year nineteen hundred and eighty two with the world they're winding down.

They're pretty well run out of gas with us the best is yet to be we can trust thee our God that though the beginning be small as thou didst tell us in Job though the beginning be small our latter end shall be marvelously increased spiritually as well as numerically in effectiveness bless we pray the the services we look forward tomorrow. This is a tremendous spiritual event. The L.A. Times may not make much of it or the New York Times or the London Times or the Jerusalem Post but in high heaven is vitally important. This is the matter of getting the gospel of our Lord Jesus from this place to the ends of the earth till his body his bride shall be complete and we shall see him and we shall be forever with the Lord grant it and hasten it we pray. We pray it with Thanksgiving in Jesus' alone worthy name amen.

[End]