

TRIUMPHANT LIVING

Taught by Bruce Bickel

Video and Discussion of Martyn Lloyd-Jones Interview

Session: January 17, 2014

I just want to remind us of one great responsibility we have; I don't want us to treat lightly the fact that we say that we are praying for each other. In Ephesians 6:10-18, Paul writes about the full armor of God and right after that he says, "Don't forget to pray for me." There are wonderful things we need to do in the full armor of God but one of the things we need to do is and our great protection is the great power we have in prayer. When we talk about praying for Terry or for Madison or for our other brothers or friends, I just want to encourage you to take that seriously. Don't flippantly say, "Well, I'll pray for you." Really make a conscientious an effort to do that because there is tremendous power in our prayers. I think one of the great weaknesses of our American church is that we do not pray effectively. I think we just pray nominally and we pray flippantly, but when we put a person's name on our web page to pray for them, take that seriously men. That is one of the great benefits and great responsibilities we have in this fellowship time...just to pray for each other and significantly do so.

We are going to do something different today. Years ago when I was working on my doctorate at Oxford in England, I studied the great Puritan preachers. One of the latter day Puritans was a gentleman I met by the name of Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones who is the preacher of Westminster Chapel in London. He was the pastor there for about 30 years and I never met him but I just studied his works and came across that as I was studying some of the great English Puritan preachers. He is not a Puritan because of his age and when he lived in the decade, but his heart was very much that way. Probably next to Charles Spurgeon, the great Baptist preacher in London, Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones is probably the most well known of the English preachers and a man of great intellect.

I learned the thing that makes him unique is that prior to his becoming a preacher, he was a physician, a medical doctor. He has a tremendous understanding of human nature from three different areas: physiologically as a physician; psychologically as a psychiatrist, and theologically as a theologian. So he has a tremendous understanding of the totality of human nature and how the fall of man has impacted all of us, the whole issue of original sin and the whole issue of total depravity. Recently there is a website if you ever want to listen to any of his sermons called: mljtrust.org and it is a wonderful site and you can go on there and get some of his lectures if you want. One of the things they sent out was an interview that occurred back in the 1950s or 1960s by a young woman who interviewed him on the condition of man. I thought it might be something that might be helpful for us to understand because we have been talking about this for about 20 years now and he gives us a great understanding about the totality of our total depravity.

Now total depravity does not mean that we are depraved as we can be, because we can always become more depraved. What it means is that all aspects of our humanity have been affected by sin and that is what Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones is going to talk about in this interview. It was a public interview. One of the things that I think is unique about this is that we probably would never have this in America today. It just couldn't happen. But I rejoice in the fact that it did happen years ago and I just want us to watch this. Ed would you take us to the video and we will have some discussion afterward. Thanks very much.

ED: *Can I make a quick announcement? If you were attempting to get onto the wireless network as some like to do with tablets and such, the ccgfguest.network is open and it has a password of ccgfguest (all lower case, all one word). That is different from before and if you are trying to get on, that is how you can connect.*

Right. Let's watch this video.

**1970 VIDEO of INTERVIEW WITH
DR. MARTYN LLOYD-JONES
BY JOAN BAKEWELL**

INTERVIEWER: *Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones you are an evangelical preacher and it is your wish to bring people back to the Biblical truths about man. Now in so doing you persuade man that the modern popular idea of what man is, is on the wrong track. Could you specify where you think he is making mistakes?*

DR. MARTYN LLOYD-JONES: Well, it makes the mistake in that the essential Biblical view of man is that he is a creature who has gone astray. In other words, I criticize the modern view of man on two grounds. One is that it makes too much of man and secondly that it doesn't make enough of man.

It doesn't make enough of man in that it tends to regard him as just an animal perhaps his cerebellum was developed a little more than most animals but still, essentially an animal; and I think that is degrading man and debasing him. But then you see on the other side, they make too much of him in the sense that they believe that he has got it within himself to order himself in this society and more or less to create a perfect world. So I criticize on both those grounds; it is inconsistent whereas the Biblical view to me is the consistent view of man in this way: that it says man is a creature created in the image and likeness of God...that he is not a mere animal; that he is the lord of creation, that the image of God...which means his reason and his power to criticize and devalue it and to control himself. This image of God is in him and that is man essentially. Well then why is man as he is? Well, that is because he has rebelled against God, and regards himself as God and he is incapable of functioning as such. The result is you've got chaos but this is a humanized view.

INTERVIEWER: *Can we take then some of the evidence that you find wrong with the modern image of man? Now you say that he has been treated as less than man but with respect to his animal instincts and the research has been done into man as the naked ape, the victim of environment and heredity. Now you cannot presume to quarrel with the actual facts and that have been scientifically ascertained about this.*

DR. MARTYN LLOYD-JONES: Yes, I am in a little bit query that this has been scientifically ascertained. You see, so much today has been ascertained as fact in the realm of science, which is nothing but theory or hypothesis, this is one of the great troubles it seems to me today and I'm not only skeptical about it but I tend to ridicule for this reason, I know in my medical training we were told you see that 100 years ago [UNCLEAR] remains, no function that we know of and you can't live without it. Others are still saying that you cannot live without the appendix and they said this about so much...this is the arrogance of modern man because his knowledge is limited, he makes these wild assumptions that cannot be proved. All I'm prepared to agree with is this: that man today is behaving like an animal, but the question is why.

INTERVIEWER: *You say in one of your books that the very essence of the problem is in the nature of sin and you also said that, in fact, sin has always been a part of man's nature but sin used to be ashamed of itself; whereas today sin excuses itself.*

DR. MARTYN LLOYD-JONES: Yes, I don't think I have ever said that sin is in the central part of man. Man, I would say, as the Bible teaches was originally perfect but since man's original fall, sin has been a part of human nature and there has been proof throughout the centuries and I would say that the story of humanities is just proof of this fact...that man is truly sinful by nature...and this is bound to show itself.

INTERVIEWER: *What you quarrel with is this: the initial assumption about man today is that he is basically good but he goes astray and the blame must be put elsewhere. Now, in deed, there is some legitimacy in that point of view in that poverty and oppression and exploitation does present many problems to man in which he does not always behave well; which you do not subscribe to it at all?*

DR. MARTYN LLOYD-JONES: This is where we've got to stop with man as he is today and my quarrel with the general outlook of today is this: that they begin to talk about treatment before they establish a true diagnosis. Now I can't help putting it like this you see, it is a very poor doctor who medically assumes and isn't aware of the disease that is producing the symptoms. Well, to me, the disease is this: a fallen or sinful nature of man and because that is true, none of the medications of the symptoms is going to deal with the problem. I contend that this is what history is teaching us. With all of the advantages today the problem is as great as ever.

INTERVIEWER: *What, then, is the nature of man's sin that you wish us to recognize?*

It is this. It isn't so much that he does things that are wrong and that he thereby makes himself miserable; I think this is an important point and I'm glad that you asked that question. Some people represent sin as a sickness and say that man is sick. There are Christians who would say this. Well, I agree that man is sick but to me that is not the essence of the problem. The essence of the problem is that man is a rebel and he is sick because he is a rebel. In other words, the business of Christianity, ultimately, is not simply to make us feel happier or even to make us live a better life. It is to reconcile us to God. Man, from this Biblical standpoint, was never meant to be autonomous or self contained. This is my quarrel with the modern view that man is autonomous. He is a master of his fate, the captain of his soul. It is so obviously ridiculous because he is not. However, this is where this starts, whereas I start by saying that man was not only not meant to be autonomous and cannot be and cannot act as such, but he only functions truly when he lives his life under God, the God who made him has made him in a given way and has put laws in his nature. While man does not respond to this essential law of his being and is quarrelling with his Maker, he is bound to go wrong, he is bound to be miserable and what he does is bound to be wrong. He'll produce chaos and he has done so throughout the centuries.

This is the whole story of the human race but it isn't merely that he's sick, it is that his attitude towards his Maker is wrong. The apostle Peter for instance puts it in a phrase like this, "Christ came into the world to bring us to God." That is why Christianity must never meant to be thought of as a sort of cult, which heals your body and enables you to sleep at night and to stop worrying and all...that has turned it in to a cult. The real object is to bring man to his true position, which is that he is in communion with his Maker and is living to the glory of his Maker.

Now there is a very well known definition of this Scottish confession of faith, the Presbyterian confession of faith known as the Lessons to Confession of Faith and they produce a Shorter Catechism. The first question in that is about man. What is the chief end of man? And this is the answer: the chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. You can see the order: you glorify God. Let me put it in another way. A clever fellow, a lawyer, one day asked Jesus Christ said, "Which is the first of the greatest commandment of the law?" You see they were dealing with about 613 commandments and they were arguing which was the greatest. That fellow had a great shock when Christ answered him. He said, "Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and all thy soul, and all thy mind, and all thy strength. That is the first and chiefest commandment. The second is likened to it. Thy shall love thy neighbor as thy self." Now today people start with the second and forget the first.

INTERVIEWER: *You know, this point of view is obviously held with great conviction by you, but I would have thought it brought in to conflict not only with people who subscribe to the Christian religion but to many others Christians too.*

DR. MARTYN LLOYD-JONES: Well of course it does. I'm sorry but this is something that I deeply regret. This isn't the first time that minorities have been right. In any case, we don't decide this kind of question by counting heads. I know nothing about these things primarily apart from what I find in the Bible, but I maintain that the story of the human race and the story of civilization is the proof of the truth of the Bible.

INTERVIEWER: *What it would suggest is that whereas they would tolerate your point of view is rather different in diverge of your view of Christianity, you are unprepared to tolerate their view as a possible version of the truth. Is that right?*

DR. MARTYN LLOYD-JONES: I am, of course I am and I say of course quite deliberately for this reason. Christianity is a very exclusive and dogmatic faith. Take the apostle Paul, for instance, writing he says, "Though we are angels from heaven preached any other gospel given that which we have preached unto you, let him be a accursed." He puts it like that. You may say that is the arrogance of Paul. I said, "No, this man has been given this message, he received it by revelation. It isn't his point of view." If a man asserts his own point of view of the result of his own thinking in this intolerant manner, well he is a bullock and he is not to be tolerated. He is a hopeless fellow.

But when you are given truth, which you then must prove from God, well then you have no right to be anything but intolerant. When we find people insinuating their own theories and ideas and using them in the name of Christ, why I have to protest. This is dishonest apart from anything else in my opinion.

INTERVIEWER: *But nonetheless, it is highly regarded Christian virtue these days to be both charitable and tolerant to people of different views from one's self. Do you disapprove of that?*

DR. MARTYN LLOYD-JONES: Look, again, I for the same reason I'm bound to. Christ himself said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by Me." He said, "All others have been thieves and robbers." So when I find the thieves and robbers being accepted into the church and their view is being tolerated and praised, surely I'm bound to protest. The problem is this that Christ we claim, I claim, is unique...you mustn't put anybody near Him. You mustn't mention Him in the same category as Confucius or Buda, or Mohamed or anybody else. Why not? Well because He is the Only Begotten Son of God. This isn't my theory, this is Christianity. This is what the apostles preached, they preached Jesus and the resurrection. Did men, like the apostle Paul, he was a Pharisee, resented all of this. The Pharisees regarded Christ as a blasphemer. Who is this fellow, how can this man teach never having learned himself...who is this man that claims to be equal with God? And so Saul of Taurus persecuted the church and he hated Christ, he said so, but then he came to see that this was the Lord of glory and he preached nothing else.

INTERVIEWER: *I must take you up on the essential relevance of all the things you have been saying because the church here on earth, the church militants here on earth has a role plan in lives of all people, whether Christian or not. I wonder whether the dogmatic nature of the church as you speak of it, doesn't inhibit you from having a role in the lives of ordinary people. A lot of people would find in a sense it easier to reject you than someone who you would regard as rather liberal social minded.*

DR. MARTYN LLOYD-JONES: Yes, precisely and that is why the world is as it is. That is exactly the explanation and you put it very perfectly. Now I don't accept the statement that the church is a social institution meaning in the other sense. A church to me consists of people who are truly Christian. Now then, you said what is the relevance of this to the social conditions and the problems. Well, I would say that it is the business of individual Christians to play a part in society...because this is historical...this is what is most interesting...the churches have the greatest influence upon society and social conditions when she has been most evangelical.

This is not again my theory. I can establish this. I was in Scotland last week commemorating the 400th anniversary of the death of John Knox. You read the account of the conditions in Scotland before Knox and he is always charged with intolerance and all the things you were saying, but that man changed the life of the whole of Scotland. He introduced an educational system, he changed it modernly, politically, and in every respect. The Puritans did it in this country. Cromwell, do not forget, was an evangelical Christian and then you come on to the 18th century and you have the evangelical awakening and the Whitfields and the Wesleys. That did more to improve social conditions of this country than all of the dabbling of the ecclesiastics in politics.

INTERVIEWER: *You know, it is often alleged against evangelicals that they promise salvation, the end of life, and don't in fact apply themselves to relieving man's lot here on earth. Now how concerned are you with man's lot here on earth?*

MARTYN LLOYD-JONES: Well, I'm very concerned and I've always criticized that particular representation of evangelicalism. To me it was not Biblical. You see, the Biblical view of man is that he is to function in society. Paul's teaching is that the powers that be are ordained of God, magistrates and all of the [UNCLEAR]. There are two elements in my position. Man fundamentally needs this gospel, which can renew him and relegate him and make a new man of him. But in the meantime, he is a believer of law and order because sin must be held within bounds. If you don't have magistrates and punishment and so on, well, you get chaos. Sometimes I think we witness it even at the present time. But this is a part of the whole Christian position. Christian people in the past have played their part in politics and various other aspects of Christian life; unfortunately in the last 100 years or so I agree they have been somewhat guilty of the charge that you bring against them but a number of us and by now I think that is more or less gone. I find today that most evangelical Christians are very much concerned about the social implications [UNCLEAR].

INTERVIEWER: *And I refer again to this matter of man having lost his sense of sin and therefore not being in this situation of being able to be saved. I want to say a great many people now feel matters of sin are less than their immediate concern; and that being so do you see much possibility of your point of view prevailing?*

MARTYN LLOYD-JONES: I not only see the possibility, I actually see it happening. I find people turning back to this. I'm traveling about the country a great deal now and I was telling you that I was in Scotland last week and I was in Glasgow on Wednesday night and preached to 2,100 people and it seems to me that

something is happening. I find politicians find it rather difficult to get fifty people to listen to them. In other words, I believe people are beginning to realize, the utter bankruptcy of most of what has been offered them, and they are turning perhaps vaguely or perhaps even wishfully back in the direction of this authoritative message of the New Testament, which I maintain is only represented by the evangelical standpoint. And we've got to bring them to an awareness of this, of course they're ignorant, but that is the business of preaching.

INTERVIEWER: *But isn't this need for an authoritative of line, whatever it might be, in conflict with the other trend in man's development, which is full-self expression, fulfillment, self realization—which you actually disapprove of?*

MARTYN LLOYD-JONES: Well, yes, of course I do because man as he is, the more he expresses himself the worse things become. You see, if each man is autonomous that is to express himself or herself, you are bound to get conflict aren't you? If each one of us is a god and I determine I do what I think is right, and you think differently, well there is a clash immediately and you get chaos. You see, we must both of us and all of us submit ourselves to God. We've got an authority outside ourselves and we have a motive and a reason and a purpose...you see when people deny this...you must get the chaos out of it or you've got it. This is the tragedy and so my business is to call people back to this and you've got to first of all to show them why it seems odd as they are, they've got to be clear about this...there is no hope until they are. Now I know that there are people going around today saying that Jesus loves you and so on. Well if I were a man on the street I would say, "Well, what about it? Who is this Jesus, I don't want it. I've got a car, a refrigerator, a television set...what are you [UNCLEAR] about? I'm not interested."

That is my reply to that. You see, the Old Testament is the law and as Paul puts it, "The law was our school master to bring us to Christ, to show us our need. Now when people confront the Ten Commandments, there they see their failure. And it is only when they realize this truly, they'll see their failure and it is only people who see their failure who are ready to listen to the offer of salvation.

INTERVIEWER: *Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, thank you very much.*

END OF INTERVIEW

Bruce: Your typical church message you hear on Sunday, right?

Well, I just thought that would be something that would stimulate our thinking. I don't have answers for you but all I wanted you to hear, Brothers, is that we need to think right and I think Dr. Jones is really nailing it on some real issues. What is the evangelical church standing for? Notice a couple of things in summary.

Notice how he is saying that the individual responsibility is that we have to be in the world? We've been saying it this way: ministry is who you are, where you are. We've been saying that now for 17 years...ministry is who you are, where you are.

The second thing is the primary goal of all of us is what? The glory of God. We've lost the sense of the glory of God in the church because the church is really oriented around us and what we want and our feelings as opposed to what is it that we are doing that brings glory to God and the way we worship, the way we pray, the

way we relate to one another. I think Dr. Jones highlighted some things that I just wanted you to hear that so that the Lord might prompt us to think of some things that might correct us in some of our involvement in society because our ministry when we walk out of here is, what am I going to do? What am I going to do about what I just learned? We don't come here to accumulate knowledge but we come here so that we can apply knowledge of the Scriptures. So the ministry really happens when you walk out the door. The ministry is not right here but the minute you walk outside the door, and you begin to say, "God touch my heart in a certain way, I didn't know that. Lord, what am I going to do about what I just learned?"

I trust that this message, just in its brevity will stimulate some thinking on your part. Perhaps there might be some responses to questions you have in the remaining moments and I will be glad to entertain that.

Yes, Ted.

TED: *The thing that struck me is that the interview was in 1970, it is 43 years old, and the interviewer said Christians are coming across as intolerant and others tolerate them; but actually what we begin to find is that we entered a time when we are intolerant of the other view and they are intolerant of us.*

Yes, but they don't agree with that of course.

TED: *You know, it was interesting because I was in a discussion about when the Episcopal Church broke with the Anglicans and the discussion came up with the Episcopalian said to me, "Why can't you continue to stay in our church?" And I said, "Is it OK with you if I teach a Sunday school class that homosexuality is a sin?" And they said, "Absolutely not." And I said, "There you go." You can stay in our church as long as you agree with our position.*

Yes, that's right. I get blasted a lot by people by saying, you're intolerant. They put it this way, "You are not open minded." I say, "Well, I am open minded, but not at both ends." {LAUGHTER}

Tom?

TOM: *The interviewer, was she representing someone with faith, or some other...*

I don't know anything about her. Tom, you did some research on her?

TOM: *Yes, I thought maybe she had more Christian interviews or something, but she is a very liberal interviewer, columnist/reporter in England and is still alive today. But she is way left.*

Yes, I didn't know anything about her.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *Yes because it sounded sometimes like she was challenging him and sometimes agreeing with him.*

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *Yes, she was.*

Yes, she was a good interviewer. I thought she did...for a person who is not of the faith...she was very, very open-minded and asking the right questions as opposed to making the news, she was reporting the news.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT *She had done her homework.*

Yes, I thought she did well.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *She wasn't being [UNCLEAR] {MUCH LAUGHTER}. [UNCLEAR]*

We have you on tape as saying, "Forget women." {LAUGHTER}

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *Forty-three years later she would be about your age. [MUCH LAUGHTER]*

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *One of the things I noticed is that he obviously had a mastery of Scripture but he also very often responded to comments with the preface, "It is my position..." and I have often thought then turns the attention toward the person speaking...the Christian was stating his or her position. Wouldn't it had been better in your opinion to continue to repeat the phrase, "This is what God says." Or to say, "This is God's position." As opposed to, "It is my position?"*

Well, I think you are always in the strongest position when you don't make it about me or my thoughts, or my opinion. Basically, my opinion is irrelevant. It is really, what the Scriptures say. I think when I'm in a situation like that, I would say, "The Scripture says this or according to the Scripture..." Always take them back to the Scripture, I think that is your most solid ground. But that is also the thing that is going to antagonize people the most. You have to understand the consequence of that, the moment you say, "The Scripture says..." They will say, "Well that is your opinion." So you have to be careful...I would agree with you. It is stronger when we can say, "This is what the Scripture says. I hold the Biblical position of..." That is the way I say it..."I hold the Biblical position of"...or "that is not my position because the Scripture says this..."

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *His bluntness to me was very endearing. But it was probably pretty antagonizing to people who say or only heard "this is what I think."*

You notice one thing he applied...he agreed with his adversary. Did you notice that? The Scripture says, "Agree with your adversary." Did you notice that? He said, "Of course." The moment you do that you deflate them so agree with your adversary. And that is what he did several times.

Yes, sir?

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *I think it is worthwhile when we have the opportunity to study Romans 6, which is titled "Dead to Sin, Alive to God."*

And? {LAUGHTER} No, that's great. Romans 6 says we are dead to sin and alive to God. Don't let the members of your body become slaves to sin but let your body become slaves of righteousness. That is the point we're talking about.

Yes, please?

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *Did he clarify later that his opinion was based on Scripture? And Paul's the example as he was persecuted in the church and now...*

Yes, he did. He made it very clear. Yes, that's a good point. It is very obvious that he comes from a Biblical perspective and a Biblical standard. So he certainly did that well. I agree.

Anything else? Yes, Sig.

SIG: *This was a series on the condition of mankind, it says on the YouTube thing. Do you think if this was held in 2014 that a man of his stature would even be invited?*

No...

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *Ron UNCLEAR] would be invited to YouTube to speak to that subject.*

Well, you know there have been several programs...late night programs...where I know my friend John McArthur has been on there and I have talked to him about it. He has been on there with...who is the hero out in Houston? Joel Osteen? So you will have a Joel Osteen, you'll have a John MacArthur and a couple of other people in between. A Catholic priest and then it will be, "What are your opinions?" John has said to me it is very, very, frustrating to him because he is with other people who proclaim evangelicalism but their perspective is really very, very to the left and very liberal, and they are the ones who are given the hey day as opposed to somebody who is approaching it like Dr. Jones.

So I think that would be difficult. Take a look at the movies. How do they make out ministers?

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANTS: *Weak, they all have affairs somewhere in their life, intolerance, simple-minded.*

Yes, they make ministers out to be weak, wimps...so even in our entertainment industry they project pastors as opposed to being strong and warrior-like, they produce them to be weak, wimps and so forth because that is the image of society. I think even when you take a look at the opportunities we've had to have somebody of an evangelical stance beyond one of the late night shows, they are out-numbered by the other side and many ridiculed because most of the time the interviewer wants to make the news as opposed to reporting the news. That is why they do it and that is a difference. At least I give her credit; she was not trying to make news but she was trying to interview a person who she disagreed with and I thought she did a very, very good job. I wish we had reporters who would take that approach today as opposed to saying, "Well, that's your opinion and my opinion is this...and they try to make the news. I think it would be a vastly different thing.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *I thought it was an interesting point that he did not say, "man is not just sick, we're rebellious" and the law shows our rebellion.*

Exactly. Now see, that is where he comes in as a physician. He gave the illustration of diagnosis not treatment. What we are doing in the church is that we are doing treatment. We are not doing any diagnosis. What he really highlighted from his medical perspective was that there is a diagnosis that we need to deal with in the

church before we can deal with the treatment. What we deal with now in our church today is the treatment of everything and not the diagnosis. That is a great point.

Yes, please.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *I've been thinking about this in the nature of the interviewer in question. As you said, I don't think he would ever give an interview like this again...at least in modern times...given how long the answers were and how open the questions were. Normally, you have someone who is trying to put you into a box. I wonder though the nature of his responses...I don't think changes...because essentially...not from his standpoint but from the standpoint of who would get a similar question, how do we get to the point where he can give the explanation. I often wonder if the explanation is the same way. You give the answer, their expecting not the "yes, I disagree" but "of course I disagree and here is why" and that gives almost the sound-bite that people want to say, "Oh, this is ridiculous, he already has admitted that he is backwards, e is not going to listen to this. But I wonder if by giving that directive an answer you get the attention of "that was so ridiculous, I've got to hear what he is going to say... Because that long explanation is the reality, it is not a sound-bite answer to any of this.*

Yes, that's true. You know, we are never, ever going to project how somebody is going to respond to it. Remember, those who are not in Christ have blinders on so they are going to make it out to be whatever they want it to be as opposed to what it should be. We really cannot conjecture what that would be. All we can do, Guys, is take a Biblical stance and make sure that our answers are on solid ground, and we give a demonstration of the hope that is within us, based upon the Biblical data.

Yes, Dick.

DICK: *It just comes across, I think, in that interview the importance of knowing Scripture. It's too often we are in one-on-one conversations or on an interview conversation and the interviewer tries to lead you and if you do not know your position, you are more apt to give in to where the interviewer is leading you because they are taking you down a path. I don't know of any of these Lone Survivor... and then the Lone Survivor has been interviewed many, many times. He will wait and listen to the reporter or the interviewer asking the question... he is thinking...then he acts, he responds. He knows his position and he counters the reporter very deftly and articulately. We need to do that exact same thing when we are defending our beliefs in the Word of God. So it is important to know the Word of God.*

Several years ago, I happened to see an interview of one of our well-known female early morning correspondents. She was interviewing a conservative black man and he was describing why he was monogamous with his one wife and going all through the things that he was describing against the homosexuality, against abortion, and all these things. Her response was this: "It is people like you who do that." Now he was smart enough to say, "Now, wait a minute, are you saying "people like me" it is because I'm black, because I'm conservative, because I'm evangelical? What are you saying, "people like me. What are you describing?" And he really nailed her. And I've never watched her since. {LAUGHTER} That is a typical... "it is people like you." She was trying to make the news by taking what he said and was very intolerant of what he was saying. That would be the system of the world.

We have to understand that the world is going to be intolerant of us and they are going to accuse us of being intolerant; but they are going to be very, very intolerant of our position.

Yes.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *To follow up on what Dick said about knowing Scripture. In responding, I think he is absolutely right, we have got to be in command of Scripture. The second thing for me...I think it is probably the case for most guys...is that we have got to be calm and pure of heart when we are communicating this. I find that there have been times in my life where I have responded, albeit with the truth of Scripture, I have responded with arrogance, or anger, or intensity, or frustration, but if I can calm my spirit enough to respond in love, I send both the truth and I send it truthfully.*

That is important. Often times it is going to be our demeanor and our response is going to be as much to whether or not we will antagonize them. Years ago when I was with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, I was with a young coach who is now an NFL head coach. We were going to a conference and we were confronted by a Hare Krishna in the airport at Chicago. This was his response...he took the book...the guy came up to us and said, "Would you take this book?" And my friend said, "I can't take that because I'm a Christian!" Well, the guy went over and just really tore into him. And I'm just saying, "Now wait a minute, coach that is not the way to do it." And he said, "Well, how would you handle it?" And I said, "Well, I'll take care of the next one." {LAUGHTER} And so the Hare Krishna went over and told a police man that he was being harassed by this coach. So the policeman came over and tried to do something, and the Hare Krishna said to me, "Would you like to have the book?" And I said, "Are you giving it to me as a gift?" And he said, "Yes." Then I said, "Thank you, I'll take it as a gift. Thank you for the gift." He said, "Now can I have a donation?" I said, "Why would I give you a donation, you just gave me a gift." He said, "But that was part of the deal." And I said, "No, you just said this was a gift. A gift doesn't require me to do anything other than to say 'thank you.' I'm just saying, "Thank you." He said, "What about a contribution." I said, "What for?" He replied, "For the book." I said, "No the book is a gift. I didn't buy it." And the policeman is there looking back and forth and he said to the Hare Krishna, "He's right, this was a gift. He doesn't owe you anything, get out of here."

I make light of that but the point that you're making is absolutely correct. It is the spirit behind our communicating truth. We need to make sure that we have the right spirit when we do this. We don't have to be defensive of anything. We are not on the defensive and we need to recognize it. I do not need to be defense of my faith life. I need to be gracious in the way I communicate it, but I don't need to defend it...defend it in the sense of being argumentative or quarrelsome that is what I mean. Certainly, I defend it with Biblical knowledge because the Holy Spirit guides us in all truth. Certainly, we do that. But we do not do it argumentatively or vociferously or with quarrelsome.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *On that note when I was younger, I used to go ahead to convince people and the Lord said, "You are not the Holy Spirit." We are to just love them.*

Yes. We cannot be somebody's Holy Spirit. Our greatest weapon, Brothers, is truth. That is our greatest weapon and we do not need to take a backseat to anybody with that because we understand that the Holy Spirit is the one who will guide people into all truth. Our job is just to represent that truth with deep conviction, deep compassion, deep compulsion and do it for the glory of God, and to make sure that our spirit is right. The Holy Spirit will take care of that. One great theologian said, "The only ability God requires of us is our availability.

We just need to be available and do that with a gracious spirit. We do not need to be defensive. I find it very, very helpful in situations like that to agree with your adversary. It is disarming. “Yes, I agree with that.” We should not be doing...whatever it is.

Years ago, and I think I mentioned this before, one of the largest cities in the country has a major prayer breakfast every year and they'll have 2,000 to 3,000 people and they invited me to come and speak. They called me on the phone and said, “We would like for you to come because you used to live here and would you come and speak at our prayer breakfast.” And I said, “Well, thank you. I'm very honored that you would even consider me.” The first thing I said, “Are there any restrictions that I would have...time-wise and other things.” He said, “You have about ½ hour or 45 minutes. The only thing you cannot do is mention Jesus.” And I said, “Well, I appreciate your honesty, thank you for answering my question. That is very, very helpful. I'm not your man because if you are asking me to not mention Christ, then I would be denying Him. I know people I can get who could come and do that, but that is not me.” So I didn't do it. Now people have said to me, “Oh, you could have done it anyway.” No, that would not have glorified God at all. So I think I did the right thing by saying thanks but no thanks. I just didn't do it.

Yes?

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *Were other people there of other faiths allowed to mention their god?*

Of course, of course. You could mention Buddha, you could mention whomever you want, but you can't mention Jesus. He said you could refer to Him as the man upstairs, the master coach, our friend, whatever but you cannot mention the words “Jesus Christ” because it might be offensive. I then said, “Well, I appreciate that but I agree that it might be offensive because I would be offended if they could not mention His name.” I would be offended if He wasn't mentioned. So we agreed that I should not do it.

Any other questions, Brothers?

I just wanted you to hear this and I thought it might be something that would stimulate some thinking in our own mind and we can pursue this as we go in the weeks ahead as we continue our study about what it means to be in the new covenant, living a life of triumph, because we live a triumphal life and we do not have to take a backseat to anybody. May God give us the grace to be brave. We call ourselves the Brave Men, let's act like it when we go out in to society. Remember, our ministry is who you are, where you are. It is waiting for us the moment we walk outside that door. Let's pray.

Father, have mercy upon me, the sinner. Father, thank You that He Who knew no sin became sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God. Father, cleanse us of all those things that are self-centered, narcissistic and ego-driven that we might live for Your glory. And may it be so for Jesus' sake. And all the Brave Men said, “Amen.”