

3/13/14

Week 11: Water for Life

Robert Jeffress

James: Thank all of you very much! We appreciate you being here, and we welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison; Betty and I are thrilled to have Dr. Robert Jeffress with us. He is not only one of our favorite people on this earth, and one of our favorite preachers, but he pastors one of our favorite churches.

As a matter of fact, if you don't know about First Baptist Church Dallas let me just tell you the impact and imprint of almighty God left on planet earth through First Baptist Church is eternal. The impact they had on my life, beginning when I was a very young man, and Dr. Criswell asked me to start preaching there.

You may not know this but he asked me to preach there every off Sunday I had as a crusade preacher. He was always there and always listening to me. I even had him go sit out front where I could preach straight to him and he just loved it. "I love it. I love you." He was cranking it up.

But this church, I want to say to all of you, you really have blessed millions of people. Billy Graham was a member there when I was preaching there. My how you've blessed him. What a treasure he's been. What a treasure you are. I love your new facility. I love the pastor that you're sending out with a message that's being heard like a clear, clarion call to call people back to God's Word and his truth.

This book, *Perfect Ending*, it's not an escape plan. It really is clear insight into why things matter and why they should excite us. *The Perfect Ending*; it is a book of prophecy but it is full of wisdom. It's not foolish dialogue and debate. It is well written by a true Bible scholar who loves everybody and he wants us to be a family.

Would you welcome Dr. Robert Jeffress to *LIFE Today*?

Robert: Thank you so much, James. Betty, great to see you! Thank you.

James: I know you are ready to go. He came to me and said, he said, "I'll tell you what, ask me this, this, this, and this." Let me tell you what -- he's right! If he could interview himself it would be better!

But just listen to this. I want to see if he can get through all this: Why did you write the book? Heaven's not the same for everyone. There are degrees. What is heaven going to be like? What are we going to be doing in heaven? How can one be sure they're going to heaven? I can't beat that. So just take number one and take off, doc! That is great stuff.

[Laughter]

Robert: Well, thanks for having me. And by the way, I was a teenager sitting in the balcony of the First Baptist Church in Dallas when you were preaching during those years down there and you inspired me then, and you and Betty do now. So thank you for what you mean to this world.

A lot of people wonder about why a book on Bible prophecy? Because frankly, it is out of vogue right now; a lot of people aren't talking about Bible prophecy. Some people think it is too confusing to understand. They think you have to have a Ph.D. in theology or at least be proficient at tea leaf reading in order to understand the end times.

[Laughter]

There are Christians who reach for a Tylenol bottle whenever their read-through-the-Bible plan lands in Revelation. They think oh, no! This is just too complicated! And yet God put so much information in the Bible about the future. For every one promise about the first coming of Christ, there are eight prophecies about the second coming of Christ. And no, we can't know the when.

I'm not Harold Camping reincarnated, one of these guys trying to set the dates of the rapture but I think God does want us to understand.

There are other people out there who say, "Well, why should I study prophecy? It's so irrelevant to my everyday life." I may be talking out there to a woman right now who said, "I'm not nearly as concerned with the beast in Revelation 13 as I am the beast I'm married to right now and how I'm going to get along with him."

People think it is not relevant. But the fact is, the Bible never divorces the truth of Christ's future return with our present responsibility. If there really is going to be a rapture when Christians are caught up to meet the Lord in the air and we leave everything behind, shouldn't that cause us to hold our possessions a little more loosely right now?

James: Absolutely!

Robert: If there really is going to be a great white throne judgment like Revelation 20 prophesies, when all unbelievers will be judged and sentenced to an eternity in hell, shouldn't that be an incentive for us right now to share Christ with everyone we know? And if there really is a judgment seat of Christ where we as Christians are going to appear and be evaluated and be rewarded for what we've done or haven't done, shouldn't that make us have a God-centered life right now?

James and Betty, I hear all the time people say, "Some Christians are so heavenly-minded they're no earthly good." I've never met a Christian like that. Most of the Christians I deal with, the problem I deal with in my own life is being so earthly-minded I'm no heavenly good.

God wants us to think about the future, not as an escape. I think about C.S. Lewis and I write in my book a quote of Lewis'. He said, "History has shown that the Christians who make the most difference in this world are the ones who think most about the second world, and the next world." And that's why I wrote *Perfect Ending*.

James: They actually think in light of eternity.

Robert: That's right! They have an eternal mindset.

James: That's a God perspective.

Robert: The subtitle of *Perfect Ending* is: Why your eternal future matters today. Because this book is not just a book of information, it is a book about transformation; how the truth of Christ's second coming ought to impact your life. But you know I'd say to people watching right now, the opposite is true too and that is, what we do today matters for eternity.

I'm talking out there right now to a mom who has a house full of preschoolers and you're wondering, can I stand this any longer? How much longer is this going to go on? What you're doing today really does matter for eternity.

There are some of you right now who are in a difficult marriage and you're really wondering, am I going to stay in this marriage or am I going to do the easy thing and leave?

Well, the truth is, obeying Christ and doing the hard thing has eternal consequences and that's what I'm trying to do in *Perfect Ending*, talk about why the future really makes a difference today.

James: It does! You actually talk that we will have rewards. I find in my own life that when I bless someone I get an immeasurable, indescribable blessing out of it. To serve others really is the greatest work, as far as kingdom work, and I get a blessing out of that. But you were pointing out very clearly that there actually will be some rewards in heaven and that should excite people?

Robert: That's right! One of the greatest lies about heaven is that it is going to be the same for everybody. No, it's not. It's not the ultimate in socialism where everybody gets the same thing. There are degrees of heaven. The fact is, our good works do

absolutely nothing to secure our salvation but after we're saved they have a great deal to say about our eternity.

Paul said in Second Corinthians five, and he was talking to Christians, he said, "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one of us may be rewarded for what we've done in the body, whether it be good or worthless." And the Bible says we're going to have our life evaluated, First Corinthians 3 says: It will be the fire of God's judgment that will determine whether our life has been wood, hay, or straw, or gold, silver, and precious stones. It goes on to say that the person whose life is judged to be worthless, he will suffer loss, even though he himself will be saved.

People ask me all the time, "Are you saying people can actually have regret in heaven?"

Yes! The Bible says people will suffer real measurable loss when they see what could have been theirs had they been more faithful to Christ.

People say, "Well, how can you have inexpressible joy in heaven and also regret in heaven?"

I like to use this illustration. Imagine that you're asleep one night. Suddenly you smell smoke in your house. You realize your house is on fire; you grab your mate, hopefully,

[Laughter]

and you grope through the smoke and you kick out a window and you jump out the window. You're standing there on your front lawn watching your house go up in flames. What is going to be your feeling right then? Certainly there's going to be joy that you escaped the flames and that you're alive.

But there is also going to be a sadness as you see everything you have burned up. That's going to be true in heaven. The fact is, whatever these rewards are, I think they're special praise from the master we're going to receive if we earn rewards. I think it's going to be special privileges in heaven that the Bible talks about. It's going to be

special positions of authority that we're going to have. Whatever these rewards are, the Bible says, they're worth working for.

Again, to those of you watching right now, you don't have to be a pastor, you don't have to be a world famous evangelist or television personalities on Christian television to earn rewards. You know A.W. Tozer said, "It is not what a person does that determines whether his work is sacred or secular, it is why he or she does it." And whatever you're doing out there, if it is doing it for the Lord, there are going to be rewards in heaven for you.

James: I feel like I do that. I'm motivated to bless others and bless the Lord. I want you to go on. Let's touch some of these others now. I want to be sure you don't forget your outline here because we've got it written down.

[Laughter]

You said, "What's it going to be like?" That's one of the questions you wanted me to ask.

Robert: Yeah, one of these things I do in the book, *Perfect Ending*, the last chapter I talk about heaven and I know heaven is especially meaningful to you all right now as Robin is already there and you all are going to be there soon to see her again. But I answer the ten most frequently asked questions about heaven.

Now, there's a lot of misinformation out there about heaven. And let's face it, the Bible doesn't tell us everything about heaven. There's a lot of questions that are unanswered. People ask me, "Why is that?" And moms who are watching can understand this. Imagine you seat your child at dinner and you put a plate in front of the child with roast beef and carrots and spinach but over to the side is a bowl of blue bell ice cream with chocolate syrup on. Your child is going to have a hard time concentrating on the meal without going straight to dessert.

I really think if we knew what really awaited us in heaven, we'd have a hard time preaching sermons or doing these television programs. I mean we'd want to end it all

and get to our reward. So I think that's why God hasn't revealed everything but he's told us just enough to whet our appetites. I really believe instead of depending on extra biblical information about heaven, we ought to see what the Bible says. And there are some amazing things, these ten questions people have about heaven. Any of them strike you that you're interested in about heaven, James?

James: No, you go ahead and take off on it. I want to hear what you say because you know what the ones are that you touched on that you know you've heard.

Robert: Some of the people ask me, they have really deep theological questions like, "Are my pets going to be in heaven?" They want to know about that. Other people --

James: Me and Randy Alcorn think they will be. So if you need a little help on that, Randy and I will help you. We've got some people who think if their pets are there, we ain't going.

Robert: Other people wonder if there's going to be marriage in heaven, and I have some church members who are more upset that their pets aren't going to be in heaven than they're not going to be married in heaven. I don't know if that's true for you or not.

[Laughter]

The Bible talks about, for example, marriage in heaven. Luke 20; no, we're not going to be married in heaven.

James: Will I know her?

Robert: Yes, you will know her. That's another question. So get along -- keep getting along because it's going to make an eternal difference.

James: Well, it's going to be -- and I think you point this out and I think it's very important -- it's going to be a whole lot like earth because it will be a new earth. It's not like God made a mistake in the first place.

Robert: That's one of the greatest misconceptions about heaven; that heaven is up there in outer space somewhere. The fact is, after this present heaven and earth are destroyed, Revelation 21 says: And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, and I saw the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven to earth. We're not floating around up there. It's going to be our main dwelling place, is going to be this new recreated earth just like God intended it. It is Eden restored. That's going to be our major place of dwelling right here. And to me that's exciting. I don't have to dread some other --

James: And no mosquitoes! I promise!

[Laughter]

Let me ask you this. Now what are we going to do up there? Is it just going to play a harp and sing and wear a halo?

Robert: Of course, non-Christians have the idea of floating on a cloud, plucking the harp. But even Christians have the heart idea that well, it's just going to be a 24/7 worship service. It's just going to be church 24/7. To some people, that sounds more like hell than it does heaven.

[Laughter]

Let's be honest, I'm not trying to be sacrilegious here, we are going to be worshipping God. Revelation talks about pure unadulterated worship of God but that's not all we're doing.

See, we were created to do more than worship. We were created to work as well. God made us in his image. God is a worker. He created us to be workers. Remember Adam and Eve? Before the fall they worked.

God said, "You are to cultivate the earth and to keep it." Now they worshipped God while they were doing it, but they also worked. It's going to be that same way for us.

I know some of our audience are probably thinking right now, eternity of working? That sounds like hell to me! What about my 401K plan and retirement and then you're telling me I give it all up and go back to work again.

Think about this, the reason we don't enjoy work even though we were created to work is because we have bodies that get tired, we have strained relationships with other people, we have government regulations to deal with; all those things are going to be removed. We're going to enjoy work and accomplishment like God meant us to do.

Again, this is a little bit of conjecture on my part but I wouldn't be surprised if our work in heaven doesn't mirror something that we've done here on earth. A lot of people think, well, this world, there's a great dividing line between our life on earth and our life in heaven. God sees our life as a continuum.

We were talking about our friend, Randy Alcorn. He says, "You know earth is a running start either into heaven or into hell." The fact is, I think there is a continuum between life here and...

Betty: Because God gave us all different gifts, why would that diminish?

Robert: That's exactly right. You asked about people knowing one another in heaven. If you want to know what our bodies are going to be like in heaven, just look at Luke 24 and Jesus' resurrected body. The Bible says Jesus was the prototype, prototypos in Greek, he was the first of those who will be raised from the dead. His body was a prototype of what our bodies are going to be like. Jesus was recognizable to his disciples, Luke 24. He certainly had a body that was superior to his earthly body. He could go through doors and do all this sort of thing. But his body was similar to his present body because people recognized him, he was able to eat, his disciples watched him pack down a big meal of fish. And isn't that great news to know we're going to eat in heaven? That's probably the best news some people have heard all day on this program. But our bodies are going to resemble but they're going to be superior to our earthly bodies.

James: I think the most important thing, that Dr. Jeffress makes clear, the way to heaven and there's only one way, the way the truth and the life; "No one comes to the Father," Jesus said, "but by me, Jesus."

Do you know Jesus? That's the way to heaven. He says, "Call upon me. Ask. You will receive. You don't have to beg."

Would you say, "Lord Jesus come into my life? Give me new life. I want to lose my life in your purpose and your will." "And therein you will find it."

Father, I pray for every person watching right now. You've touched hearts. Men are excited and interested about what Dr. Jeffress has shared. I pray they'll meet the Jesus he's lifted up, become excited about the future he has prepared for them, and trust the Lord Jesus today, right where they are. I pray that for them, in Jesus' name.

If you've given your life to Christ right where you are, you call, someone will pray with you or you can ask them a question. They will be happy to pray along with you.

We want to send this wonderful book to every one of you who will do something we would like you to consider. Dr. Jeffress, I want to ask everyone watching to help us give someone a cup of water in Jesus' name.

We tell our viewers, "We don't sell gifts -- we don't sell things, they're gifts." But we ask people to make a gift and we want to give them something to inspire them. We're going to do that. I want our viewers and all of us sitting here in the studio, this last week right now emphasizing the importance of giving people fresh water, I want you to look and listen. See if you hear God prompting you to do something -- something very significant -- something very eternal. Please watch.

Copy from 3/11

Begin video clip

Announcer: She moved so slowly. No, she hardly moved at all. And no tears fell

because that well had run dry. While no picture of health, Roen has been drained of life -- the kind of life found in your role as a mother. Death came. It took from Roen but then it took again and again and again.

Subtitles:

>> I had 12 kids, but seven of them died. I only had a little breast milk, it wasn't enough. I had no choice but to supplement with water.

Announcer: In this heat, the average person can survive only a few days without water. Though this water might extend a life, it eventually takes it, especially children because their immune system is too weak for that fight.

Subtitles:

>> This is our only water source. It feels like something has been taken from my heart, like I have no more soul. I think I'm going crazy.

Announcer: Trauma has taken its toll but because the water which took her children is still their only source, Roen knows that unless something is done to provide clean water that at any moment she could lose all that remains.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Our beautiful daughters, several of our grandchildren born with beautiful black eyes like that little girl. And when Betty and I saw Roen and heard her story we immediately drilled a well in her village. But there are so many other areas right there with her where we need to drill another one. But I wanted to tell Roen and that little girl with those big black eyes, honey, God cares and cares through us and shares through us.

Now Betty and I joyfully, from the time we started drilling water wells, asked God to always let us drill them. And right now it's gone up from when it started -- \$3600 when we started -- \$4800, could go higher. I pray God will always let us and enable us to do it. But we're asking you during this last week now of this emphasis to do all you can because we believe God has shown us the places to drill 500 wells. We're convinced the water is there.

Sometimes a bore hole will tell you, but we know we can do it but we need your help to do it. Let's do it together. And help the missionary that have pointed us to the place. Betty, I believe God is going to answer the heart cry of many mothers like that in behalf of their children.

Betty: I do too, James. I think you're a part of that answer. You're a part of reaching out and giving them hope. A mother knows what's killing her babies but what is she to do? That is the only source of water they have. And it might get them by for a few days just so it will quench their thirst for a moment but it's killing them inside. So help us reach out as maybe you've done many times before. We're going to keep asking because the needs are there. So please join with us and let's get some fresh water for them.

James: Betty, we not only do ask because the need's there but because we have the answer to the need. There are a lot of needs that we really don't know; there are diseases that we're still battling. That's why Betty and I support St. Jude's and other organizations that are trying to find a way and a cure and help those who need help.

Well, we have the answer to this need, it's fresh water. All we need is the resource to do it and that's your support. Would you right now dial that number? It's a lifeline. Would you reach out and touch someone with love, literally? Dial the number, take your bankcard, use it like a check. That's how you should always use them. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE*, that's what you're giving.

If you want to go online, LifeToday.org and you can give the gift immediately there, but please, today, during this last week, please make that life-giving call. Please be an answer to a broken heart like you've just heard and heal that hurt and save those children's lives. We're going to point them to the love of God that led us to give them water.

We have some beautiful special gifts to inspire you and bless you to say thank you. But we're asking you right now, please, go to the phone or go online and make the largest gift you possibly can. If you get a busy, be determined, be persistent, because

you're an answer to someone's prayer when you make that call. Thank you for doing it.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day millions of children are forced to make a dreadful choice: drink filthy, polluted water filled with deadly disease or die from thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision.

The good news is there is a solution! *Mission Water for Life* is one of the most exciting and viable demonstrations of God's love in the world today. Suffering can end because clean water changes everything.

With your gift today we can establish and drill 500 new water wells for remote villages in over 12 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for 5 people. A gift of \$48 will help provide for 10 people; \$72 will impact 15 people. And \$144 will help provide fresh, clean, disease-free water for 30 people for a lifetime!

With your gift be sure to request the *Awaken Now* audio series, a once-in-a-lifetime gathering of 23 anointed speakers proclaiming a powerful message for every believer in God's kingdom. With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request *Awaken Now* on both audio and video, along with the companion book containing the speaker's sermons and encouraging messages.

Finally, please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1,200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4,800 to help sponsor a complete well. And be sure to request our new commemorative sculptured glass statue, "The Blessing."

This is the last week! Please call, write, or make your gift online today

End of clip

Begin video clip

>> Don't order them if you don't want to be changed because it will change your life.

>> If you're wondering about how can you make an impact and what is it going to take and why aren't things changing? This *Awaken* series is absolutely going to fill in all those blanks.

>> If you're a believer, you need to hear what has been said at this conference.

>> Absolutely! It is a now word for a now time.

>> A now word – that's a good way to put it! It's a now word.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I hope we're able to send this to every one of you because you give a well, or you make a gift of \$1200 or more toward one because we would like to send you this beautiful collectible -- this beautiful, beautiful art piece that will reflect the light, literally, that radiates as a result of it.

We're also going to send the *Perfect Ending* book: Why your eternal future matters. This is fabulous. I want you to have it; you make a gift, any size.

During this last week that we have this emphasis now to drill these water wells, make the best gift you can and we're going to say thank you. The *Awaken Now* tapes, either the CD's or DVD's, the transcript, to bless you.

I want to say to First Baptist Church again, now hear me -- thanks for calling Robert Jeffress, one of your own who grew up disciplined in your church. I'm glad I preached and he heard me, and perhaps he was encouraged at some point. Thanks for having me preach. Listen -- thanks for sharing him with churches and people all over the world. Bless you, First Baptist Church.

Would you say thanks to Dr. Robert Jeffress for being with us?

Robert: Thanks, James! Thank you, Betty. God bless you!

James: Thank all of you. Thank you very, very much for helping us give even more than a cup of water. Thanks for it!