

Talmadge Amberson
Part Two
2012.3.50

Mr. Amberson stands at the front of a large room, addressing a seated audience. The recording begins mid-sentence and is a continuation of 2012.3.49 Talmadge Amberson Part One. There may be a gap in Mr. Amberson's two presentations because of the time and process required to reload the recording equipment for Part Two.

MR. AMBERSON: . . . and you have some great preachers, some—well, one of my great admirers [sic; means person whom he admires] is De Witt Talmadge, and that's who I'm named for, not Gene and Herman Talmadge [audience laughter], because my Uncle Doc admired De Witt Talmadge. He was a Presbyterian. And so—Billy Graham's wife is Presbyterian. Her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Glass, for years were missionaries with the same convictions that I have in everything but the church they belong to. Not that [inaudible phrase]. Ruth knows the Lord just like Billy does. Some of their children are in the Presbyterian [church], some are in the Baptist church.

VOICE FROM THE AUDIENCE, off-camera: [Inaudible question about Asbury Theological Seminary]

MR. AMBERSON: Asbury Theological Seminary is a product of that Cumberland Mountain Revival. It has theological persuasions that are like the Methodist church, but it would take Baptist—

VOICE FROM THE AUDIENCE, off-camera: [inaudible] Puritanical slant—

MR. AMBERSON: --Baptist spirit and fervor for declaring the Gospel and calling people to have a personal experience. And that's the reason we've studied the two revivals that have happened at Asbury.

VOICE FROM THE AUDIENCE, off-camera: [Inaudible statement, followed by audible biblical quotation] “By their fruits ye shall know them.” [Matthew 7:16, KJV] [Inaudible] want everyone to go to sleep on that [audience laughter].

Mr. Amberson acknowledges another question from the audience.

VOICE FROM THE AUDIENCE, off-camera: I'm a great admirer of Dr. Stanley. I think he's a very brilliant minister. And I just—my mind is sort of fuzzy on what all the stir-up was about three years ago at the Southern Baptist Convention between Dr. Stanley and—

VOICE FROM THE AUDIENCE, off-camera: Moderates and the Conservatives, that's what [inaudible].

MR. AMBERSON: I think—

VOICE FROM THE AUDIENCE, *off-camera*: And they haven't gotten over it yet.
[Inaudible].

MR. AMBERSON: I'm not speaking for all Baptists, but I'm speaking for myself. I had the editor of a state paper that called me before Southern Baptist Convention then. He said there's a great groundswell to not reelect Charles Stanley for the second term. He said, "What is your opinion?" And I said, "Whether I agree with him or not, I'd be strongly opposed to it."

VOICE FROM THE AUDIENCE, *off-camera*: Amen.

MR. AMBERSON: The only Southern Baptist president in about fifty or sixty years that has not been reelected was K. Owen White, who, for a health reason, asked that they not reelect him. In other words, we have made it tradition that a man nominated for a second term as president of our convention was automatically elected. Now, behind that, we do have some problems. It has gotten into the political arena.

VOICE FROM THE AUDIENCE, *off-camera*: Amen.

MR. AMBERSON: There are some—there are theological differences, but there are a lot of men that would not be far off in theology who are being used by some that would be far off. And we need to see that. I've got a young boy in the ministry—I was his pastor twenty-five years ago, just celebrated ten years at one church. He has been manipulated. And I sat down because the church invited me to come and to speak with a heavy heart to say to him, "Don't get yourself pulled into this." I know Barth, Brunner, and Kierkegaard, all them. I've studied it. I have a doctor's degree in theology, earned doctorate in theology, was asked to teach theology and teach church history at the seminary, and I do not agree. Most of us are within a certain parameter. We may have variations, but some of those that are out of those parameters are using people.

VOICE FROM THE AUDIENCE, *off-camera*: Amen.

MR. AMBERSON: And Charles Stanley's a good man. I've known Charles twenty-five, twenty-six years personally. [*Recording is interrupted by audience member crossing in front of camera and speaking. Mr. Amberson stops speaking and waves to her.*] I see I'm getting a wave back there.

VOICE FROM THE AUDIENCE, *off-camera*: Our hostesses say that the preacher's fried chicken is getting cold. [*Audience laughter*] [*Mr. Amberson acknowledges the message and continues his interrupted response.*]

MR. AMBERSON: Now, my biggest problem is I come on strong [inaudible] trying to say, and there's no personal feelings in it. It's just to express I've got deep convictions. And I like people that have deep convictions, if they agree with me or not. And all that I've said that's

been out of that framework. I have not meant to be braggadocio. I have studied, I do study. I [inaudible] off of writing a book. I've already been at the publisher to get ready for this. And I've got five thousand or so books in my own personal library. [*Audience member makes inaudible comment, off-camera.*] But I do read continually and study, and I read my Bible [inaudible]. And I work from the Greek and the Hebrew, not from the translations. Thank you. I'm glad to be here with you. [*Audience applause*]

As audience rises to leave, one audience member makes a comment. [First few words inaudible] excuse why they don't go to church, and I said, "I'd rather be inside a church with a few hypocrites than be on the outside with all of them." [*Audience laughter*]

END OF RECORDING

Transcribed by CS