Colossians 3 and 4
By Dr. Lewis T. Talbot

[Music Begins]

Choir:
We've a story to tell to the nations. That shall turn their eyes to the right. A story of truth and mercy. A story of peace and light. As story of peace and light.

[Music Continues in the Background]

Announcer:
The Bible Institute of Los Angeles Incorporated, a half century old Christian training center of the west presents verse by verse with Dr. Lewis T. Talbot, Biola chancellor and one of America's great evangelical leaders. And now, once again, your radio Bible teacher, Dr. Louis T. Talbot.

[Music Ends]

Louis Talbot:
And thank you, Mr. Announcer. Good morning, my radio friends, and friends of the Bible and Institute of Los Angeles. This is Louis T. Talbot greeting you and welcoming you to another broadcast Bible study. I want you, please, to turn your Bibles to the Epistle of Paul, to the Colossians. You know that just a moment ago, as I was waiting for the announcer to uh present me to you, I was listening to Jack McArthur over the, uh, another radio station, and his message suddenly warmed my heart. Alright, now I want you, please, to open your Bibles all of you, to have a Bible, and have it opened at chapter 4, or rather, we're going to look at Colossians chapter 3 for a little while where we left off yesterday, and then uh chapter 4. My dear friends, while we
have been interrupted from time to time in our study of Colossians, I trust that you have received a great deal of help from this study and that you have come to see and to know what a wonderful Savior we have. You know that this epistle presents Christ as the head of the church, the eternal Son of the eternal God, the Creator, and the upholder of all things, and that we are complete in Him.

Now in our closing study, we're looking at some of the exhortations that the Apostle Paul gives in regard to Christian living in different spheres of life, such as home, and husbands, and wives, and children, and also in business with relations concerning employer and the employee. Now, just before we continue this uh, these exho-the study of these exhortations, I have this brief announcement to make. You know that in a little while we're going to have another Lord's day with us. And I trust that all of you will be in some place of worship. Uh, be in your own church, if you have a pastor who stands for the truth and preaches the Word of God, then you encourage him uh with your presence. I just wish to say, for the benefit of those who have no church home, that every Lord's day here at the corner of Sixth and Hope Street, uh there are the regular services, 11 o'clock and then at 7 o'clock, the regular services of the Church of the Open Door. And then in the afternoon, uh there will be a service at 2:30 and then four o'clock in the uh, in the afternoon there is the testimony to Israel.

But I want to lay special emphasis upon the service that is to be held next Sunday afterno-noon at our La Mirada campus, because there is going to be shown uh the uh, there will be the initial showing, rather, of the Billy Graham picture entitled The Southern Cross. It portrays the great Australian campaign that he was privileged to have in the land of my birth. This will be the sh-
the initial showing of it. That is next Sunday afternoon. And I trust that many of you folks will make your way over there and you will have an opportunity not only of seeing this picture, the Southern Cross, but you will also uh see just how everything is being placed in readiness for the opening of the school, which will be in about nine or ten days. Now, my own personal ministry on the coming Lord's Day will be at the Linwood Baptist Church of which Dr. Gilbert Bellshaw is the pastor. Now this church is located at 3231 Minnesotan in Lynwood. And I will be speaking in the morning on Christ's Ministry, Christ's ministry at the right hand of God. What is Christ doing now at the right hand of God. And then in the evening, I am going to speak on the signs that point to the nearness of the return of the lord. The services there begin at 11:00 in the morning and 7:00, I think at 7 o'clock at night.

And no to the lesson. I want, my friends, that you should first look at uh chapter 3 for a few moments before we pass on to chapter 4. Now, in our study of Colossians, we have come to uh, to note some very very practical themes that the apostle Paul emphasizes in regard to our lives and in regard to our testimony here upon this earth. And the Apostle Paul is very much concerned. In fact, it is God, that he is concerned in regard to what kind of lives we live down here in all our relationships that bring us in contact with men. You know that the Lord, after saving you, just left you here upon this earth. He could have taken you to heaven, but my dear friend He didn't. Here we are. Some of us have been upon this earth for 30 and 40 years since He has saved us, and the Lord has left us here, my dear friend, for a purpose. And He is showing to us here how that we should show our light, that we may bear a light in the various relationships in which we find ourselves in this world. Now, many of you folks listening to me this morning are fathers and mothers, and God has a word for such parents. And then some of you are
children, sons and daughters, and God has a word for you. And then there is an exhortation to employers and employees.

I think, my dear friends, that a great deal of trouble in the homes and among juveniles, and also the trouble between capital labor would not exist at all if men could only come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and follow the commands that He is giving here. When we come to study what God says here about employer and employees, we cannot help but think of the great steel strike that is on, and a number of other strikes that are pending, that will have a tendency to paralyze industry in this country for quite a time. But the Apostle Paul tells us they, the, how Christians should behave in regard to these things. And I want, my dear friends, that we should face these things, because God is very interested in these relationships. And my dear friends if we don't follow what God says to us as fathers, and mothers, and husbands, and wives, and employers, and employees, then I do not think that our testimony barely amounts to very much. Now in chapter 3 verse 18, the Apostle Paul says a word to wives, and I touched on that yesterday. I'll just say another word. Just look at that verse 18. The Apostle Paul says, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands as it is fit in the law."

But some of you may say, "Well, Mr. Talbot, you don't know my husband." Well, I want to say this, my dear friend, if I am talking this morning to a wife of an unconverted husband, I would ask that you ask the Lord to give you wisdom as to how you should live before him. That is so that you may show him without preaching to him, without nagging at him, that Christ is a reality in your own life. Don't you make the mistake of constantly nagging at your husband and preaching to him, because that is not a wise at all. You know that before I came to be the pastor
of the Church of the Open Door, I had the privilege of being the pastor of the Philpott Tabernacle in Hamilton, Ontario. And uh that is uh, a church there very similar to the uh, to the church of the open door. And God gave to me a great ministry. But what I want uh, what I want to put before you in regard to that church is that I had in my congregation an old English lady. She was a typical Londoner. And my, but how she used to throw around her H's. You know that they, the Londoners are uh, are typical for that. That is, they take the H out where it is, then they put it in where it shouldn't be. And this dear soul was an expert at that. And do you know that she used to call me the pasture? That's how she used to address me.

And she said to me one day, she says, "Pasture, I can't understand why I cannot win my Johnny to the Lord." And Johnny was her husband. And she said, "You know that I am constantly at him. I am at him from early morning to late at night. And I say to him, I say, 'Johnny, you're going to hell and you're taking all the children to hell with you.'" And she said, "Pasture, you know that I never give him any rest from morning till money time, always at him." And she said, "You know, that it's a strange thing pasture that Johnny doesn't like it." Well, I said to her, I said, "My dear sister if I were in Johnny's place, I wouldn't like it too. You know that uh," Um I said to her, "That isn't the way that you ought to try to win your husband." Well, she says, "What do you think I ought to do?" And I said, "Well, I'll tell you this, my dear friend, when you-when Johnny comes home at night, that is at 5:00, do you ever have ready a, a nice cup of tea for him?" And she said, "Oh, no, we don't eat until 7:00." Well, I said, "You start in tomorrow and have a nice cup of tea for him." You know that the English are pretty strong at that. "And you just do that and just shine before him. And you cut out this business of being everlastingly at him."
And you know, I want to tell you, my dear friend, do you know that one Wednesday night, about a year after that, that woman's husband stood in the Wednesday night prayer meeting and told how that he had been marvelously saved through the testimony of his wife. I think, my dear friends, that a thing like that means more often times than a lot of preaching and a lot of exhortation and having a wife throwing a bunch of text at her, at her husband. If you are married to an unconverted man, my dear friend, you seek the wisdom of the Lord. And you submit yourselves unto the Lord. And I tell you, my dear friends, you can just uh, the Lord will guide you in regard to how you should live before your husband and-and with him, so that the Lord can use your testimony for the Lord. Alright now, the Apostle Paul goes on to say a word to the husbands, and I want your eye to go down to verse 19, where the apostle Paul says, "Husbands love your wives and be not bitter against them." Do you know, my dear friends, I think that I told you this yesterday, but do you know that uh, that God expects more of a husband than He does of a wife? You know, it is nowhere said in the Bible that the wife is to die for a husband, but it does say that the husband must be willing at any time to lay down his life for his wife.

And if he is not willing to do that, my dear friends, and if he is not ready to do that, then he is not a husband after God's own heart. You know that in Ephesians chapter 5 verse 25, that the Apostle Paul, in discussing this very thing in writing to the Ephesians, he says, "Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it. And do you know that we are to do that very thing for our wives, what Christ did for the church? Christ loved the church, and He gave Himself for it. And the Apostle Paul is saying that that is what a man ought to do for his wife. And when a man takes to himself a wife, my dear friend, he must be willing to
die for her and to go through seas of suffering if need be, and to go through anything for her.

Now, that is God's will, and God expects that of His own people. For these Epistles were written to the church, that is they were written to God's people. You know that somebody has said that when God created Eve that she was not taken from man's head, that she might rule over her husband, and that she was not taken from Adam's foot in order that she might be trodden down, but that rather that she was taken from Adam's rib, right near his heart, uh for companionship, and fellowship, and love.

And I think, my dear friends, that that is the thing that God is looking for. My friends, listen, you know that there are things that God is looking for. And these little things, when God looks at you as a wife, my dear friends, this is the thing that He is looking for. And you know, those of you who are husbands, oh, [unintelligible], well I am a husband, and many of you folks are husbands, and God is looking for this thing. You know, some of us, we want to be great Bible teachers, and we want to be great preachers, and we want to be this and that. But I tell you, my dear friends, that God, what God is looking for in your life as a wife, in your life as a husband, are these things that He has named here. And my dear friend, you may be the greatest preacher on the ba-greatest Bible teacher in the world, but if you are not this, if you're not the right kind of a wife, if you're not the right kind of a husband, what does it matter anyway? Alright, now let us go on to verse th-uh, verse twenty of this third chapter. Now he comes to the children. And he says, "Children obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing unto the Lord." Do you know, my dear friends, that God is pleased with a family that lives together in love?
What a wonderful thing it is to go into a home. And find a husband in love with his wife, and the wife in love with her husband, and to find the children, they are finding delight in taking direction from the father and from the mother. Do you see, my dear friend, that God is the author of the family and God is pleased when children are in obedience to their parents. I want you to that note this verse 21 now, in exhortation he says, he says "Fathers provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." Now he has just been telling the children to obey their parents in all things. And then he says, "Fathers provoke not your children to anger lest they be discouraged." You know that this is the only thing written here about fathers. Have you ever noticed? And he says, "Provoke not your children to anger." And I think that that means that fathers, in correcting their children, must be very careful that it is not done in anger. And when it is done in anger, my dear friends, it just generates anger in the children. You know that there is a verse in this regard in the twelfth chapter of Hebrews, it is verse nine, where the Apostle Paul writing the Hebrews says this, "Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us and we gave them reverence."

You see, my dear friends, that no child loses confidence in its father for correction. But when correction is done in anger, then the child gets angry, and that is all wrong. I know some fathers, some parents, and you're not young, they let their youngsters get along with anything. And then things begin to pile up, and then the father can take just a little too much, or the mother, and they make up for all the shortcomings of the children by giving them a real lambasting. And I tell you that often times that that is done in anger. Now, the Apostle Paul says, rather, the Spirit of God says, "Don't do that." He says, "Fathers provoke not your children to anger lest they be discouraged." You know, my friends, you know that there is, there-there is a reverence that is
created in the hearts of children for parents when they are corrected, if it is done in the same way. And I believe that we ought to correct our children, of course when I say we, well I guess I have to put in my grandchildren because my two children, they're well, they're mothers now. But uh, but you know, my friends, that we need to correct our children just as God corrects us. And when God corrects, us He never does that in anger. And He always does it in love.

Alright, now we come to verse 22. Now, here is a word my dear friends in regard to the servants. And he says, "Servants, obey in all things your masters, according to the flesh. Not with eye service as men pleasers, but in singleness of heart, fearing the Lord." Now the servant that he is addressing here, my dear friends, were Christian, uh were Christian servants. And you know that I guess that these servants that the Apostle Paul is addressing, in that verse twenty uh, twenty-two were slaves. You know, every wealthy man in that day had servants that he had bought, but there was also service that was paid for, and just as there is today. And I think that the labor problem, my dear friends would be solved as far as employees are concerned if they just follow this, and just to do the service not so much as unto man, but unto God. You know, if the labor problems were settled in God's way, they would not be any trouble at all. But I do not have any hope, my dear friends, that labor troubles are going to be settled in God's way at all until you can get employers and employees to really know the Lord Jesus Christ. But when you got unconverted employers and you got unconverted employees, how in the world can the problems of the world ever be solved, while a situation like that takes place.

But you know that there is a verse as far as a man being content with these wages is concerned. Some of you folks may say, "Well, preacher, you know that if we did not have unions, and if we
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did not stand up for our rights, well, you know, we wouldn't be getting anything." Well, I realize
that. But I-I that comes into my mind, my friends, what you have record in the third chapter of
Luke. Do you remember how that the uh, John the Baptist was preaching and a multitude of
folks came and start to confess their sins to John. And then they asked John just how they should
live. And in Luke chapter 3 verse 14, this is what John says. No, this is what Luke says. There is
the record of what John the Baptist said to these folks who are keen. "And the soldiers likewise
demanded of him saying, 'And what shall we do?' And he said unto them, 'Do violence to no
man, neither accuse any falsely, and be content with your wages.'" Now, that last clause, my dear
friends, would stop, uh stop all strikes, wouldn't it? Well, that is God's plan. And you must
remember, my dear friend, that this world is temporary. We're only in this for a little while.
We're just here as pilgrims and strangers. And let me tell you that there are men who lived 50
years ago, and they fought for higher wages, and they brought about a situation that caused
bloodshed and whatnot.

And you know that 50 years ago, my dear friends, that there is a gri-there was a greater issue
than higher wages, and that was salvation. That was the time when D.L. Moody and other great
Evangelists were sweeping through this country, and God was moving in the hearts of people.
And you take the men who are fighting for their own rights. Do you know, my friends, that if
they could come back to this earth today, I think that some of them would come to the
conclusion that they had been fighting for the wrong thing, because after all, "The world passeth
away and the last thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." You know that
somebody has said that this world is only the best of you-of eternity. I believe that employers
ought to give to their employees a living wage. But my dear friends, don't put the emphasis upon
that. You know that the emphasis is not to be placed on this life, but on the life to come. And so when they came to John the Baptist and said, "What shall we do?" John said, "I will tell you what to do. Be content with your wages." Now, we do not know just how the soldiers reacted to that. But here in Colossians chapter 3, he goes on to say this, look at verse 23, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as to the Lord and not unto men."

I think, my dear friends, that if there is anything lacking in the Lord's work in this day, it is earnestness. And Paul is there making a plea for earnestness and sincerity. He says, "And whatsoever you do, do it heartily as unto the Lord and not unto men how we love to meet somebody dead and earnest, a fellow that is head over heels for the Lord and not tripped up by every criticism that comes his way. One who doesn't uh give up on saying, "Well, I'm going to quit because I don't think that my services are appreciated." My dear friends, if you're doing anything for the Lord, you remember that the apostle Paul says that you do it heartily as unto the Lord, and not unto men. I read some little time ago the story about Booker T. Washington. That remarkable Negro whose life and name has gone down in American history. And it shows the kind of a man that he grew to be. And when he wanted an education, he went to a certain school and said that he would like to enroll, but he had no money. And they said to him, "Well, we need somebody to clean up around here. And if you know how, we will let you do it." And you know that they took him to one of the classrooms and told him to clean that room. And he said, "I swept that room, and I dusted it, and then I swept it again, and then I dusted it again, and then I did it the third time. And for good measure, I dusted and cleaned up that room the fourth time."
I want to tell you, my dear friends, that there's no wonder that Booker T Washington got that job. And folks don't work like that today, but folks don't do the Lord's work that way either. So the apostle Paul, he gives this exhortation, now just to complete all this, he says uh in verse one of chapter four, now listen, he says, "Masters," now here is the word to the employers, "Masters give unto your servants that which is just and equal, knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven." You know that that word master, my dear friends, there is the word that is translated in other parts of the word of God, 'Lord.' "Knowing that ye have a Lord in heaven." Now with the word master, you know that we are the completion of all that He has to say in regard to the relationships in which we live down here upon this earth. And my dear friends, my time is almost running out, but I want to say this. That so many of God's people would like to have a large service, that they would like to be great Bible teachers, they would like to be great Evangelists, and they-and I've heard so many folks say, "Why hasn't God put me on a platform so that I can preach to 50,000 people?" But I want to tell you, my dear friends, that what the Lord is looking for in your life and mine are these things that we have been studying.

And if you are a husband, the Lord wants you to be the right kind of a husband for Him. And maybe it will take everything that is in you, my dear friends, to be just that. And if you are a wife, my dear friend, God wants you to be just that kind of a wife that He wants you to be. And it may take you, my dear sister, everything that you have in order to be just that. So God's word to us is that just where we are, and just what we are, is to be for the glory of the Lord and to do everything in the name of the Lord. My friends, I want to close by stating this. That when we get to heaven, when we stand at the judgment seat of Christ, that we're going to find that some of the greatest servants that God ever raised up here upon this earth were men and women that you
never heard of. And it may be that when we get to heaven outstanding men that you may know, man who stand up and talk to thousands, my dear friends, they may take a back seat when you get to heaven. And you may find a lot of folks that were never on a public platform, never had any great spectacular ministry, but they just were husbands, and they were wives, and they lived in humility for the Lord. And you'll find that many of them at the judgment seat of Christ will be given the highest place in heaven. Read over those verses, my dear friends, because God is interested in. Thank you and have a great time on the coming of the Lord's day. Goodbye and God bless you all.

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