

Verse by Verse Revelations 2:18-28

By Louis T. Talbot

[Musical Introduction]

Announcer:

The Bible Institute of Los Angeles Inc., Half century old Christian training center of the West, presents: Verse by Verse with Dr. Louis T. Talbot Biola chancellor, and one of America's great evangelical leaders. Now once again your radio Bible teacher, Dr. Louis T. Talbot.

Dr. Louis T. Talbot:

And thank you, Mr. Announcer, and good morning, my radio friends and friends of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. This is Louis T. Talbot greeting you, as we come together for another study in the Book of Revelation. I want you please to have a Bible in hand. If there are five folks that are gathered together in your home before the radio, then I want five Bibles to be there. In other words, I want a Bible in every hand. And please turn them to a Chapter 2. While I make one or two announcements. You know, sometimes I sit before there's radio and I say, "Now, I am not going to make one announcement, Well but we're going to go right on with a study." But you know that there are always some things of tremendous import that I that I want to say to my radio friends. and I have a hear a word to say to all of you ladies and it is this: that I would like as many as you ladies who are regular listeners to this broadcast to become the members, to become members, of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles.

Now this is an organization that is made up not only of the wives of the faculty and of the officials of the Bible Institute, but of many of our friends who belong to various and evangelical churches. The Ladies Auxiliary meet on the campus once every three months, I think it is, and they plan their work in the interest of the young women of the student body. I think they had their last meeting last Tuesday and there were about a hundred women present; representing almost every evangelical church in the Los Angeles area. They have a wonderful time of fellowship together and their service to Biola is invaluable. There are always things that need to be done about the campus which only a woman can do. And I'm very desirous that the women of this radio class should be well represented. In fact, I'd like all of you folks to belong to this Ladies Auxiliary. If you would like further information in regard to this, my dear friends, you just let me know and I will be very, very glad to answer any questions that may be in your mind. But let me make it clear here and now that the ladies auxiliary is not a money raising organization at all, nor are down to any dues. Their ministry is along the line of rendering practical service, such as they are doing now. That is, that there in the midst of making curtains for the students' lounges, and many other things that only a woman can do. And of course there are many such needs in view of the fact that we have just moved the school to the La Mirada campus, and we're just beginning to get the students settled. And I trust that they'll all be settled in their new home before long. I'll be telling you more about this from time to time, and you'll have wonderful fellowship, my dear friends, with these Christian women from all evangelical churches. Now you just make a note of that, and I want you, I give you a personal invitation to belong to this auxiliary.

Now there is just another announcement of tremendous importance. You know that on Monday I have, I have another birthday. I just have one a year. That's all. And it's on the 19th of

October, and that date falls next Monday. And you know that I'm sorry, very, very sorry to state it, but I'll be 70 years of age. My, my I feel like Santa Claus this morning. But you know that I've been hanging on to my 60s for the last months. I've been telling everybody that I'm still in my 60s, and I've still got about two more days to talk that way, and then I'll say good bye to the, to the 60s part of a person's life and I'll enter into the 70s. I'll be 70 years of age, my, my. But it's a good thing that I have Social Security, isn't it? Somebody asked me the other day what I thank God for, and I told them that I thank God by heaven and I thank God for Social Security. But you know that I have spent 27 years of my life connected with a Bible Institute and of that time I was also with the Church of the Open Door. That is, while I was the pastor at the Church of the Open Door for 17 years, I was also president of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. And these 27 years have been wonderful years to me, and I thank God for what has been accomplished. But I thank God, my dear friends, very, very especially for the wonderful friends that the Lord has given to me. And they are the kind of friends that I not only have enjoyed down here upon this earth, but I'll be enjoying them when we get up into glory. Now, the one thing that I want to see done before I conclude my ministry here in the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, whenever that will be, well is to see that new memorial building erected. I always have, I always ask on my birthday for about 10,000 letters from all of the radio frames. And I'm sure that you're going to send the largest amount of letters that I have ever received on a birthday. you know, and by the way that the mail came in this morning and it was certainly a pile of mail, that the people just anticipating this and they're getting the jump ahead of me; and they're even now wishing me a very, very happy birthday. You address your letters to the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, 17, California. And, my dear friends, when you write if have you're having a chat on the book of

Revelation, You just make a request for that and we'll put it in the mail. All right, so much for that. Forgive me for all these announcements.

And now we go on with our study in Revelation Chapter 2. that is, in chapters 2 and 3 of the book of Revelation, as I'm sure you're beginning to see already that the Lord has given to us on an outline of the history of the church age from the beginning right to the close of the church age, when the rapture will take place. I trust that you're beginning to see, also, the significance of the messages to those seven churches in these two chapters which undoubtedly are descriptive of the seven stages of the church age from Pentecost right on to the Rapture.

You know that somebody wrote and asked me if I could recommend a good book on church history. Well, my friends, I think that the best book on church history that I know is that messages to the seven churches here in Revelation chapters two and three because they suddenly are descriptive of the seven stages of the church age that you'll find recorded in any history book. Now, we are making a study of the fourth message, the message to Thyatira, and I want you to read with me the message that the risen Christ gave to this church.

We saw that the message to the church at Ephesus represented the condition of the church at the close of the first century that is that close that the apostolic period. And then in Smyrna you have that the martyr period, and then in Pergamum, you have a description of the union, and union of church and state that came about in the fourth century under the Emperor Constantine. And it's a very significant thing that it is in the church and Pergamum that you have the reference to Balaam. And you remember back there in Balaam, that he was the fella that brought up a union between Israel and the people of Moab. And the people of Moab were heathen, but bailed Balaam manipulated a kind of, of a union between Israel and, and the people of Moab. That is, that Balaam had the children of Israel. That is, their sons married the daughters of Moab, and so

on. And it was just my dear friends, the very thing that took place in the fourth century when there was that union of church and state.

And now we come to Thyatira. Now remember, that in the third church there is this man Balaam. Now when we come to Thyatira, you will find a woman that is introduced and she was the worst woman of all history; and her name is Jezebel. Now they had Balaam in there in the third, in the preceding church, and my dear friends, it just shows you that when you tolerate evil and you just go on with a thing, it gets worse, and worse, and worse, and worse. And that's what we're going to see here. Look at verse 18, will you? Just read, follow me as I read. "And to the angel of the church at Thyatira write: these things since the son of God who are hath his eyes liken under flames of fire and his feet likened unto brass." You know, I pointed out in our study yesterday that the word "Thyatira: means continuous sacrifice. And of course, that is very, very significant in view of the fact that it represents that church during the Dark Ages. And the continual sacrifice that they have is over against the one sacrifice that Jesus Christ offered forever when he died on Calvary. He has offered one sacrifice, but in the particular church that Thyatira represents, that is a, it is a continual sacrifice. That is, that Christ is offered from a thousand altars every, every Sunday and all contrary to the Word of God. And then we see, we saw yesterday the significance of the title that the Son of God gives of Himself to the Church of Thyatira. He calls Himself the Son of God; that is, over against the title that is, that Thyatira, or the church represented by Thyatira, emphasizes that is that, that is the son of Mary. That Jesus is known in that church as the Son of Mary. Jesus emphasizes Himself, emphasizes in His message to Thyatira that He is the Son of God. It is very significant that fact, my dear friends, that is, that the Lord Jesus Christ introduces Himself thus as the Son of God.

Now look at verse 19 and you'll read this: the risen Christ says to the church at Thyatira "I know thy works, and charity, and service, and thy patience, and thy works. And the last be more than the first." Do you see that the Lord always commends anything that He can give commendation to? And you know that for years the only hospitals and charitable institutions in Europe were carried on by this church. Of course until the Reformation, my friends, that was the only, only church in existence--even in its corrupt form. But in spite of its corruption, in doctrine there was a service rendered to the sick and to the needy that the Lord Jesus Christ took a recognition of. And without a doubt there are many self-sacrificing sisters belonging that organization that really loved the Lord, and rendered service to the handicapped, and to the sick, and to the dying, and to the underprivileged that the Lord takes notice of. And you know that we can learn a lesson from this; because in our appraisal of people, you know that we are so prone to be occupied wholly and solely with all of their weaknesses, to such an extent as to become blind to anything that may be commendable about them. But whenever the Lord, our Lord, says anything about a church that He can commend He does it, even in Thyatira, and commends them for this. And then He goes on to say something very, very serious and in verse 20. Now, follow me as I read verse 20: "notwithstanding," says the risen Christ, "notwithstanding I have a few things against the, because thou suffers that woman Jezebel which calleth herself a prophetess to teach and seduce my servants and to commit fornication. " that is that spiritual fornication and fornication. Spiritual fornication, my dear friends, and friendship with the world. "And to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. I gave her space to repent of her fornication and she repented."

Now my friends you know that the worst woman in all history that we know anything about was this woman, Jezebel. She lived in the Old Testament days, in a period of Israel's worst

declension. And she was largely responsible for that, for that declension. It is very significant that this particular system, represented by Thyatira, should be associated with this woman Jezebel, who had lived hundreds of years before Christ came into the world. I want to ask: who was Jezebel? Well, she was a heathen woman and she was married to a Jew; and the Jew, of course, was Ahab, the king of Israel. Ahab wanted a wife, and so instead of going to Israel to God's separated people, he trotted down to a heathen country. And there was a princess of a heathen country by the name of Jezebel, and they were married. And so you have a Jew linked marriage to a heathen. Have you ever thought through that, my dear friends, and why that is put into this message to the church to Thyatira, a heathen married to a Jew?

Now listen. Do you know that the period represented by Thyatira is just that very thing? That is, in all of its church ceremonies it is just that; it is a mixture of Judaism and paganism. Because, if you go into any of the places of worship represented by Thyatira, What do you find? You find altars there, you find candlesticks there, you find incense there, you'll find men with the flowing robes, you find other things that have been lifted right out of Judaism, out of the Tabernacle and the temple. All those ceremonies in the Old Testament that were types of the coming into this world of the Lord, Jesus Christ, just as the Lord, Jesus Christ, said to the Pharisees of these days search the scriptures for they are they which testify of Me. And when Jesus say search the Scriptures He was not talking about the New Testament, because the New Testament hadn't been written. He was talking about the Old Testament and He was referring to all those lambs that were offered and the brazen alter, and the golden candlestick, And that the golden alter of incense, and what have you. And then the priest that were walking around with all of that beautiful robes and my dear friends, they were all shadows in the temple of the coming into this world of the Lord Jesus Christ. and you knew that when you come also to a study of

Thyatira You also find a lot of things, my dear friends, that were not of Judaism and not of Christianity, either. That is, that they were just incorporated from the pagan religions that were associated with the Roman Empire in the days of Constantine.

Now, coming back to Jezebel: who was she? She was a pagan, married to a Jew. My friends, think that thing through will you? Because, in Thyatira, You have represented a system that is just that: that is, it's paganism and Judaism, and Jezebel was the symbol of the whole thing. I want you, my dear friends, just to look with me for a little while at the history of Jezebel. I want you to read with me, I went to and Note, my friends, and I went to read a little from the Old Testament because all this is very, very significant. You know who Jezebel was. She was the wicked woman in the Old Testament. King Aham went to a, to a heathen nation, and he married this princess, Jezebel, and brought her to Israel and when she brought to it, when she came to Israel, my dear friends, she brought all of a false gods with her, do you remember that? And she got old Ahab worshipping the false gods, and she brought them right into the nation of Israel. And all of the false gods, with all manner of uncleanness until God had it destroyed. But how is it, my dear friends, you finding that this woman, Jezebel, in a church? This is a horrible thing. Where do we find this woman, Jezebel? You'll find a here in third or second chapter of Revelation. Do you find or do you find her in the world? No, she's in a church, my friends. Jezebel, the Old Testament mother of harlots, found in a church. And I want to say this to you, my friends, and I want you to think it through. That the church can be the best thing on earth, or it can be the worst thing on earth. The church used to hold a light. A light. That's why the church is in the world: to hold a light. A light that will lead souls to Christ and to show the way of salvation to heaven. That's the reason why the church is in the world. but, my dear friends, Listen if it loses that, if it loses that light, if it loses its message concerning the finished work of Christ

and it no longer points the way to heaven, Millions of people will go on to start trusting the church rather than trusting the Lord, Jesus Christ. And I want to tell you that if a man or a woman trusts anything else except the finished work of the Lord, Jesus Christ, he or she shall be lost and it becomes the church that, that loses its message. It just becomes the worst thing in the world.

You know that after my broadcast this morning I talked with a woman for about a solid hour on the radio. I guessed that she had listened to this broadcast, and I talked to her for a solid hour. She called me on the phone and the subject of our conversation just boiled down to this: as to whether it's the church that saves a person or whether it is Christ that saves the person. and my dear friends, I don't know how far I got along in my conversation, but I want on to tell you there are only two religions in the world and one of two letters and the other is of four letters. You know that the religion of two letters, is two words rather, is D O and the other religion of four words is D O N E, done. Jesus Christ died on, and you and I are left into this world, my dear friends, to give a testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ. and when anything comes in to destroy that testimony and to destroy that message concerning the finished work of Christ, Then the church has absolutely no way, no way of justification for her existence in the world. And because of the messages that are being given from a thousand pulpits today, my dear friends, and I say this without any reservation at all, although it is a painful thing to say, but because of some messages that are given in the church today millions of people are going to hell because they're being shown the wrong way to heaven altogether.

This woman Jezebel came from a heathen country, and she married a Jew. And I tell you what she did: She corrupted the whole, the whole testimony of the nation of Israel. And God's purpose for the nation of Israel was destroyed. I tell you that that is what happened, my dear

friends, in, from the 4th century to the 15th century. Now I can't say very much about what's on my heart because, because we're on the radio. But I want to the look of this verse 24. Look at this verse 24 of the second chapter, and you hear the risen Christ says this, "and unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as had not this doctrine and hath known the depths of Satan." My friends, don't you see? That was the devil's deepest work that depths of Satan is the thing that he did to the church. My dear friends, a lot of folks think that the depths of Satan is the liquor traffic. Well I want to tell you that the liquor traffic is bad enough, but that isn't the depths of Satan. The worst thing that the devil has ever done in the depths of his iniquity is the thing, my dear friends that he's done to the professing church. Why, some folks never hear the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is, in regard to the meaning of his death on Calvary, from January to December. Now you folks know that. And then there is one great big body. And you know what it is; and it's devoted more. That is nine tenths of it is heathenism, and there's a little bit of Judaism in connection with it. Now look at verse 24, "But unto you I say and unto the rest in Thyatira as many as have not this doctrine and which have not known the depths of Satan." You see, my friends that was the devil's deepest work. His most abominable work, and the worst thing that the devil ever did. And he did it in the thing that called itself the Church of Christ, the professing church.

Now let me tell you that this is not my word. You're reading, my dear friends, what the risen Christ said. Now I want--I've got about six more minutes here--I want to turn to the Old Testament. I read something about this woman, Jezebel. And if you've got a pencil and paper you just put down 2 Kings Chapter 9 verse 30, Kings Chapter 9 verse 30 and you'll read there this is, this is the time of Jezebel's destruction. She was such an abomination to the Lord, that the Lord destroyed her. This woman was in Israel. That that ought to've been worshipping God. And the

worst thing was not in that foreign land, but the worst thing, my dear friends, that happened in this Israel, the nation that at the altar of God. And this woman, Jezebel, came along and she was the one that destroyed Israel's testimony. Now I want to read the 13th verse 2nd Kings chapter 9 and "when Jehu," now Jehu was the messenger that went down there to destroy this woman, and we read, "and when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it and she painted her face and tied her hair and looked out of the window." I don't know, my dear friends, whether it is here that, that face painting began, but she painted her face. I suppose that that bus could be translated this way, which is into modern English: and she painted the lips and she plucked her eyebrows and had her head due. You know, it may be that, that's what it implicates anyway, but it didn't do her any good because look at verses 31-35. I'm reading now from 2 Kings Chapter 9, "And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said hath Zimri peace who slew his master? And he lifted up his face to the window and said, who is on my side, who? And then looked down to him two or three eunuchs. And he said throw her down," now this is Jehu, and Jezebel was up there with this new hairdo and with her face all painted and Jehu said throw her down, and they threw her down. They threw Jezebel down, and some about blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses, and he trod her under foot. And when he came in he did eat and drink and says, Go see now this cursed woman and bury her, for she is a king's daughter. And they went out to bury her, but you know what they found my dear friends? They only found a skull, and they found a few bones of her feet and the palms of my hand; and all the rest of her had been eaten by dogs.

You say what is the significance of all that? You turn my dear friends to the 18th chapter of the book of Revelation and you will find that when the apostate church comes together, that is as the scarlet woman. And in that organization, there will not be one real child of God in it. The authors called it the harlot, the mother of harlots, the abominations of the earth. Do you know

what God is going to use to destroy that that that apostate system? He is going to use nations like Russia, and they are called in the Word of God, dogs. And the nations under the antichrist are going to wipe her out. They're going to wipe her out all together, and that will be the judgment that is going to come upon the apostate church.

But, my dear Friends, I want to tell you that there won't be one real child of God in that apostate system at that time because the church will have been translated before the tribulation begins.

[Musical Outro]

Well thank you for listening, and Goodbye, and God bless you all. Don't forget to get that letter in the mail for me to reach me on Monday. Remember, I am looking for 10,000 letters the Lord bless you all.

Announcer:

You've been listening to your radio Bible teacher Dr. Lewis t Talbot Chancellor of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles Inc. Address all mail to Dr. Louis T. Talbot 558 s Hope Street, Los Angeles 17, California.

[Musical Outro Repeats]