

# The book of Revelation

*2 Timothy 3:1-7*

Welcome to the weekly verse-by-verse bible study in the book of Revelation. Make sure you pray before you start this, or any bible study.

Over the last seven weeks we studied each letter to the seven churches, in chapters 2 and 3 of the book of Revelation. This week, we are going to take a side step and actually look at 2 Timothy 3:1-7. Why you may be asking? Good question, and the answer is at the end of chapter 3 and reading the last letter to the seventh church, when we get into chapter 4, we no longer hear about the church, even though the church is mentioned 19 times in the first three chapters of Revelation, we do not hear about the church again until we (the bride) are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb in chapter 19.

† **Revelation 19:9** *Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."*

We will study this more when we get to chapter 19. But for right now, at the end of chapter 3 going into chapter 4, it seems that the church kind of disappears. Like all of a sudden it's just gone, and as we continue in chapter 4 and on of Revelation, we will read of hell literally breaking loose on the earth. And that's exactly what happens, the church is, what is called, raptured up to meet Jesus in the air and we (The Church, Bride of Jesus Christ) are taken up to heaven. This very event is told about by Paul to the church in Thessalonica.

Also note that there are two returns of Jesus Christ to this earth. The first we just mentioned, which we call the Rapture, where Jesus will return for His bride, the Church and taken up to heaven (See 1 Thes 4:13-18 below).

Then there is what's called the second coming of Jesus Christ, where after the seven year tribulation, Jesus will rule on this earth for a thousand years.

† **Revelation 20:4** *And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

There are some who say that the word "rapture" is not in the bible, I beg to differ because the word "rapture" is taken from the Latin "rapio" for the two words "caught up" here in 1 Thes 4:17, and from the word "Rapio" we get the word "rapture"

† **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.* (underlined for emphasis)

I love the end of this in verse 18 where Paul says to “***Therefore comfort one another with these words.***” Because in these trying times that are happening here on the earth right now, not just the USA, but the entire earth is experiencing the same things, that we as believers need hope and comfort during these times, as it seems the world has pretty much embraced evil and they are calling good evil and evil good, which God spoke through the prophet Isaiah about.

† **Isaiah 5:20** *Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

But not only that, but Paul also writes to Timothy and tells him about how things will be right before the rapture of the church happens, which is the time between the end of chapter 3 and the beginning of chapter 4 of Revelation, and that’s what we are going to look at this week. When we do, remember that this was written about 2,000 years ago, yet as you read it and we study it, it will sound like Paul is writing this today.

So, let’s get into this weeks text.

✧ **2 Timothy 3:1-7** *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

Or you may understand this better if you read it from the NLT

✧ **2 Timothy 3:1-7 (NLT2)** *You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is*

*good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that! They are the kind who work their way into people's homes and win the confidence of vulnerable women who are burdened with the guilt of sin and controlled by various desires. (Such women are forever following new teachings, but they are never able to understand the truth.)*

As you read about each thing mentioned by Paul, didn't it seem like he just wrote this over the last year or so, and it's just how the world, not just the USA, but the entire world is today. So, let's break this down and see how real it has become today, and how prevalent it has become just over the last 50 or so years. (Note: I'll be using the NLT version)

✂ *You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times.*

You read that and may be thinking, "Well, there have always been difficult times, so what's the big deal?" Which is true, but did you notice it say that "**there will be very difficult times**", not just difficult times. But you must also read on, because the rest tells us why it's so different now than it was 50, 100 or more years ago.

✂ *For people will love only themselves and their money.*

I think we could just stop right here and not have to go any further, because how true this one sentence or statement is. But read it together with the previous sentence: **there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money.** And to make it clearer, let's just change the word "for" to "because" **there will be very difficult times**, because **people will love only themselves and their money.**

People today are looking for joy, and they think they can find it in having money, and spending that money on themselves (**people will love only themselves and their money**). So, let me throw in one saying I heard about the word JOY, and what it would stand for:

**J**esus

**O**thers

**Y**ourself

You see, if you put it in any other order, you won't have **JOY**. Yet that is what has happened today, and if you think about it, using today's verses, people actually spell **JOY** backwards, **YOJ**, we know that because these verses speak of that very thing:

**Y**ourself: *People will love only themselves*

**O**thers: *They are the kind who work their way into people's homes and win the confidence of vulnerable women who are burdened with the guilt of sin and controlled by various desires.* People will think of others, but only if it benefits them

**Jesus:** *love pleasure rather than God.* People only think of Jesus when they are in trouble, and they need a genie, who they have named Jesus, and only call on Him as a last resort.

But not only do people love just themselves and think of themselves more than others, but they love their money, or just money, period. ***For people will love only themselves and their money.***

We know that Jesus spoke about money and the love of money, yet some think it's not good to have money or to be well off. But the bible never says that it's a sin to be well off financially, but rather:

† **1 Timothy 6:10** *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.* (underlined for emphasis)

Abraham was rich, King David was rich, Jacob was rich, Joseph was rich, Job was rich, and on and on. Yes many godly men in the bible were rich, yet they did not allow their riches to control them nor did they worship or walk over others to get their riches, even Abraham said:

† **Genesis 14:22-23** *But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth, that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich'*

We could go on and on about how people love themselves and money, but this is an obvious one. But let's look further on.

✎ *They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred.*

Boastful and Proud. Do the words "Social Media" sound familiar? Instead of "Facebook", it should be called "Boastbook", because that's what most of it is, people boasting on things they have done. Some Christians even do it in the name of religion or Christianity.

"I gave to this organization"

"I helped this person or people out"

"I'm fasting" or "I just got off a fast"

"I served in the church or at such and such a place for 2 whole hours"

Jesus says to those who do (I like how the message bible puts this):

† **Matthew 6:1-4 (MSG)** *Be especially careful when you are trying to be good so that you don't make a performance out of it. It might be good theater, but the God who made you won't be applauding. "When you do something for someone else, don't call attention to yourself. You've seen them in action, I'm sure—'playactors' I call them—*

*treating prayer meeting and street corner alike as a stage, acting compassionate as long as someone is watching, playing to the crowds. They get applause, true, but that's all they get. When you help someone out, don't think about how it looks. Just do it—quietly and unobtrusively. That is the way your God, who conceived you in love, working behind the scenes, helps you out.*

Yes, today people, including some Christians, are boastful and full of pride. But when you read the word pride, what comes to mind? The gay community maybe? But this is not the pride being spoken of in this passage, because it's referring to any pride that a person has, be it being gay, or rich, or famous, or having a bunch of likes on social media, pretty much wanting to be notice for "Their" accomplishments, even if it is against what others believe or what God says is sin (*They will consider nothing sacred*). That's why the bible says that, ***"Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall."*** Proverbs 16:18

Those who are full of pride bring themselves, as well as others around them, down. Look at the USA, and how Gay Pride is forced on everyone, and if you don't agree with it, you are called a racist or you are judgmental. But the truth is, since it has become the norm in the USA, and even around the world, we are being destroyed by it as a nation, and as a people.

As far as being, *disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful*. All you have to do is watch TV and see how the family is portrayed today, compared to how it was portrayed 50 years ago. Back then, dad was the head of the house, mom took care of the kids while dad worked. The kids were obedient and respectful to their parents and even other adults. But not today. Today the dad is made to look like a fool and stupid. Mom is made out to be the kids friend, and dresses and looks hot like a model, wearing skimpy clothes and having a perfect body and using that look to get her family what they want, flirting with whoever she can to get what she wants. And the kids appear to be smarter than the parents and are the ones who save the day when things go bad.

But it's not on TV only, all you have to do is sit in a classroom full of kids or even a Sunday morning classroom at church, and see how disrespectful the kids are to the teachers and other adults. Or go to the store or even some of your friends and families homes that have kids, and see how the kids talk to their parent.

My youngest son who is just turned 17 says to my wife and I every night, *"Thank you for dinner"* because he is grateful for what he has and he knows we are providing for him. We didn't tell him to say this to us, it's something he has chosen to say on his own. Whereas some kids are so spoiled that the parents feel like they need to work a second job to keep their kids equipped with the latest phone or tablet or shoes or clothes or...

Honestly, that's not the kids fault, that's the parents fault, by trying to give their kids everything they didn't have as a kid, or think that they deserve everything because their friends have them. And one of the big saying is that, *"My daughter and I are best friends"* Excuse me, but your daughter or son have plenty of friends, they don't need you as a best friend, they need a mom and dad who will teach them right from wrong, teach them what the bible says, and raise them up. The bible says to: ***"Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it."*** Proverbs 22:6 not be their BFF

So, before you start blaming Hollywood, and the movies and TV shows and video games and music. Stop and examine yourself and ask yourself, am I ***Training up my child in the way he (or she) should go?***

But this goes beyond our kids, its in us adults as well.

✧ ***They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good.***

“Get even with someone who does you wrong.”

“Fight fire with fire.”

“They hurt you, hurt them back.”

“I could never forgive them for what they did to me”

These all seems to be the go to statements and so many will nod their head in agreement with them. But that’s not what the bible teaches, or what Jesus taught us either. Jesus says:

✧ ***Matthew 5:43-44 You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you'***

Paul also said:

✧ ***Romans 12:19-21 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.***

But no, we want revenge, we want to see others burn in hell rather than forgive others or pray for others salvation, and the results is that; ***they will slander others and have no self-control.*** Doing and saying anything they can to make that person(s) look bad, even making them look, or making them out to be worse then they really are. What’s worse, they become like those that they hate and ***“They will be cruel and hate what is good.”***

How much of the world as it is today are you seeing so far in these things that Paul is saying, and we are not done yet, there is more.

✧ ***They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride.***

So many friends and even family members have become enemies and are spoken evil of, most of the time over something stupid, although it may not seem stupid at the time, as time goes on, people realize how crazy or stupid an argument was, but in their pride and wanting to look good, they would rather betray their friendship and ***“be reckless”*** and ***“be puffed up with pride.”*** But

betrayal is as common as the cold now a day, because once again, it's all about me, me, me, and if you don't agree with ME, then I will betray YOU, so that I can look good.

But not only that but: ***love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly.***

People today love pleasure rather than God. So many have rejected God simply because they would rather have worldly pleasure, instead of eternal, Godly pleasure in heaven. Paul even speaks of believers who have done this in his day.

† **1 Timothy 4:1** *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.*

And they do it because they ***love pleasure rather than God.***

I remember one pastor, who was my favorite teaching pastor, did this very thing. It was discovered that he had a couple of adulterous relationships and ended up leaving a mega church that had housed 2,000 people, has ten satellite campuses and has a Christians School, and a worship school. But he gave it all up for ***“pleasure rather than God.”*** But this is just one example, how many believers have gone back to the world wanting the temporary pleasures of this life instead of the joy of following Jesus. These also choose to spell **JOY** backwards as well, because they think of themselves (**Y**ourself) first, and what they can get to of **O**thers, who they put second and they put others before **J**esus, who they have put as the least important Person in their lives.

We know this because before they fall, ***“they will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly.”*** They simply allow the flesh to win out, because the bible is clear, that this is not a physical battle, yet they let the physical (flesh) win out anyway.

† **Ephesians 6:12** *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

And what does Paul tell us to do? ***Stay away from people like that!***  
Why? Well Paul tells us why when he said:

† **Galatians 6:1 (NLT2)** *Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.*

And

† **1 Corinthians 15:33** *Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."*

Even today, people want to bring others down to their level and to be accepting of their sin, because, ***“They are the kind who work their way into people's homes and win the confidence of vulnerable women who are burdened with the guilt of sin and controlled by various***

*desires. (Such women are forever following new teachings, but they are never able to understand the truth.)” 2 Timothy 3:6-7 (NLT2)*

But it's even worse today, not only is it women who are being dragged down and lied to, but the men are as well. And because they are, men would rather be a woman than a protector of the women. So they have operations or dress and speak and act like a woman, instead of being a man and protecting the women, children and others from the deception of the devil.

We could go on and on with how bad the world has become, and its so bad that we are not just noticing it here in the USA, but we are seeing it throughout the world. And why has it gotten so bad? Because people can't see Jesus in the world, for the same reason they can't see the real satan. Because they are looking for a man made Jesus and a man made satan that Hollywood gives them on their TV's, at the movies, and in their music. And by rejecting the real Jesus of the bible and accepting the false Jesus the world tells us about, they also ***“will reject the power that could make them godly.”*** And they think this false satan that the world portrays is cool and all that, and they think he will give them the pleasures that they want, which are those pleasures that feed their flesh. And he does give it to them, for a short time. But soon they realize that they will have to pay the piper, who played cool, hypnotizing music to draw them straight to eternal death, and they willfully followed him, not knowing where they were heading.

They are looking for a Jesus that looks like the false paintings of Him and in people who claim to be Christians but are not, but rather live in sin willfully and can say the name of Jesus, but do not want to be obedient just as Jesus asked them, ***“But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?” Luke 6:46*** They are looking for Jesus to be someone who gives them everything they want and ask for, like a genie or a Santa Claus, but they never look for the true Jesus in the scriptures. Since they can't find the man made Jesus, they will make up their own Jesus and refuse to follow the real Jesus of the bible Who died for their sins and sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven.

They try and bring God down to their level by calling Him, “The Big Guy” or “the Man Upstairs” or, “my Buddy” Just like kids don't need their parent to be their best friend, people don't need a God who is belittled by what we call Him or how we portray Him. Yes, Jesus did come as a man, but a perfect, sinless, man, yet people want a god who will be accepting of sin, so they can feed their flesh and not feel guilty about it, so they serve a false god and a false Jesus.

Same is true about why they can't see satan, because they are looking for a man made satan, dressed in red, with horns on his head and a long pointy red tail. But the bible does not describe him that way, but since they can't see the man made satan, they follow the real satan.

But what does the bible tell us to do about it, especially in these last days when Jesus can come back at any moment? Paul puts it into perspective when he told us what to do with such people who practice these things in the church.

† **1 Corinthians 5:9-11 (NLT2)** *When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin. But I wasn't talking about unbelievers who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that. I meant that you are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard, or cheats people. Don't even eat with such people.*

Simply, have nothing to do with them, because they are like a cancer in the church, spreading their deceptive ways of life and causing other believers to stumble.

Paul makes it clear that it's time to clean house and confront our brothers and sisters in the Lord, in love, warning them about the lifestyle they are living. And if they refuse to listen, well, Paul said, ***"Don't even eat with such people"*** He also said, ***"For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?"*** **1 Peter 4:17**

Believe me, this is not a easy thing to do or even teach, because we love our brothers and sisters in the Lord, so we try our best to give them every opportunity to repent. But some just refuse to, and for those, we have no other course but to let God deal with him or her in His way.

But in regard to the lost who are living these things that we studied, that Paul was say they would be like in the last days.

† **2 Timothy 4:1-5** *I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

We are to keep on sharing the gospel with them, even though most, ***"will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."*** And you probably know this already as you talk to people about Jesus or the bible, yet they still refuse to listen to sound doctrine and choose the deception of man's words, rather than God's words. Because the false teachings are what fill some of these mega churches, because they make it all about Me, Me, Me, and what I deserve, and what I can get out of this Christianity thing, and how I can go on living in sin, because I am forgiven, so God is ok with it. ***(they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.)***

But even though this will, or even is happening to us in the church and in the world, we must, ***"be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your***

*ministry.*” Keep on keeping on with what the Lord has called you to do, even if it seems the fruit is getting less and less, and it’s getting harder and harder to share the gospel. We shouldn’t be surprised because, “*in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be...*”

And we will end this week’s study with one last word of encouragement from Paul to keep on keeping on, and end it with a final word from Jesus to keep watching for His return.

† **Galatians 6:9-10** *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

† **Luke 21:28 (NLT2)** *“So when all these things begin to happen, stand and look up, for your salvation is near!”*

Well, that’s it for this week. Next week we will get into chapter 4 of Revelation as we get to see our God and Savior on the throne in heaven.

May the Lord richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy and may you *look up, for your salvation is near. Therefore comfort one another with these words.*