

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES

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**This Is Our
Spiritual Heritage**

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Song 15
Creation Reveals Jehovah's Glory
(Psalm 19)

1. Jehovah God, my soul is well aware.
A host of stars, your glory does declare.
From day to day and night to night they speak
And without words bring knowledge to the meek.
From day to day and night to night they speak
And without words bring knowledge to the meek.

2. For you have made the sun and moon and stars.
Great oceans stop where you have set their bars.
We lift our eyes and see your heavens grand.
We stand in awe that you remember man.
We lift our eyes and see your heavens grand.
We stand in awe that you remember man.

3. Your laws are pure, and your commands are true.
Day after day, reminders come from you.
They make us wise, are better than fine gold.
Oh, may we keep them, always to them hold.
They make us wise, are better than fine gold.
Oh, may we keep them, always to them hold.



LET NOTHING HINDER YOU FROM TAKING HOLD OF GLORY

“He that is humble in spirit will take hold of glory.”—PROV. 29:23.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

What glory may we receive from God?

What could hinder us from taking hold of glory?

In what sense can our endurance mean glory for others?

WHEN you hear the word “glory,” what comes to your mind? The radiant splendor of creation? (Ps. 19:1) The praise and glory given to humans having exceptional wealth, wisdom, or accomplishments? In the Scriptures, the original-language words for “glory” convey the sense of heaviness. In ancient times—when money was made of precious metals—the heavier the coin, the greater its value. Words used to express the idea of weightiness came to be understood figuratively to mean that which is treasured, magnificent, or impressive.

² While we may be impressed with the power, position, or reputation of another person, what does God look for in humans? The Scriptures actually speak of a glory that God confers on humans. For example, Proverbs 22:4 states: “The result of humility and the fear of Jehovah is riches and glory and life.” And the disciple James wrote: “Humble yourselves in the eyes of Jehovah, and he will exalt you.” (Jas. 4:10) What is the glory that Jehovah bestows upon humans? What can hinder us from taking hold of it? And how can we help others to take hold of this glory?

³ The psalmist expressed confidence that Jehovah would take hold of him by the right hand and lead him to genuine glory. (**Read Psalm 73:23, 24.**) How does Jehovah do this? Jehovah leads his humble servants to glory by honoring them in numerous ways. He blesses them with an understanding of his will. (1 Cor. 2:7) He bestows upon those who listen to his word and obey him the honor of a close personal relationship with him.—Jas. 4:8.

1, 2. (a) What is the significance of the original-language words for “glory”? (b) What questions will we consider in this article?

3-5. To what glory may Jehovah lead us?

⁴ Jehovah also entrusts his servants with the glorious treasure of the Christian ministry. (2 Cor. 4:1, 7) And this ministry leads to glory. To those who use their privilege of service to his praise and to the benefit of others, Jehovah promises: “Those honoring me I shall honor.” (1 Sam. 2:30) Such ones are honored with a good name with Jehovah, and they are likely to be well spoken of by other servants of God.—Prov. 11:16; 22:1.

⁵ What about the future of those who “hope in Jehovah and keep his way”? They are promised: “He [Jehovah] will exalt you to take possession of the earth. When the wicked ones are cut off, you will see it.” (Ps. 37:34) They look forward to experiencing the incomparable honor of receiving everlasting life.—Ps. 37:29.

“I DO NOT ACCEPT GLORY FROM MEN”

⁶ What could hinder us from receiving the glory that Jehovah is willing to confer on us? One factor is giving too much weight to the opinions of those who have no standing with God. Consider what the apostle John wrote concerning certain ones in authority in Jesus’ day: “Many even of the rulers actually put faith in [Jesus], but because of the Pharisees they would not confess him, in order not to be expelled from the synagogue; for they loved the glory of men more than even the glory of God.” (John 12:42, 43) How much better it would have been for those rulers had they not given so much importance to what the Pharisees thought.

⁷ Earlier in his ministry, Jesus had clearly identified why many would not receive him and put faith in him. (**Read John 5:39-44.**) The nation of Israel had

been anticipating the arrival of the Messiah for centuries. When Jesus began teaching, some individuals may have discerned from Daniel’s prophecy that the appointed time for Christ’s appearance had arrived. Months earlier when John the Baptizer came preaching, many were saying: “May he perhaps be the Christ?” (Luke 3:15) Now the long-awaited Messiah was in their midst teaching. But those versed in the Law failed to accept him. Pinpointing the reason, Jesus asked them: “How can you believe, when you are accepting glory from one another and you are not seeking the glory that is from the only God?”

⁸ How human glory can obscure divine glory can be illustrated by comparing glory to light. Our brilliant universe is abundantly glorious. Do you remember when you last looked into the sky on a clear night and found yourself encompassed by thousands of stars? “The glory of the stars” is awe-inspiring. (1 Cor. 15:40, 41) When viewed from the street of a well-lit city, though, how does the same sky appear? Why, city lights make it almost impossible for us to see the light emanating from distant stars! Is this so because the lights from roads, stadiums, and buildings are stronger or more beautiful than starlight? No! This happens because city lights are closer to us and they interfere with what we can perceive of Jehovah’s creation. To witness the wonders of the night sky, we must somehow block out or avoid the interference from artificial light.

⁹ Similarly, if the wrong kind of glory were too close to our hearts, it could prevent us from appreciating and seeking the enduring glory that Jehovah is willing to bestow. Many fail to accept

6, 7. Why were many unwilling to put faith in Jesus?

8, 9. Using the illustration of light, show how human glory can obscure divine glory.

the Kingdom message because they are afraid of what acquaintances or family members might think of them. But could the desire to receive glory from humans affect even dedicated servants of God? Suppose a young man is assigned to preach in an area where he is fairly well-known in the community but is not yet known as one of Jehovah's Witnesses. Will he shrink back in fear? Or what if someone is ridiculed for his pursuit of theocratic goals? Will he allow those without clear spiritual vision to influence his choices in life? Or perhaps a Christian has committed a serious sin. Will he hide his wrongdoing because he is afraid of losing his standing in the congregation or because he does not want to disappoint loved ones? In the latter case, if his foremost thought is to repair his relationship with Jehovah, he will "call the older men of the congregation" and seek their help.—*Read James 5:14-16.*

¹⁰ It may be that we are progressing toward Christian maturity but a fellow believer counsels us. His honest observations could help us if we do not raise a defensive shield because of pride, the desire to save face, or the temptation to justify our course. Or suppose you are working on a project with a fellow believer. Will your collaboration be influenced by concern over who gets the credit for your good ideas and hard work? If you find yourself in any of these situations, be assured that "he that is humble in spirit will take hold of glory."—Prov. 29:23.

¹¹ Overseers and those "reaching out" for such an office should likewise be

10. (a) How may excessive concern about how others view us cloud our judgment? (b) Of what are we assured if we act with humility?

11. What should be our inner response to commendation, and why?

ware of seeking praise from men. (1 Tim. 3:1; 1 Thess. 2:6) How should a brother respond when he receives sincere commendation for a job well done? Likely he will not erect a monument to himself, as King Saul did. (1 Sam. 15:12) However, does he readily recognize that his achievement was possible only by Jehovah's undeserved kindness and that any hope for future success still depends on God's blessing and help? (1 Pet. 4:11) Our inner response to praise reveals which sort of glory we are seeking.—Prov. 27:21.

"YOU WISH TO DO THE DESIRES OF YOUR FATHER"

¹² Another factor that can hinder us from taking hold of glory from God is our desires. Wrong desires can prevent us from hearing the truth at all. (*Read John 8:43-47.*) Jesus told certain Jews that they did not listen to his message because 'they wished to do the desires of their father the Devil.'

¹³ What we desire influences how we hear. (2 Pet. 3:5) Jehovah designed us with the remarkable ability to shut out unwanted noise. Pause for a moment and concentrate on how many distinct sounds you can detect right now. Likely you were not conscious of many of them a moment ago. The limbic system of your brain was helping you to focus on one thing while sustaining your ability to hear a variety of sounds. But researchers have found that the task of simultaneously differentiating between many sounds becomes increasingly difficult when it involves listening to human

12. What prevented certain Jews from listening to Jesus?

13, 14. (a) What do researchers say about the way our brains process human speech? (b) What determines to whom we listen?

speech. This means that when you hear two voices at the same time, you have to choose which one you will focus on. Your selection will depend on which one you *want* to listen to. The Jews who wished to do the desires of their father, the Devil, did not listen to Jesus.

¹⁴ We receive messages from ‘the house of wisdom’ and from ‘the house of stupidity.’ (Prov. 9:1-5, 13-17) Both wisdom and stupidity keep crying out to us, as it were, and that presents us with a choice. Whose invitation will we accept? The answer depends on whose will we wish to do. Jesus’ sheep listen to his voice and follow him. (John 10:16, 27) They are “on the side of the truth.” (John 18:37) “They do not know the voice of strangers.” (John 10:5) Such humble ones take hold of glory.—Prov. 3:13, 16; 8:1, 18.

“THESE MEAN GLORY FOR YOU”

¹⁵ Our perseverance in doing Jehovah’s will helps others to take hold of glory. To the congregation in Ephesus, Paul wrote: “I ask you not to give up on account of these tribulations of mine in your behalf, for these mean glory for you.” (Eph. 3:13) In what sense did Paul’s tribulations “mean glory” for the Ephesians? Paul’s readiness to continue ministering to them despite trials demonstrated to the Ephesians that the privileges they enjoyed as Christians were weighty and of the highest conceivable value. Had Paul given up under tribulation, would that not have conveyed the message that their relationship with Jehovah, their ministry, and their hope were not valuable? Paul’s endurance exalted Christianity and demonstrated that discipleship is worth any sacrifice.

15. How could Paul’s tribulations “mean glory” for others?



¹⁶ Think of the effect that Paul’s zeal and endurance had. Acts 14:19, 20 reports: “Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and persuaded the crowds, and they stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city [of Lystra], imagining he was dead. However, when the disciples surrounded him, he rose up and entered into the city. And on the next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe.” Imagine being left for dead one day and making a 60-mile (100 km) journey the next, and that without modern transportation!

¹⁷ Was Timothy one of “the disciples” that rallied to Paul’s assistance? The ac-

16. What tribulation did Paul experience in Lystra?

17, 18. (a) In what sense could Timothy have closely followed Paul’s suffering in Lystra? (b) What effect did Paul’s endurance have on Timothy?

count in the book of Acts does not explicitly say so, but it is possible. Consider what Paul wrote in his second letter to Timothy: “You have closely followed my teaching, my course of life, . . . the sort of things that happened to me in Antioch [expulsion from the city], in Iconium [the attempted pelting with stones], in Lystra [the stoning], the sort of persecutions I have borne; and yet out of them all the Lord delivered me.”—2 Tim. 3:10, 11; Acts 13:50; 14:5, 19.

¹⁸ Timothy “closely followed” those events and was thoroughly aware of Paul’s endurance. This made a deep impression on Timothy’s mind. When Paul visited Lystra, he found Timothy to be an exemplary Christian, “well reported on by the brothers in Lystra and Iconium.” (Acts 16:1, 2) In time, Timothy qualified to take on weighty responsibilities.—Phil. 2:19, 20; 1 Tim. 1:3.

¹⁹ Our persevering in doing God’s will can have a similar effect on others—es-

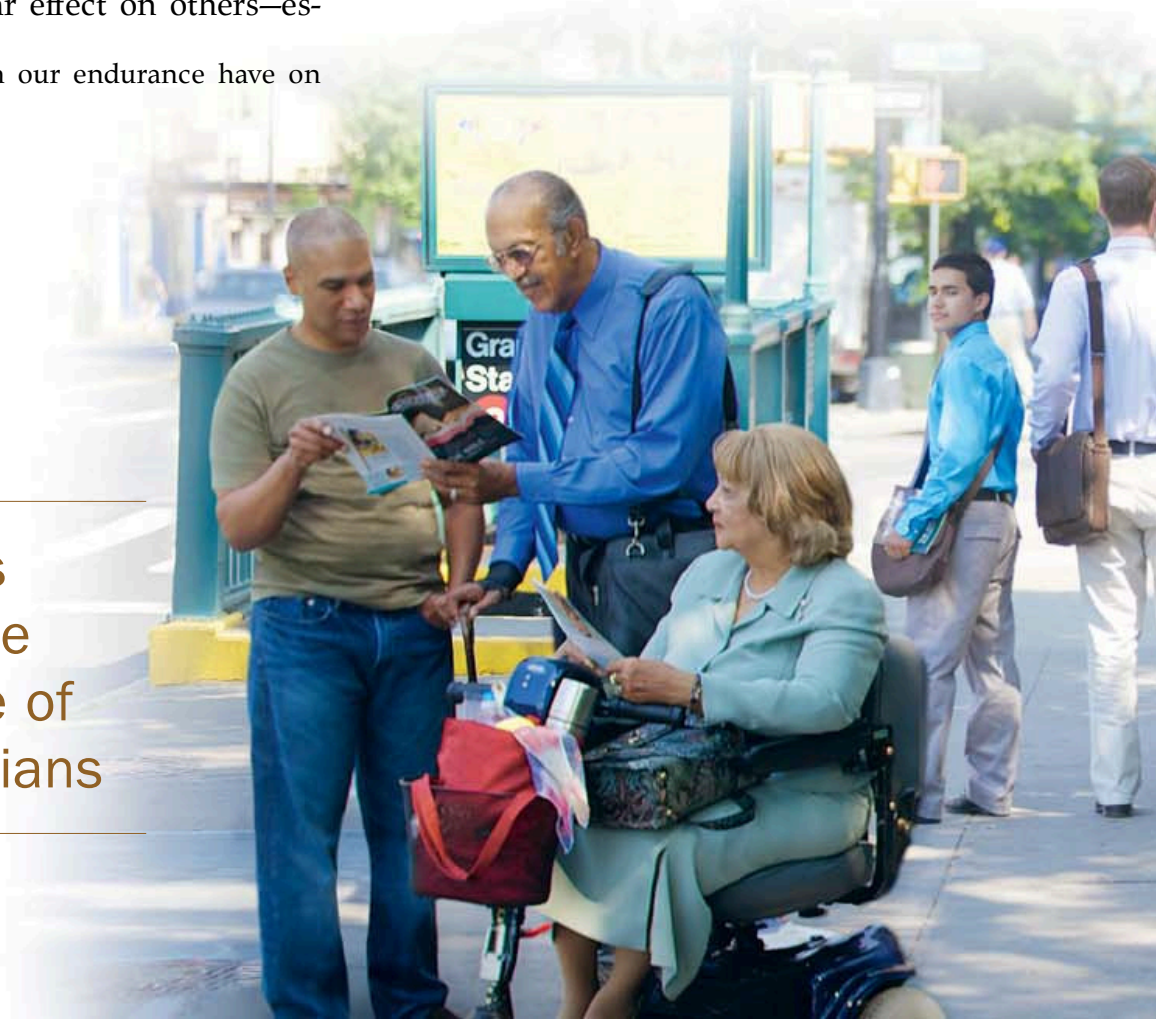
19. What effect can our endurance have on others?

pecially on young ones, many of whom will grow up to be very valuable servants of God. Young disciples not only observe us and learn speech qualities and skills from us in the field ministry but also benefit from seeing how we deal with the indignities of life. Paul ‘went on enduring all things’ so that all who remain faithful ‘may obtain salvation along with everlasting glory.’—2 Tim. 2:10.

²⁰ Should we not, then, continue “seeking the glory that is from the only God”? (John 5:44; 7:18) By all means! (**Read Romans 2:6, 7.**) Jehovah gives “everlasting life to those who are seeking glory.” Moreover, our “endurance in work that is good” incites others to remain steadfast, to their everlasting benefit. Therefore, let nothing hinder you from taking hold of the glory that God gives.

20. Why should we continue to seek the glory that is from God?

Younger ones appreciate the perseverance of elderly Christians





LET NOTHING HINDER YOU FROM TAKING HOLD OF GLORY

Proverbs 29:23

"He that is humble in spirit will take hold of glory."

PARAGRAPH 1

Psalms 19:1 The heavens are declaring the glory of God; And of the work of his hands the expanse is telling.

PARAGRAPH 2

Proverbs 22:4 "The result of humility [and] the fear of Jehovah is riches and glory and life."

James 4:10 "Humble yourselves in the eyes of Jehovah, and he will exalt YOU."

PARAGRAPH 3

[READ] Psalm 73:23,24 "But I am constantly with you; You have taken hold of my right hand. 24 With your counsel you will lead me, And afterward you will take me even to glory."

1 Corinthians 2:7 "But we speak God's wisdom in a sacred secret, the hidden wisdom, which God foreordained before the systems of things for our glory."

James 4:8 "Draw close to God, and he will draw close to YOU. Cleanse YOUR hands, YOU sinners, and purify YOUR hearts, YOU indecisive ones."

PARAGRAPH 4

2 Corinthians 4:1 "That is why, since we have this ministry according to the mercy that was shown us, we do not give up;"

2 Corinthians 4:7 "However, we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the power beyond what is normal may be God's and not that out of ourselves."

1 Samuel 2:30 ""That is why the utterance of Jehovah the God of Israel is: "I did indeed say, As for your house and the house of your forefather, they will walk before me to time indefinite." But now the utterance of Jehovah is: "It is unthinkable, on my part, because those honoring me I shall honor, and those despising me will be of little account.""

Proverbs 11:16 "A woman of charm is the one that takes hold of glory; but the tyrants, for their part, take hold of riches."

Proverbs 22:1 "A name is to be chosen rather than abundant riches; favor is better than even silver and gold."

PARAGRAPH 5

Psalms 37:24 "Although he may fall, he will not be hurled down, For Jehovah is supporting his hand."

Psalms 37:29 "The righteous themselves will possess the earth, And they will reside forever upon it."

PARAGRAPH 6

John 12:42,43 "All the same, many even of the rulers actually put faith in him, but because of the Pharisees they would not confess [him], in order not to be expelled from the synagogue; 43 for they loved the glory of men more than even the glory of God."

PARAGRAPH 7

John 5:39-44 ""YOU are searching the Scriptures, because YOU think that by means of them YOU will have everlasting life; and these are the very ones that bear witness about me. 40 And yet YOU do not want to come to me that YOU may have life. 41 I do not accept glory from men, 42 but I well know that YOU do not have the love of God in YOU. 43 I have come in the name of my Father, but YOU do not receive me; if someone else arrived in his own name, YOU would receive that one. 44 How can YOU believe, when YOU are accepting glory from one another and YOU are not seeking the glory that is from the only God?"

Luke 3:15 "Now as the people were in expectation and all were reasoning in their hearts about John: "May he perhaps be the Christ?""

PARAGRAPH 8

1 Corinthians 15:40,41 "And there are heavenly bodies, and earthly bodies; but the glory of the heavenly bodies is one sort, and that of the earthly bodies is a different sort. 41 The glory of the sun is one sort, and the glory of the moon is another, and the glory of the stars is another; in fact, star differs from star in glory."

PARAGRAPH 9

[READ] James 5:14-16 "Is there anyone sick among YOU? Let him call the older men of the congregation to [him], and let them pray over him, greasing [him] with oil in the name of Jehovah. 15 And the prayer of faith will make the indisposed one well, and Jehovah will raise him up. Also, if he has committed sins, it will be forgiven him. 16 Therefore openly confess YOUR sins to one another and pray for one another, that YOU may get healed. A righteous man's supplication, when it is at work, has much force."

PARAGRAPH 10

Proverbs 29:23 "The very haughtiness of earthling man will humble him, but he that is humble in spirit will take hold of glory."

PARAGRAPH 11

1 Timothy 3:1 "That statement is faithful. If any man is reaching out for an office of overseer, he is desirous of a fine work."

1 Thessalonians 2:6 "Neither have we been seeking glory from men, no, either from YOU or from others, though we could be an expensive burden as apostles of Christ."

1 Samuel 15:12 "Then Samuel got up early to meet Saul in the morning. But report was made to Samuel, saying: "Saul came to Car'mel, and, look! he was erecting a monument for himself, and he then turned around and went across and descended to Gil'gal.""

PARAGRAPH 11 (cont.)

1 Peter 4:11 "If anyone speaks, [let him speak] as it were [the] sacred pronouncements of God; if anyone ministers, [let him minister] as dependent on the strength that God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. The glory and the might are his forever and ever. Amen."

Proverbs 27:21 "The refining pot is for silver, and the furnace is for gold; and an individual is according to his praise."

PARAGRAPH 12

[READ] John 8:43-47 "Why is it YOU do not know what I am speaking? Because YOU cannot listen to my word. 44 YOU are from YOUR father the Devil, and YOU wish to do the desires of YOUR father. That one was a manslayer when he began, and he did not stand fast in the truth, because truth is not in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks according to his own disposition, because he is a liar and the father of [the lie]. 45 Because I, on the other hand, tell the truth, YOU do not believe me. 46 Who of YOU convicts me of sin? If I speak truth, why is it YOU do not believe me? 47 He that is from God listens to the sayings of God. This is why YOU do not listen, because YOU are not from God."

PARAGRAPH 13

2 Peter 3:5 "For, according to their wish, this fact escapes their notice, that there were heavens from of old and an earth standing compactly out of water and in the midst of water by the word of God;"

PARAGRAPH 14

Proverbs 9:1-5 "True wisdom has built its house; it has hewn out its seven pillars. 2 It has organized its meat slaughtering; it has mixed its wine; more than that, it has set in order its table. 3 It has sent forth its lady attendants, that it may call out on top of the heights of the town: 4 "Whoever is inexperienced, let him turn aside here." Whoever is in want of heart-she has said to him: 5 "Come, feed yourselves with my bread and share in drinking the wine that I have mixed."

Proverbs 9:13-17 "A woman of stupidity is boisterous. She is simplemindedness itself and has come to know nothing whatever. 14 And she has seated herself at the entrance of her house, upon a seat, [in] the high places of the town, 15 to call out to those passing along the way, those who are going straight ahead on their paths: 16 "Whoever is inexperienced, let him turn aside here." And whoever is in want of heart-she has also said to him: 17 "Stolen waters themselves are sweet, and bread [eaten] in secrecy-it is pleasant."

John 10:16 ""And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; those also I must bring, and they will listen to my voice, and they will become one flock, one shepherd."

John 10:27 "My sheep listen to my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

John 18:37 "Therefore Pilate said to him: "Well, then, are you a king?" Jesus answered: "You yourself are saying that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone that is on the side of the truth listens to my voice."

John 10:5 "A stranger they will by no means follow but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers."

Proverbs 3:13 "Happy is the man that has found wisdom, and the man that gets discernment,"

Proverbs 3:16 "Length of days is in its right hand; in its left hand there are riches and glory."

Proverbs 8:1 "Does not wisdom keep calling out, and discernment keep giving forth its voice?"

Proverbs 8:18 "Riches and glory are with me, hereditary values and righteousness."

PARAGRAPH 15

Ephesians 3:13 "Wherefore I ask YOU not to give up on account of these tribulations of mine in YOUR behalf, for these mean glory for YOU."

PARAGRAPH 16

Acts 14:19,20 "But Jews arrived from Antioch and I-co'ni-um and persuaded the crowds, and they stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, imagining he was dead. 20 However, when the disciples surrounded him, he rose up and entered into the city. And on the next day he left with Bar'na-bas for Der'be."

PARAGRAPH 17

2 Timothy 3:10,11 "But you have closely followed my teaching, my course of life, my purpose, my faith, my long-suffering, my love, my endurance, 11 my persecutions, my sufferings, the sort of things that happened to me in Antioch, in I-co'ni-um, in Lys'tra, the sort of persecutions I have borne; and yet out of them all the Lord delivered me."

Acts 13:50 "But the Jews stirred up the reputable women who worshiped [God] and the principal men of the city, and they raised up a persecution against Paul and Bar'na-bas and threw them outside their boundaries."

Acts 14:5 "Now when a violent attempt took place on the part of both people of the nations and Jews with their rulers, to treat them insolently and pelt them with stones,"

Acts 14:19 "But Jews arrived from Antioch and I-co'ni-um and persuaded the crowds, and they stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, imagining he was dead."

PARAGRAPH 18

Acts 16:1,2 "So he arrived at Der'be and also at Lys'tra. And, look! a certain disciple was there by the name of Timothy, the son of a believing Jewish woman but of a Greek father, 2 and he was well reported on by the brothers in Lys'tra and I-co'ni-um."

Philippians 2:19,20 "For my part I am hoping in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to YOU shortly, that I may be a cheerful soul when I get to know about the things pertaining to YOU. 20 For I have no one else of a disposition like his who will genuinely care for the things pertaining to YOU."

1 Timothy 1:3 "Just as I encouraged you to stay in Eph'e-sus when I was about to go my way into Mac-e-do'ni-a, so I do now, that you might command certain ones not to teach different doctrine,"

PARAGRAPH 19

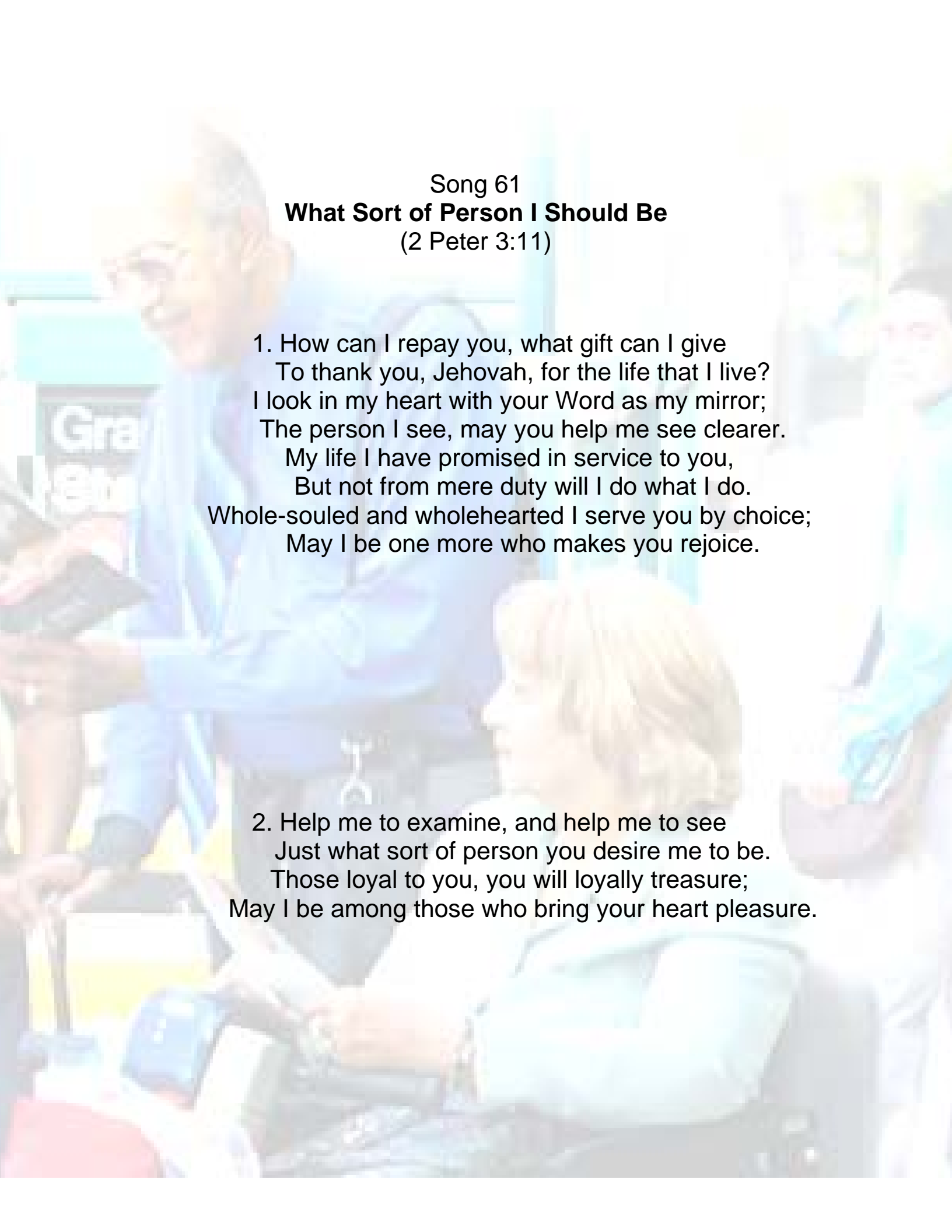
2 Timothy 2:10 "On this account I go on enduring all things for the sake of the chosen ones, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in union with Christ Jesus along with everlasting glory."

PARAGRAPH 20

John 5:44 "How can YOU believe, when YOU are accepting glory from one another and YOU are not seeking the glory that is from the only God?"

John 7:18 "He that speaks of his own originality is seeking his own glory; but he that seeks the glory of him that sent him, this one is true, and there is no unrighteousness in him."

[READ] Romans 2:6,7 "And he will render to each one according to his works: 7 everlasting life to those who are seeking glory and honor and incorruptibleness by endurance in work that is good;"



Song 61
What Sort of Person I Should Be
(2 Peter 3:11)

1. How can I repay you, what gift can I give
To thank you, Jehovah, for the life that I live?
I look in my heart with your Word as my mirror;
The person I see, may you help me see clearer.
My life I have promised in service to you,
But not from mere duty will I do what I do.
Whole-souled and wholehearted I serve you by choice;
May I be one more who makes you rejoice.

2. Help me to examine, and help me to see
Just what sort of person you desire me to be.
Those loyal to you, you will loyally treasure;
May I be among those who bring your heart pleasure.