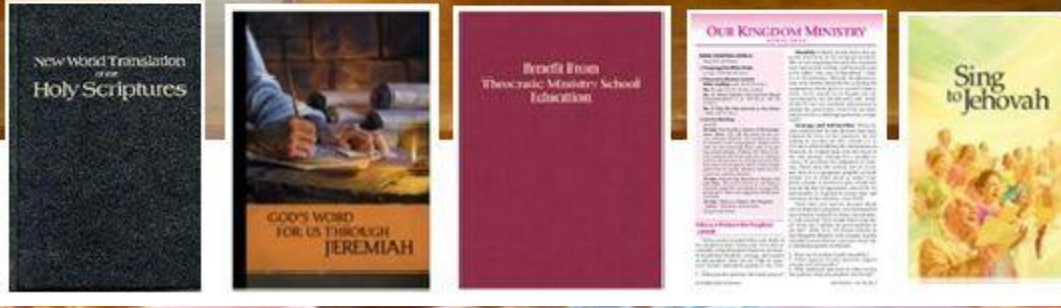


# MID-WEEK MEETING FILE



May 20-24, 2013

*“Make Sure of the  
More Important Things”*  
(Philippians 1:10)

1. How great our need today for discernment,  
To know the things that are true,  
To know which things have greater importance,  
To know which things we must do!  
Love what is good; Hate what is bad.  
Make God’s heart glad;  
Find all the joy that it brings. Always pray;  
Study each day.  
Yes, may we do these important things.
2. And what could be of greater importance  
Than sharing Kingdom good news,  
To find our Father’s lost little sheep,  
And to help them his way to choose?  
They need to hear; They need to know.  
Oh, may we show  
Love for our neighbors and help them to see,  
Help them get free!  
Preaching is such an important thing.

3. If we take care to do what's important,  
Our faith will make us secure.  
We'll know the peace beyond human thinking  
And keep our hope ever sure.  
True friends we'll find; True love we'll know.  
This love will grow.  
Oh, what rich blessings it brings when we learn,  
When we discern,  
And when we do the important things!

(See also Ps. 97:10; Matt. 22:37; John 21:15-17; Acts 10:42.)

## WEEK STARTING MAY 20

Song 70 and Prayer

### □ Congregation Bible Study:

*jr* chap. 9 ¶14-19 (30 min.)

### □ Theocratic Ministry School:

**Bible reading:** John 8-11 (10 min.)

**No. 1:** John 8:12-30 (4 min. or less)

**No. 2: What Steps Can We Take to Protect Ourselves From False Teachers?**—Rom. 16:17; 2 John 9-11 (5 min.)

**No. 3: Why Did God Not Simply Decree That All Who Would Obey Could Live Forever?**—*rs* p. 307 ¶3—p. 308 ¶1 (5 min.)

### □ Service Meeting:

Song 96

**10 min: Ways to Expand Your Ministry —Part 3.** Discussion based on the *Organized* book, page 116, paragraph 1, to page 117, paragraph 1. Briefly interview a publisher who assists the Regional Building Committee.

**10 min: Jehovah Helps Us Fulfill Our Assignments.** (Ex. 4:10-12; Phil. 4:13) Discussion based on the *2013 Yearbook*, page 101, paragraph 3; and page 111, paragraph 3, to page 112, paragraph 2. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

**10 min: “Who Would Be Interested in This?”** Questions and answers. Invite audience to name some of the businesses and local government agencies in the congregation’s territory that may be interested in a particular subject discussed in our magazines.

Song 92 and Prayer

## Who Would Be Interested in This?

<sup>1</sup> *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* are prepared with the worldwide field in mind. Therefore, the articles deal with a wide variety of topics. As we read each article in our personal copy, we should consider whom in particular it may interest, and then make it a point to offer it to that person.

1. When we read our copy of *The Watchtower* or *Awake!* what should we consider, and why?

<sup>2</sup> Does the current *Watchtower* discuss a Bible topic that you and a workmate previously talked about? Is there an article on family life that would be of help to a relative? Do you have an acquaintance who is planning a trip to a land that has been featured in *Awake!*? Would one of the magazines appeal to certain businesses or local government agencies in your territory? For example, a magazine that highlights challenges facing the elderly may be of particular interest at nursing homes. Law enforcement agencies may be interested in a magazine on the subject of crime.

<sup>3</sup> **Results:** After receiving the October 2011 *Awake!* on “How to Raise Responsible Children,” a couple in South Africa phoned 25 schools in their congregation’s territory. Twenty-two accepted copies and distributed them to their students. Another couple in that country had the same idea and placed copies at schools in their territory. Teachers at one of the schools decided to use the magazine in their weekly orientation and reading program. The couple shared their experience with a circuit overseer. He then encouraged congregations in his circuit to approach schools in their territories. The branch office received so many requests for additional magazines that this issue had to be reprinted!

<sup>4</sup> Our magazines discuss the real meaning behind current events and direct attention to the Bible and God’s Kingdom. They are the only magazines on earth that are “publishing salvation.” (Isa. 52:7) Therefore, we want to give them wide distribution. A good way to do that is by asking yourself, ‘Who would be interested in this?’

2. What topics covered in our magazines may be of particular interest to others?
3. Relate an experience that illustrates the value of offering specific issues of the magazines to those who we feel may be interested in their contents.
4. Why do we want to give the magazines wide distribution?

Yet, would not “the examiner of hearts” realize this, just as he did with Baruch? (Prov. 17:3) Should we not ask God to examine our innermost thoughts, as David did? (*Read Psalm 26:2; Jeremiah 17:9, 10.*) Jehovah might use various means, such as this discussion of Baruch, to alert us to the danger of seeking “great things.”

***What was one possible way that Baruch was seeking “great things”? What lesson do you see in this?***

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### THE TRAP OF “VALUABLE THINGS”

<sup>14</sup> Consider the possibility that Baruch’s “great things” were material riches. As noted earlier, had Baruch been deeply attached to his possessions and properties in Judah, he would probably have had a hard time obeying the divine command to surrender to the Chaldeans. You have likely seen that the rich man often relies on his “valuable things,” but the Bible confirms that the protection provided by such things is “in his imagination.” (Prov. 18:11) All of Jehovah’s servants can benefit from reminding themselves of the balanced view of material things expressed in his Word. (*Read Proverbs 11:4.*) Yet, some may reason, ‘Why not enjoy a bit of what the world has to offer?’

<sup>15</sup> Attachment to belongings could lead a Christian to have a longing for things that are part of a passing system of things. That did not prove to be so with Jeremiah or Baruch. Years later, Jesus gave a warning to people living “when the Son of man is to be revealed.” Jesus told them: “Remember the wife of Lot.” It would be just as valid to urge Christians: ‘Remember Jeremiah and Bar-

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14, 15. How might riches become “great things” in our case?



uch.’ (Luke 17:30-33) If we were to cultivate a strong attachment to material things, it could be hard for us to apply Jesus’ words. But do not forget—Baruch took to heart God’s warning and stayed alive as a result.

<sup>16</sup> Consider the situation of the brothers in Romania during the Communist regime. While raiding the homes of Witnesses, government agents sometimes seized personal belongings, especially things that they could sell. (Lam. 5:2) Many brothers and sisters under that regime were willing to lose their possessions. Some had to leave behind their belongings and property when they were relocated; still, they kept their integrity to Jehovah. If faced with such a test, will you allow your attachment to material things to get in the way of your maintaining loyalty to God?—2 Tim. 3:11.

<sup>17</sup> It is noteworthy that Jeremiah and Baruch received support from some of their contemporaries. Zephaniah prophesied during the reign of Josiah, when Jeremiah was serving as a prophet. What would the latter have thought about the words we find at Zephaniah 1:18? (*Read.*) And can you not picture Jeremiah sharing that

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16. Relate a situation in which God’s servants kept material things in their proper place.

17. How might some contemporaries of Jeremiah and Baruch have been of help to them?

inspired insight with Baruch? Another contemporary was Ezekiel, who was taken captive to Babylon in 617 B.C.E. Some of his activities and messages related directly to the Jews who were back in their homeland, so Jeremiah likely learned what Ezekiel said or did and vice versa. That would include the words recorded at Ezekiel 7:19. (*Read.*) Just as Jeremiah and Baruch could benefit from those inspired words, so can we. People will call out to their gods to save them on Jehovah's day. Still, neither their gods nor their wealth will save them.—Jer. 2:28.

### **WILL YOU RECEIVE “YOUR SOUL AS A SPOIL”?**

<sup>18</sup> We need to remember that what Jehovah has promised as a spoil is our “soul.” Even if a few of his servants perish in the persecution that may come during “the great tribulation” when the political horns of the wild beast turn against religion, those faithful ones will not really have lost out. Their “soul” is guaranteed to live again to enjoy “the real life,” in the new world. (Rev. 7:14, 15; 1 Tim. 6:19) We can rest assured, however, that most of God's servants who prove faithful at that time will come out of the great tribulation. You can be sure that when God brings calamity against the nations, no faithful one will be among “those slain by Jehovah.” —Jer. 25:32, 33.

<sup>19</sup> Some may find it sobering to think that they might survive with only their “soul” as a spoil, but that actually should be no disappointment at all. Recall that while

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18. Whose “soul” should we want to receive as a spoil, and how can we do so?

19. In what ways did considering the examples of Jeremiah and Baruch strengthen your determination to avoid seeking “great things” for yourself?



*Choose what is really valuable (Compare page 46.)*

people of Jerusalem were dying from the famine, Jehovah preserved Jeremiah alive. How? King Zedekiah put Jeremiah in custody in the Courtyard of the Guard and had him provided with "a round loaf of bread . . . daily from the street of the bakers, until all the bread was exhausted from the city." (Jer. 37:21) And Jeremiah survived! Jehovah can use whatever means he chooses to sustain his people. But sustain his people he will, for their prospect of everlasting life is guaranteed. Baruch survived the destruction of Jerusalem by not "seeking great things." Comparably, we can look forward to surviving Armageddon to praise Jehovah with our "soul" as a spoil that can be enjoyed endlessly.

*Why is it the sensible course today, not to seek "great things," but to look to receive our "soul" as a spoil?*

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### Paragraph 14

**(Proverbs 18:11)** The valuable things of the rich are his strong town, and they are like a protective wall in his imagination.

**(Proverbs 11:4)** Valuable things will be of no benefit on the day of fury, but righteousness itself will deliver from death.

### Paragraph 15

**(Luke 17:30-33)** The same way it will be on that day when the Son of man is to be revealed. <sup>31</sup> “On that day let the person that is on the housetop but whose movable things are in the house not come down to pick these up, and the person out in the field, let him likewise not return to the things behind. <sup>32</sup> REMEMBER the wife of Lot. <sup>33</sup> Whoever seeks to keep his soul safe for himself will lose it, but whoever loses it will preserve it alive.

### Paragraph 16

**(Lamentations 5:2)** Our own hereditary possession has been turned over to strangers, our houses to foreigners.

**(2 Timothy 3:11)** 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.

### Paragraph 17

**(Zephaniah 1:18)** Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to deliver them in the day of Jehovah's fury; but by the fire of his zeal the whole earth will be devoured, because he will make an extermination, indeed a terrible one, of all the inhabitants of the earth.”

**(Ezekiel 7:19)** “Into the streets they will throw their very silver, and an abhorrent thing their own gold will become. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to deliver them in the day of Jehovah's fury. Their souls they will not satisfy, and their intestines they will not fill, for it has become a stumbling block causing their error.

**(Jeremiah 2:28)** “But where are your gods that you have made for yourself? Let them rise up if they can save you in the time of your calamity. For as the number of your cities your gods have become, O Judah.

### Paragraph 18

**(Revelation 7:14, 15)** So right away I said to him: “My lord, you are the one that knows.” And he said to me: “These are the ones that come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> That is why they are before the throne of God; and they are rendering him sacred service day and night in his temple; and the One seated on the throne will spread his tent over them.

**(1 Timothy 6:19)** safely treasuring up for themselves a fine foundation for the future, in order that they may get a firm hold on the real life.

**(Jeremiah 25:32, 33)** “This is what Jehovah of armies has said, ‘Look! A calamity is going forth from nation to nation, and a great tempest itself will be roused up from the remotest parts of the earth. <sup>33</sup> And those slain by Jehovah will certainly come to be in that day from one end of the earth clear to the other end of the earth. They will not be bewailed, neither will they be gathered up or be buried. As manure on the surface of the ground they will become.’

### Paragraph 19

**(Jeremiah 37:21)** Accordingly King Zed·e·ki'ah commanded, and they then put Jeremiah in custody in the Courtyard of the Guard; and there was a giving of a round loaf of bread to him daily from the street of the bakers, until all the bread was exhausted from the city. And Jeremiah continued dwelling in the Courtyard of the Guard.

does not intend to go to the Jews dispersed<sup>a</sup> among the Greeks and teach the Greeks, does he?  
**36** What does this saying mean that he said, 'You will look for me, but you will not find me, and where I am you cannot come?'

**37** Now on the last day, the great day of the festival,<sup>b</sup> Jesus was standing up and he cried out, saying: "If anyone is thirsty,<sup>c</sup> let him come to me and drink. **38** He that puts faith in me,<sup>d</sup> just as the Scripture has said, 'Out from his inmost part streams of living water will flow.'<sup>e</sup> **39** However, he said this concerning the spirit which those who put faith in him were about to receive; for as yet there was no spirit,<sup>f</sup> because Jesus had not yet been glorified.<sup>g</sup> **40** Therefore some of the crowd that heard these words began saying: "This is for a certainty The Prophet."<sup>h</sup> **41** Others were saying: "This is the Christ."<sup>i</sup> But some were saying: "The Christ<sup>j</sup> is not actually coming out of Gal'i-lee, is he?<sup>k</sup> **42** Has not the Scripture said that the Christ is coming from the offspring of David,<sup>l</sup> and from Beth'le-hem<sup>m</sup> the village where David used to be?"<sup>n</sup> **43** Therefore a division over him developed among the crowd.<sup>o</sup> **44** Some of them, though, were wanting to get hold of him, but

CHAP. 7

- a Isa 11:12
- Ac 17:10
- 1Pe 1:1
- b Le 23:36
- c Isa 55:1
- Joh 4:14
- Joh 6:35
- Re 22:17
- d De 18:15
- e Ex 17:6
- Nu 20:8
- Pr 18:4
- Joh 4:14
- 1Co 10:4
- f Isa 44:3
- Joe 2:28
- Joh 16:7
- Ac 2:17
- g Joh 12:16
- Joh 13:32
- 1Ti 3:16
- h De 18:18
- Joh 1:21
- Joh 6:14
- Ac 3:22
- i Joh 6:69
- j Joh 4:42
- Joh 7:52
- k Joh 1:46
- l 2Ch 13:5
- Ps 89:4
- Ps 132:11
- Jer 23:5
- m Mic 5:2
- Mt 2:5
- Lu 2:4
- n 1Sa 16:1
- o Joh 9:16
- Joh 10:19

Second Col.

- a Ge 49:21
- Mt 7:29
- Lu 4:22
- Lu 20:39
- b Joh 12:42
- Ac 6:7
- c Ga 3:10
- d De 1:16
- De 17:8
- Pr 18:13
- e Isa 9:1
- Mt 4:15

no one did lay his hands upon him.

**45** Therefore the officers went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, and the latter said to them: "Why is it you did not bring him in?" **46** The officers replied: "Never has another man spoken like this."<sup>a</sup> **47** In turn the Pharisees answered: "You have not been misled also, have you? **48** Not one of the rulers or of the Pharisees has put faith in him, has he?"<sup>b</sup> **49** But this crowd that does not know the Law are accursed people."<sup>c</sup> **50** Nic-o-de'mus, who had come to him previously, and who was one of them, said to them: **51** "Our law does not judge a man unless first it has heard<sup>d</sup> from him and come to know what he is doing, does it?" **52** In answer they said to him: "You are not also out of Gal'i-lee, are you? Search and see that no prophet<sup>e</sup> is to be raised up out of Gal'i-lee."<sup>\*</sup>

**8 12** Therefore Jesus spoke again to them, saying: "I am the light<sup>f</sup> of the world. He that follows me will by no means walk in darkness,<sup>g</sup> but will possess the light of life." **13** Hence the Pharisees said to him: "You bear

CHAP. 8 f Isa 9:2; Isa 49:6; Mt 4:16; Joh 1:5; Joh 12:35; g Mic 3:6; Joh 12:46; 1Pe 2:9; 1Jo 2:8.

\* Manuscripts Codex Sinaiticus, Codex Vaticanus, and the Sinaitic Syriac codex omit verses 53 to chapter 8, verse 11, which read (with some variations in the various Greek texts and versions) as follows:

**53** So they went each one to his home.

**8** But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. **2** At daybreak, however, he again presented himself at the temple, and all the people began coming to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. **3** Now the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught at adultery, and, after standing her in their midst, **4** they said to him: "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of committing adultery. **5** In the Law Moses prescribed for us to stone such sort of women. What, really, do you say?" **6** Of course, they were saying this to put him to the test, in order to have something with which to accuse him. But Jesus bent down and began to write with his finger in the ground. **7** When they persisted in asking him, he straightened up and said to them: "Let the one of you that is sinless be the first to throw a stone at her." **8** And bending over again he kept on writing in the ground. **9** But those who heard this began going out, one by one, starting with the older men, and he was left alone, and the woman that was in their midst. **10** Straightening up, Jesus said to her: "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?" **11** She said: "No one, sir." Jesus said: "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way; from now on practice sin no more."

witness about yourself; your witness is not true.” **14** In answer Jesus said to them: “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my witness<sup>a</sup> is true, because I know where I came from and where I am going.<sup>b</sup> But you do not know where I came from and where I am going. **15** You judge according to the flesh;<sup>c</sup> I do not judge any man at all.<sup>d</sup> **16** And yet if I do judge, my judgment is truthful, because I am not alone, but the Father who sent me is with me.<sup>e</sup> **17** Also, in YOUR OWN Law it is written, ‘The witness of two men is true.’<sup>f</sup> **18** I am one that bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.”<sup>g</sup> **19** Therefore they went on to say to him: “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered: “You know neither me nor my Father.<sup>h</sup> If you did know me, you would know my Father also.”<sup>i</sup> **20** These sayings he spoke in the treasury<sup>j</sup> as he was teaching in the temple. But no one laid hold of him,<sup>k</sup> because his hour<sup>l</sup> had not yet come.

**21** Hence he said to them again: “I am going away, and you will look<sup>m</sup> for me, and yet you will die in YOUR sin.<sup>n</sup> Where I am going you cannot come.” **22** Therefore the Jews began to say: “He will not kill himself, will he? Because he says, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’”<sup>o</sup> **23** So he went on to say to them: “You are from the realms below; I am from the realms above.<sup>p</sup> You are from this world;<sup>q</sup> I am not from this world.<sup>r</sup> **24** Therefore I said to you, You will die in YOUR sins.<sup>s</sup> For if you do not believe that I am he, you will die in YOUR sins.”<sup>t</sup> **25** Therefore they began to say to him: “Who are you?” Jesus said to them: “Why am I even speaking to you at all? **26** I have many things to speak concerning you and to pass judgment upon. As a matter of fact, he that sent me is true, and

## CHAP. 8

a Joh 5:31  
b Joh 7:28  
Joh 13:3  
Joh 16:28  
c 1Sa 16:7  
Joh 7:24  
d Lu 12:14  
Joh 3:17  
e Joh 14:10  
Joh 16:32  
f De 17:6  
De 19:15  
Mt 18:16  
2Co 13:1  
Heb 10:28  
g Joh 5:37  
2Pe 1:17  
1Jo 5:9  
h Joh 16:3  
i Mt 11:27  
Joh 14:7  
j Mr 12:41  
k Joh 7:30  
l Joh 7:8  
m Joh 7:34  
Joh 13:33  
n Joh 8:24  
o Joh 7:35  
p Joh 3:31  
Joh 16:28  
Col 3:1  
q Joh 15:19  
Joh 17:6  
1Jo 4:5  
r Joh 18:36  
s Eze 18:4  
t Ps 51:5  
Isa 58:1

## Second Col.

a Joh 7:28  
Joh 18:20  
b Nu 21:9  
Joh 3:14  
Joh 12:32  
Ga 3:13  
c Da 7:13  
Mt 26:64  
d Mt 27:54  
e Joh 5:19  
Joh 5:30  
f Joh 3:11  
g Pr 8:13  
Joh 4:34  
Joh 14:10  
Heb 1:9  
h Joh 7:31  
Joh 10:42  
Joh 11:45  
i Joh 5:38  
Joh 15:7  
j Joh 17:17  
Joh 18:37  
k Ps 119:45  
Lu 4:18  
Ro 6:14  
Ro 6:22  
Heb 2:15  
Jas 1:25  
l Mt 3:9  
m Le 25:42  
n Pr 5:22  
Ro 6:6  
Ro 6:16  
Ro 7:14  
2Pe 2:19  
o Ge 21:10  
Ge 25:6  
Ga 4:30  
p Ga 5:1  
q Joh 7:19  
r Php 3:16

the very things I heard from him I am speaking in the world.”<sup>a</sup> **27** They did not grasp that he was talking to them about the Father. **28** Therefore Jesus said: “When once you have lifted up<sup>b</sup> the Son of man,<sup>c</sup> then you will know that I am he,<sup>d</sup> and that I do nothing of my own initiative;<sup>e</sup> but just as the Father taught me I speak these things.<sup>f</sup> **29** And he that sent me is with me; he did not abandon me to myself, because I always do the things pleasing to him.”<sup>g</sup> **30** As he was speaking these things, many put faith in him.<sup>h</sup>

**31** And so Jesus went on to say to the Jews that had believed him: “If you remain in my word,<sup>i</sup> you are really my disciples, **32** and you will know the truth,<sup>j</sup> and the truth will set you free.”<sup>k</sup> **33** They replied to him: “We are Abraham’s offspring<sup>l</sup> and never have we been slaves to anybody.<sup>m</sup> How is it you say, ‘You will become free?’” **34** Jesus answered them: “Most truly I say to you, Every doer of sin is a slave of sin.<sup>n</sup> **35** Moreover, the slave does not remain in the household forever; the son remains forever.<sup>o</sup> **36** Therefore if the Son sets you free, you will be actually free.<sup>p</sup> **37** I know that you are Abraham’s offspring; but you are seeking to kill me,<sup>q</sup> because my word makes no progress among you.<sup>r</sup> **38** What things I have seen with my Father<sup>s</sup> I speak;<sup>t</sup> and you, therefore, do the things you have heard from YOUR father.” **39** In answer they said to him: “Our father is Abraham.”<sup>u</sup> Jesus said to them: “If you are Abraham’s children,<sup>v</sup> do the works of Abraham. **40** But now you are seeking to kill me, a man that has told you the truth that I heard from God.<sup>w</sup> Abraham did not do

s Joh 5:19; t Joh 14:10; u Ge 26:4; Mt 3:9; Joh 8:33; v Ro 2:28; Ro 9:8; Ga 3:7; Ga 3:29; w Joh 8:26.

this.<sup>a</sup> **41** You do the works of YOUR father." They said to him: "We were not born from fornication; we have one Father,<sup>b</sup> God."

**42** Jesus said to them: "If God were YOUR Father, YOU would love me,<sup>c</sup> for from God I came forth and am here.<sup>d</sup> Neither have I come of my own initiative at all, but that One sent me forth.<sup>e</sup> **43** Why is it you do not know what I am speaking? Because you cannot listen to my word.<sup>f</sup> **44** You are from YOUR father the Devil,<sup>g</sup> and YOU wish to do the desires of YOUR father.<sup>h</sup> That one was a manslayer when he began,<sup>i</sup> 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.<sup>j</sup> **45** Because I, on the other hand, tell the truth, you do not believe me.<sup>k</sup> **46** Who of you convicts me of sin?<sup>l</sup> If I speak truth, why is it you do not believe me? **47** He that is from God listens to the sayings of God.<sup>m</sup> This is why you do not listen, because you are not from God."<sup>n</sup>

**48** In answer the Jews said to him: "Do we not rightly say, You are a Sa-mar'i-tan<sup>o</sup> and have a demon?"<sup>p</sup> **49** Jesus answered: "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father,<sup>q</sup> and you dishonor me. **50** But I am not seeking glory for myself;<sup>r</sup> there is One that is seeking and judging.<sup>s</sup> **51** Most truly I say to you, If anyone observes my word, he will never see death at all."<sup>t</sup> **52** The Jews said to him: "Now we do know you have a demon.<sup>u</sup> Abraham died,<sup>v</sup> also the prophets;<sup>w</sup> but you say, 'If anyone observes my word, he will never taste<sup>x</sup> death at all.' **53** You are not greater<sup>y</sup> than our father Abraham, who died, are you? Also, the prophets died.<sup>z</sup> Who do you claim to be?" **54** Jesus answered: "If I glorify myself, my

## CHAP. 8

- a Ro 4:12
- b De 32:6
- Isa 63:16
- Isa 64:8
- Mal 1:6
- Mal 2:10
- c Joh 16:27
- 1Jo 5:1
- d Joh 13:3
- e Joh 3:16
- Joh 5:19
- Ga 4:4
- f Ro 8:7
- g Mt 4:1
- Mt 13:39
- 1Pe 5:8
- Re 12:9
- h Ge 3:15
- Mt 12:34
- Ac 13:10
- i 1Jo 3:8
- j Ge 3:4
- 2Co 11:3
- Re 12:9
- k Lu 22:67
- Joh 6:64
- l 2Co 5:21
- Heb 4:15
- Heb 7:26
- 1Pe 2:22
- 1Jo 3:5
- m Joh 18:37
- 1Jo 4:6
- n Joh 10:26
- o Joh 4:9
- p Mt 12:24
- Joh 7:20
- Joh 10:20
- Joh 15:18
- q Mal 1:6
- r Joh 5:41
- Joh 7:18
- s Ge 18:25
- Ps 26:1
- Isa 33:22
- Ac 17:31
- Ro 3:6
- t Joh 5:24
- Joh 11:26
- 1Co 15:54
- Re 20:6
- u Joh 10:20
- v Ge 25:8
- w Zec 1:5
- Ac 2:29
- Heb 11:13
- x Mt 16:28
- y Joh 4:12
- z Mt 23:29

## Second Col.

- a Joh 5:41
- Joh 13:32
- Ac 3:13
- b Joh 7:28
- c Joh 7:29
- d Mt 17:5
- e Lu 10:24
- f Mt 13:17
- Heb 11:13
- 1Pe 1:11
- g Pr 8:22
- Joh 17:5
- Php 2:6
- Col 1:17
- 1Jo 2:13
- h Joh 10:31
- Joh 11:8

## CHAP. 9

- i Joh 1:38

glory is nothing. It is my Father that glorifies me,<sup>a</sup> he who YOU say is YOUR God; **55** and yet YOU have not known him.<sup>b</sup> But I know him.<sup>c</sup> And if I said I do not know him I should be like YOU, a liar. But I do know him and am observing his word.<sup>d</sup> **56** Abraham YOUR father rejoiced greatly in the prospect of seeing my day,<sup>e</sup> and he saw it and rejoiced."<sup>f</sup> **57** Therefore the Jews said to him: "You are not yet fifty years old, and still you have seen Abraham?" **58** Jesus said to them: "Most truly I say to you, Before Abraham came into existence, I have been."<sup>g</sup> **59** Therefore they picked up stones to hurl them at him;<sup>h</sup> but Jesus hid and went out of the temple.

**9** Now as he was passing along he saw a man blind from birth. **2** And his disciples asked him: "Rabbi,<sup>i</sup> who sinned,<sup>j</sup> this man or his parents,<sup>k</sup> so that he was born blind?" **3** Jesus answered: "Neither this man sinned nor his parents, but it was in order that the works of God might be made manifest in his case.<sup>l</sup> **4** We must work the works of him that sent me while it is day;<sup>m</sup> the night<sup>n</sup> is coming when no man can work. **5** As long as I am in the world, I am the world's light."<sup>o</sup> **6** After he said these things, he spit on the ground and made a clay with the saliva, and put his clay upon the man's eyes<sup>p</sup> **7** and said to him: "Go wash<sup>q</sup> in the pool of Si-lo'am"<sup>r</sup> (which is translated 'Sent forth'). And so he went off and washed,<sup>s</sup> and came back seeing.<sup>t</sup>

**8** Therefore the neighbors and those who formerly used to see he was a beggar began to say: "This is the man that

j Lu 13:2; k Ex 20:5; Eze 18:19; l Mt 11:5; Joh 11:4; m Joh 4:34; Joh 11:9; n Job 10:21; Ec 9:10; o Isa 49:6; Isa 61:1; Joh 1:5; Joh 8:12; p Mr 8:23; q 2Ki 5:10; r 2Ki 20:20; 2Ch 32:30; s 2Ki 5:14; t Isa 42:7.

used to sit and beg, is it not?"<sup>a</sup>  
**9** Some would say: "This is he." Others would say: "Not at all, but he is like him." The man would say: "I am he." **10** Consequently they began to say to him: "How, then, were your eyes opened?"<sup>b</sup>  
**11** He answered: "The man called Jesus made a clay and smeared it on my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Si-lo'am<sup>c</sup> and wash.' I therefore went and washed and gained sight." **12** At this they said to him: "Where is that man?" He said: "I do not know."

**13** They led the once-blind man himself to the Pharisees. **14** Incidentally it was Sabbath<sup>d</sup> on the day that Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.<sup>e</sup> **15** This time, therefore, the Pharisees also took up asking him how he gained sight.<sup>f</sup> He said to them: "He put a clay upon my eyes, and I washed and have sight." **16** Therefore some of the Pharisees began to say: "This is not a man from God, because he does not observe the Sabbath."<sup>g</sup> Others began to say: "How can a man that is a sinner perform signs<sup>h</sup> of that sort?" So there was a division<sup>i</sup> among them. **17** Hence they said to the blind man again: "What do you say about him, seeing that he opened your eyes?" The man said: "He is a prophet."<sup>j</sup>

**18** However, the Jews did not believe concerning him that he had been blind and had gained sight, until they called the parents of the man that gained sight. **19** And they asked them: "Is this YOUR son who YOU say was born blind? How, then, is it he sees at present?" **20** Then in answer his parents said: "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. **21** But how it is he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. Ask him. He is of age. He must speak for himself." **22** His parents said these things

CHAP. 9

a Ac 3:10

b Joh 9:15

c Joh 9:7

d Lu 13:14  
Joh 5:9

e Joh 9:6

f Joh 9:10

g Ex 20:10

h Joh 3:2

i Lu 12:51  
Joh 7:12  
Joh 7:43  
Joh 10:19

j De 18:22  
Joh 4:19

Second Col.

a Pr 29:25  
Joh 7:13  
Joh 19:38  
Joh 20:19

b Joh 12:42  
Joh 16:2

c Jos 7:19

d Ps 103:7

e Joh 8:14

f Joh 3:10

g Ps 66:18  
Pr 28:9  
Isa 1:15  
Eze 8:18  
Mic 3:4  
Zec 7:13

h Ps 34:15  
Pr 15:29  
Ac 10:35

i Joh 3:2  
Joh 5:36

j Joh 9:2

k Joh 9:22  
Joh 16:2

l 1Jo 5:13

because they were in fear<sup>a</sup> of the Jews, for the Jews had already come to an agreement that, if anyone confessed him as Christ, he should get expelled from the synagogue.<sup>b</sup> **23** This is why his parents said: "He is of age. QUESTION him."

**24** Therefore a second time they called the man that had been blind and said to him: "Give glory to God;<sup>c</sup> we know that this man is a sinner." **25** In turn he answered: "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that, whereas I was blind, I see at present." **26** Therefore they said to him: "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" **27** He answered them: "I told you already, and yet you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? You do not want to become his disciples also, do you?" **28** At this they reviled him and said: "You are a disciple of that man, but we are disciples of Moses. **29** We know that God has spoken to Moses;<sup>d</sup> but as for this man, we do not know where he is from."<sup>e</sup> **30** In answer the man said to them: "This certainly is a marvel,<sup>f</sup> that you do not know where he is from, and yet he opened my eyes. **31** We know that God does not listen to sinners,<sup>g</sup> but if anyone is God-fearing and does his will, he listens to this one.<sup>h</sup> **32** From of old it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of one born blind. **33** If this man were not from God,<sup>i</sup> he could do nothing at all." **34** In answer they said to him: "You were altogether born in sins,<sup>j</sup> and yet are you teaching us?" And they threw him out!<sup>k</sup>

**35** Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and, on finding him, he said: "Are you putting faith in the Son<sup>l</sup> of man?" **36** The man answered: "And who is he, sir, that I may put faith in him?" **37** Je-

sus said to him: "You have seen him and, besides, he that is speaking with you is that one."<sup>a</sup>

**38** Then he said: "I do put faith in him, Lord." And he did obeisance<sup>b</sup> to him. **39** And Jesus said: "For this judgment<sup>c</sup> I came into this world: that those not seeing might see<sup>d</sup> and those seeing might become blind."<sup>e</sup> **40** Those of the Pharisees who were with him heard these things, and they said to him: "We are not blind also,<sup>f</sup> are we?" **41** Jesus said to them: "If you were blind, you would have no sin. But now you say, 'We see.'<sup>g</sup> YOUR sin<sup>h</sup> remains."

**10** "Most truly I say to you, He that does not enter into the sheepfold through the door<sup>i</sup> but climbs up some other place, that one is a thief and a plunderer.<sup>j</sup> **2** But he that enters through the door<sup>k</sup> is shepherd<sup>l</sup> of the sheep.<sup>m</sup> **3** The doorkeeper<sup>n</sup> opens to this one, and the sheep<sup>o</sup> listen to his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** When he has got all his own out, he goes before them, and the sheep follow<sup>p</sup> him, because they know his voice.<sup>q</sup> **5** A stranger they will by no means follow but will flee<sup>r</sup> from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers."<sup>s</sup> **6** Jesus spoke this comparison to them; but they did not know what the things meant that he was speaking to them.<sup>t</sup>

**7** Therefore Jesus said again: "Most truly I say to you, I am the door<sup>u</sup> of the sheep. **8** All those that have come in place of me are thieves and plunderers;<sup>v</sup> but the sheep have not listened to them.<sup>w</sup> **9** I am the door;<sup>x</sup> whoever enters through me will be saved, and he will go in and out and find pasturage.<sup>y</sup> **10** The thief<sup>z</sup> does not come unless it is to steal and slay and destroy.<sup>a</sup> I have come that they might have life and might have it in abundance. **11** I am the fine

#### CHAP. 9

- a Joh 4:26
- b 1Sa 25:23
- Mt 8:2
- Mt 9:18
- c Joh 12:47
- d Lu 4:18
- Joh 12:46
- e Isa 29:14
- Mt 11:25
- Mt 13:13
- Joh 3:19
- Ac 28:26
- Ro 1:28
- 2Pe 1:9
- f Mt 15:14
- Ro 2:19
- Re 3:17
- g Pr 26:12
- 2Co 4:4
- h Joh 15:22

#### CHAP. 10

- i Joh 10:7
- j Mt 7:15
- k Joh 10:9
- l Mt 26:31
- Joh 10:11
- m Mr 14:27
- Lu 12:32
- n Mal 3:1
- Lu 1:17
- Joh 3:28
- o Joh 10:27
- p Mt 4:20
- Mt 9:9
- Re 14:4
- q Re 3:20
- r Re 2:2
- s Ga 1:8
- Col 2:8
- t Joh 16:25
- u Joh 14:6
- v Jer 23:1
- Eze 34:2
- w Ac 5:36
- x Eph 2:18
- y Joh 21:17
- z Job 24:14
- Mt 7:15
- a Ac 20:29
- 2Pe 2:1

#### Second Col.

- a Eze 34:23
- Mt 9:36
- b 1Sa 17:35
- Isa 53:7
- Heb 13:20
- c Job 7:2
- Zec 11:16
- d Ac 20:29
- e 1Pe 5:2
- f Mr 12:40
- g Joh 10:27
- h 1Jo 5:20
- i Mt 11:27
- j Mt 20:28
- Joh 15:13
- 1Jo 3:16
- k Ps 45:14
- Mt 25:33
- Re 7:9
- l Lu 12:32
- Joh 10:1
- m Ge 49:10
- n Eze 34:23
- Eze 37:24
- 1Pe 5:4
- o Joh 17:23

shepherd;<sup>a</sup> the fine shepherd surrenders his soul in behalf of the sheep.<sup>b</sup> **12** The hired<sup>c</sup> man, who is no shepherd and to whom the sheep do not belong as his own, beholds the wolf coming and abandons the sheep and flees—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them<sup>d</sup>—**13** because he is a hired<sup>e</sup> man and does not care for the sheep.<sup>f</sup> **14** I am the fine shepherd, and I know my sheep<sup>g</sup> and my sheep know me,<sup>h</sup> **15** just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;<sup>i</sup> and I surrender my soul in behalf of the sheep.<sup>j</sup>

**16** "And I have other sheep,<sup>k</sup> which are not of this fold;<sup>l</sup> those also I must bring, and they will listen to my voice,<sup>m</sup> and they will become one flock, one shepherd.<sup>n</sup> **17** This is why the Father loves me,<sup>o</sup> because I surrender my soul,<sup>p</sup> in order that I may receive it again. **18** No man has taken it away from me, but I surrender it of my own initiative. I have authority to surrender it, and I have authority to receive it again.<sup>q</sup> The commandment<sup>r</sup> on this I received from my Father."

**19** Again a division<sup>s</sup> resulted among the Jews because of these words. **20** Many of them were saying: "He has a demon<sup>t</sup> and is mad. Why do you listen to him?" **21** Others would say: "These are not the sayings of a demonized man. A demon cannot open blind people's eyes, can it?"

**22** At that time the festival of dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was wintertime, **23** and Jesus was walking in the temple in the colonnade of Sol'o-mon.<sup>u</sup> **24** Therefore the Jews encircled him and began to say to him: "How long are you to keep our souls in suspense? If you are the Christ,<sup>v</sup> tell us outspokenly."<sup>w</sup>

p Isa 53:12; Php 2:8; Heb 2:9; Heb 12:2; q Joh 2:19; Ac 2:24; r Joh 14:31; s Lu 12:51; Joh 7:12; Joh 9:16; t Mt 11:18; Mr 3:30; Lu 7:33; u Ac 3:11; Ac 5:12; v Mt 26:63; w Mr 8:30.

25 Jesus answered them: "I told you, and yet you do not believe. The works that I am doing in the name of my Father, these bear witness about me.<sup>a</sup>

26 But you do not believe, because you are none of my sheep.<sup>b</sup>

27 My sheep<sup>c</sup> listen to my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.<sup>d</sup>

28 And I give them everlasting life,<sup>e</sup> and they will by no means ever be destroyed,<sup>f</sup> and no one will snatch them out of my hand.<sup>g</sup>

29 What my Father<sup>h</sup> has given me is something greater than all other things,<sup>i</sup> and no one can snatch them out of the hand of the Father.<sup>j</sup> 30 I and the Father are one."<sup>k</sup>

31 Once more the Jews lifted up stones to stone him.<sup>l</sup>

32 Jesus replied to them: "I displayed to you many fine works from the Father. For which of those works are you stoning me?"

33 The Jews answered him: "We are stoning you, not for a fine work, but for blasphemy,<sup>m</sup> even because you, although being a man, make yourself a god."<sup>n</sup>

34 Jesus answered them: "Is it not written in YOUR Law,<sup>o</sup> 'I said: "You are gods"?'<sup>p</sup> 35 If he called 'gods'<sup>q</sup>

those against whom the word of God came, and yet the Scripture cannot be nullified,<sup>r</sup> 36 do you say to me whom the Father sanctified and dispatched into the world, 'You blaspheme,' because I said, I am God's Son?<sup>s</sup>

37 If I am not doing the works<sup>t</sup> of my Father, do not believe me. 38 But if I am doing them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works,<sup>u</sup> in order that you may come to know and may continue knowing that the Father is in union with me and I am in union with the Father."<sup>v</sup>

39 Therefore they tried again to seize him;<sup>w</sup> but he got out of their reach.<sup>x</sup>

40 So he went off again across the Jordan to the place where

## CHAP. 10

a Joh 3:2  
Joh 5:36  
Joh 10:38  
Joh 14:10  
Ac 2:22

b Joh 6:64  
Joh 8:47  
1Jo 4:6

c Lu 15:6  
Joh 10:3

d Mt 4:20  
Mt 9:9  
Re 14:4

e Joh 5:24  
Joh 17:2

f Joh 6:37  
g Joh 18:9

h Joh 14:28  
i Joh 17:2

j Joh 17:24  
1Pe 1:5

k Joh 10:38  
Joh 17:11  
Joh 17:21

l Joh 8:59  
m Le 24:16  
Mt 9:3

n Joh 5:18  
Php 2:6

o Joh 15:25  
p Ps 82:6  
1Co 8:5

q Ps 82:1  
r Mt 5:17  
Lu 16:17

s Lu 1:35  
Joh 5:18

t Joh 5:36  
u Joh 14:10

v Joh 17:21  
w Joh 7:30

x Lu 4:30

## Second Col.

a Joh 1:28  
b Joh 1:29  
Joh 3:30

c Joh 8:30  
Joh 11:45

## CHAP. 11

d Lu 10:38  
e Mt 26:7  
Mr 14:3

f Lu 12:3  
g Lu 7:38

g Joh 11:36  
h Joh 9:3

i Joh 1:38  
j Joh 8:59  
Joh 10:31

k Joh 9:4  
l Isa 5:20  
Joh 12:35

1Jo 2:11  
m Ps 13:3  
Mt 9:24

Ac 7:60  
1Co 15:6  
1Co 15:51

John was baptizing<sup>a</sup> at first, and he stayed there. 41 And many people came to him, and they began saying: "John, indeed, did not perform a single sign, but as many things as John said about this man were all true."<sup>b</sup>

42 And many put faith in him there.<sup>c</sup>

11 Now there was a certain man sick, Laz'a-rus of Beth'a-ny, of the village of Mary and of Martha<sup>d</sup> her sister. 2 It was, in fact, the Mary that greased the Lord with perfumed oil<sup>e</sup> and wiped his feet dry with her hair,<sup>f</sup> whose brother Laz'-a-rus was sick. 3 Therefore his sisters dispatched word to him, saying: "Lord, see! the one for whom you have affection<sup>g</sup> is sick." 4 But when Jesus heard it he said: "This sickness is not with death as its object, but is for the glory of God,<sup>h</sup> in order that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Laz'a-rus. 6 However, when he heard that he was sick, then he actually remained two days in the place where he was. 7 Then after this he said to the disciples: "Let us go into Ju-de'a again." 8 The disciples said to him: "Rabbi,<sup>i</sup> just lately the Ju-de'ans were seeking to stone you,<sup>j</sup> and are you going there again?" 9 Jesus answered: "There are twelve hours of daylight, are there not? If anyone walks in daylight<sup>k</sup> he does not bump against anything, because he sees the light of this world. 10 But if anyone walks in the night,<sup>l</sup> he bumps against something, because the light is not in him."

11 He said these things, and after this he said to them: "Laz'-a-rus our friend has gone to rest, but I am journeying there to awaken him from sleep."<sup>m</sup>

12 Therefore the disciples said to him: "Lord, if he has gone to rest, he will get well." 13 Jesus had spoken, however, about his death. But they imagined he was speaking about taking rest in sleep. 14 At that time, therefore, Jesus said to them outspokenly: "Laz'a-rus has died,<sup>a</sup> 15 and I rejoice on YOUR account that I was not there, in order for you to believe. But let us go to him." 16 Therefore Thomas, who was called The Twin, said to his fellow disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with him."<sup>b</sup> 17 Consequently when Jesus arrived, he found he had already been four days in the memorial tomb.<sup>c</sup> 18 Now Beth'a-ny was near Jerusalem at a distance of about two miles. 19 Accordingly many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary in order to console<sup>d</sup> them concerning their brother. 20 Therefore Martha, when she heard that Jesus was coming, met him; but Mary<sup>e</sup> kept sitting at home. 21 Martha therefore said to Jesus: "Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died.<sup>f</sup> 22 And yet at present I know that as many things as you ask God for,<sup>g</sup> God will give you." 23 Jesus said to her: "Your brother will rise."<sup>h</sup> 24 Martha said to him: "I know he will rise in the resurrection<sup>i</sup> on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her: "I am the resurrection and the life.<sup>j</sup> He that exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life;<sup>k</sup> 26 and everyone that is living and exercises faith in me will never die at all.<sup>l</sup> Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him: "Yes, Lord; I have believed that you are the Christ the Son of God, the One coming into the world."<sup>m</sup> 28 And when she had said this, she went off and called Mary her sister, saying secretly: "The Teacher<sup>n</sup> is present and is calling you." 29 The lat-

- CHAP. 11
- a Ec 9:5
- b Joh 11:8
- c Mt 8:28  
Joh 5:28
- d 1Ch 7:22  
Job 2:11
- e Lu 10:39
- f Joh 11:32
- g Joh 9:31
- h 1Th 4:14
- i Isa 26:19  
Da 12:2  
Joh 5:29  
Ac 24:15  
Heb 11:35  
Re 20:12
- j Joh 1:4  
Joh 14:6  
Col 3:4  
1Jo 1:2  
Re 1:18
- k Joh 5:24
- l Joh 8:51
- m Mal 3:1  
Joh 4:42  
Joh 6:14
- n Mt 23:8  
Joh 13:13

Second Col.

- a Joh 11:19
- b Joh 11:17
- c Joh 11:21
- d Joh 13:21
- e Lu 19:41  
Ro 12:15  
Heb 4:15
- f Joh 11:3
- g Joh 9:6
- h Mt 8:28  
Joh 5:28
- i Mt 27:60  
Mr 15:46
- j Mr 16:3  
Joh 20:1
- k Joh 9:3
- l Mt 14:19  
Mr 7:34
- m 1Jo 5:14
- n Joh 12:30
- o Joh 6:29  
Joh 17:8

ter, when she heard this, got up quickly and was on her way to him.

30 Jesus had not yet, in fact, come into the village, but he was still in the place where Martha met him. 31 Therefore the Jews that were with her in the house<sup>a</sup> and that were consoling her, on seeing Mary rise quickly and go out, followed her, supposing that she was going to the memorial tomb<sup>b</sup> to weep there. 32 And so Mary, when she arrived where Jesus was and caught sight of him, fell at his feet, saying to him: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."<sup>c</sup> 33 Jesus, therefore, when he saw her weeping and the Jews that came with her weeping, groaned in the spirit and became troubled;<sup>d</sup> 34 and he said: "Where have you laid him?" They said to him: "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus gave way to tears.<sup>e</sup> 36 Therefore the Jews began to say: "See, what affection he used to have for him!"<sup>f</sup> 37 But some of them said: "Was not this man that opened the eyes<sup>g</sup> of the blind man able to prevent this one from dying?"

38 Hence Jesus, after groaning again within himself, came to the memorial tomb.<sup>h</sup> It was, in fact, a cave, and a stone<sup>i</sup> was lying against it. 39 Jesus said: "TAKE the stone<sup>j</sup> away." Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to him: "Lord, by now he must smell, for it is four days." 40 Jesus said to her: "Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"<sup>k</sup> 41 Therefore they took the stone away. Now Jesus raised his eyes heavenward<sup>l</sup> and said: "Father, I thank you that you have heard me.<sup>m</sup> 42 True, I knew that you always hear me; but on account of the crowd<sup>n</sup> standing around I spoke, in order that they might believe that you sent me forth."<sup>o</sup>



**43** And when he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice: “Laz’a-rus, come on out!”<sup>a</sup>

**44** The man that had been dead came out with his feet and hands bound with wrappings,<sup>b</sup> and his countenance was bound about with a cloth. Jesus said to them: “Loose him and let him go.”

**45** Therefore many of the Jews that had come to Mary and that beheld what he did put faith in him;<sup>c</sup> **46** but some of them went off to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did.<sup>d</sup> **47** Consequently the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the San’he-drin<sup>e</sup> together and began to say: “What are we to do, because this man performs many signs?<sup>f</sup> **48** If we let him alone this way, they will all put faith in him,<sup>g</sup> and the Romans<sup>h</sup> will come and take away both our place<sup>i</sup> and our nation.” **49** But a certain one of them, Ca’ia-phas, who was high priest that year,<sup>j</sup> said to them: “You do not know anything at all, **50** and you do not reason out that it is to YOUR benefit for one man to die<sup>k</sup> in behalf of the people and not for the whole nation to be destroyed.”<sup>l</sup> **51** This, though, he did not say of his own originality; but because he was high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was destined to die for the nation, **52** and not for the nation only, but in order that the children of God who are scattered<sup>m</sup> about he might also gather together in one.<sup>n</sup> **53** Therefore from that day on they took counsel to kill him.<sup>o</sup>

**54** Hence Jesus no longer walked about publicly<sup>p</sup> among the Jews,<sup>q</sup> but he departed from there to the country near the wilderness, into a city called E’phra-im,<sup>r</sup> and there he remained with the disciples. **55** Now the passover<sup>s</sup> of the Jews was near, and many people went up out of the country to Jerusa-

## CHAP. 11

- a Lu 7:14
- b Mt 27:59  
Joh 20:7
- c Joh 2:23  
Joh 10:42  
Joh 12:11
- d Lu 16:31
- e Ps 2:2
- f Nu 14:11  
Joh 7:31  
Joh 12:37  
Ac 4:16
- g Joh 12:19
- h Da 9:26  
Ac 28:17
- i Mt 24:15  
Ac 6:13
- j Mt 26:3  
Lu 3:2  
Ac 4:6
- k Joh 18:14
- l Lu 2:34
- m Isa 49:6  
Jas 1:1  
1Jo 2:2
- n Joh 17:21  
Ga 3:28  
Eph 2:14  
Eph 3:6
- o Mt 26:4  
Mt 26:59  
Joh 5:18
- p Mt 10:23  
Ac 12:17
- q Joh 7:1
- r 2Sa 13:23  
2Ch 13:19
- s Ex 12:14  
De 16:1  
Joh 2:13  
Joh 5:1  
Joh 6:4  
Joh 12:1

## Second Col.

- a 2Ch 30:17

## CHAP. 12

- b Mr 11:1
- c Joh 11:1  
Joh 11:43
- d Lu 10:40
- e Mt 27:55  
Mr 15:41
- f Mt 26:6  
Mr 14:3
- g Ca 1:12  
Mt 26:7
- h Lu 7:38  
Joh 11:2
- i Mt 26:47  
Mr 14:10  
Lu 22:48  
Joh 13:29  
Ac 1:16
- j Mt 26:8  
Mr 14:4  
Lu 7:46
- k Mt 19:21  
Mr 14:5
- l Ex 20:15  
Pr 26:25
- m Joh 13:29
- n Mt 26:12  
Mr 14:8  
Joh 19:40
- o De 15:11  
Mt 26:11  
Mr 14:7
- p Joh 11:43
- q Pr 1:16  
Lu 16:31

lem before the passover in order to cleanse themselves ceremonially.<sup>a</sup> **56** Therefore they went looking for Jesus and they would say to one another as they stood around in the temple: “What is YOUR opinion? That he will not come to the festival at all?” **57** As it was, the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone got to know where he was, he should disclose it, in order that they might seize him.

**12** Accordingly Jesus, six days before the passover, arrived at Beth’a-ny,<sup>b</sup> where Laz’a-rus<sup>c</sup> was whom Jesus had raised up from the dead. **2** Therefore they spread an evening meal for him there, and Martha<sup>d</sup> was ministering,<sup>e</sup> but Laz’a-rus was one of those reclining at the table with him.<sup>f</sup> **3** Mary, therefore, took a pound of perfumed oil, genuine nard,<sup>g</sup> very costly, and she greased the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet dry with her hair.<sup>h</sup> The house became filled with the scent of the perfumed oil. **4** But Judas Is-car’i-ot,<sup>i</sup> one of his disciples, who was about to betray him, said: **5** “Why was it this perfumed<sup>j</sup> oil was not sold for three hundred de-nar’i-i and given to the poor<sup>k</sup> people?” **6** He said this, though, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief<sup>l</sup> and had the money box<sup>m</sup> and used to carry off the monies put in it. **7** Therefore Jesus said: “Let her alone, that she may keep this observance in view of the day of my burial.<sup>n</sup> **8** For you have the poor<sup>o</sup> always with you, but me you will not have always.”

**9** Therefore a great crowd of the Jews got to know he was there, and they came, not on account of Jesus only, but also to see Laz’a-rus, whom he raised up from the dead.<sup>p</sup> **10** The chief priests now took counsel to kill Laz’a-rus also,<sup>q</sup> **11** because on



\*\*\* w08 4/15 p. 30 pars. 1-3 Highlights From the Book of John \*\*\*

As Jesus travels through Samaria, Galilee, Judea, and the land east of the Jordan—preaching, teaching, and performing powerful works—‘many people come to him and put faith in him.’—**John 10:41, 42.**

One of the most outstanding miracles that Jesus performs is the resurrection of Lazarus. Many put faith in Jesus when they see a man who has been dead for four days come to life. The chief priests and the Pharisees, however, take counsel to kill Jesus. Hence, Jesus departs and goes to “the country near the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim.”—**John 11:53, 54.**

**Lessons for Us: 11:33-36.** Showing our emotions is not a sign of weakness.

**TMS REVIEW:**

4. What do we learn from Jesus’ ‘giving way to tears’ upon the death of his friend Lazarus? (John 11:35) **[May 20, w08 5/1 p. 24 pars. 3-5]**

\*\*\* w08 5/1 p. 24 He Understands Our Pain \*\*\*

When Jesus’ friend Lazarus suffered an untimely death, Jesus headed for Lazarus’ village. Understandably, Lazarus’ sisters, Mary and Martha, were overcome with grief. Jesus dearly loved this

family. **(John 11:5)** How, then, would he respond? The account says: “Jesus, . . . when he saw [Mary] weeping and the Jews that came with her weeping, groaned in the spirit and became troubled; and he said: ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him: ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus gave way to tears.” **(John 11:33-35)** Why did Jesus cry? True, his beloved friend Lazarus was dead, but Jesus was about to undo that by resurrecting him. **(John 11:41-44)** Was there something else that also touched Jesus’ emotions?

Look again at the above-quoted words. Notice that when Jesus saw Mary and those with her weeping, he “groaned” and “became troubled.” The original-language words used here indicate intense emotions. Jesus was deeply moved by what he saw. The surge of strong emotions within him was evident as his eyes brimmed with tears. Clearly, Jesus’ heart was touched by the pain of others. Have you ever been moved to tears because someone you care about was weeping?—Romans 12:15.

Jesus’ empathy gives us valuable insight into the qualities and ways of his Father, Jehovah. Recall that Jesus so perfectly reflected his Father’s qualities that he could say: “He that has seen me has seen the Father also.” (John 14:9) So when we read that “Jesus gave way to tears,” we can be sure that Jehovah personally feels the pain of his worshippers. Indeed, other Bible writers confirm this fact. (Isaiah 63:9; Zechariah 2:8) What a tender God Jehovah is!

Empathy attracts. When we are discouraged or depressed, we are drawn to a fellow human who can comprehend our circumstances and share our pain. How much more we are drawn to Jehovah, a compassionate God who feels our pain and understands the reason for our tears!—Psalm 56:8.

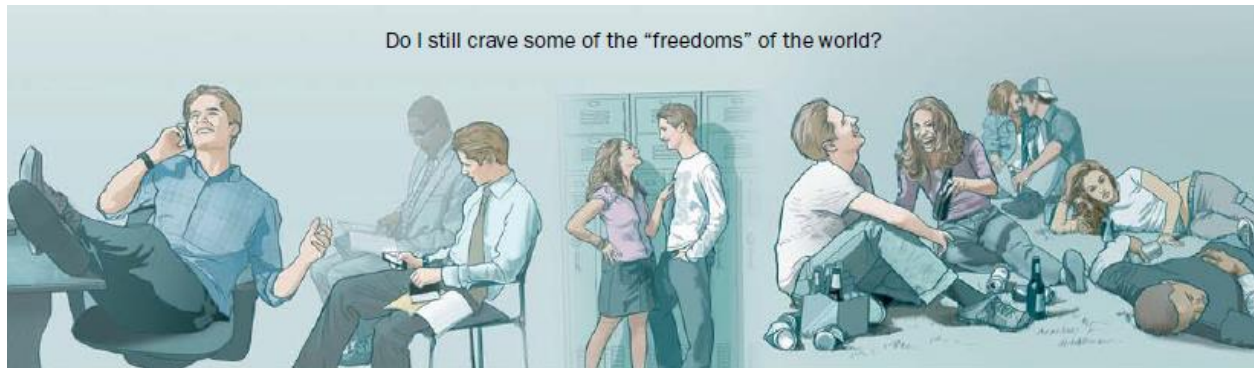
\*\*\* w12 4/15 p. 5 par. 10 ‘The Son Is Willing to Reveal the Father’ \*\*\*

Also, at the time of Lazarus’ death, the disciples must have felt the Father’s compassion when Jesus “groaned in the spirit and became troubled” and “gave way to tears.” Though Jesus knew that he was going to resurrect Lazarus, he felt the pain that was evident among Lazarus’ family and friends. **(John 11:32-35, 40-43)** You no doubt have your favorite Bible accounts that enable you to see the merciful Father as exemplified by Jesus’ actions.

\*\*\* w12 7/15 pp. 9-10 pars. 11-12 Let Jehovah Lead You to True Freedom \*\*\*

<sup>11</sup> At the same time, we must ‘persist,’ or endure, in applying God’s Word, thus making the truth our way of life. Jesus expressed a similar thought when he said to some who believed in him: “If you *remain* in my word, you are really my disciples, and you will *know* the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31, 32) To “know,” says one reference, here means also to have appreciation because “what is ‘known’ is of value or importance to the one who knows.” Thus, we “know” the truth in the fullest sense when we make it our way of life. Then we can rightly say that “the word of God” is “at work” in us, molding our personality so that we more closely reflect our heavenly Father.—1 Thess. 2:13.

<sup>12</sup> Ask yourself, ‘Do I really *know* the truth? Have I made it my way of life? Or do I still crave some of the “freedoms” of the world?’ Looking back on her youth, a sister who was raised by Christian parents wrote: “When you grow up in the truth, Jehovah is always there, as it were. But in my case, I never really got to know him. I never learned to hate what he hates. I never believed that what I did mattered to him. And I never learned to go to him when I was in trouble. I leaned on my own understanding, which I now know was ridiculous because I knew nothing.” Happily, the sister later realized that her thinking was very wrong, and she made some major changes. She even began to serve as a regular pioneer.



\*\*\* w12 4/1 p. 5 Jesus Christ—Our Questions Answered \*\*\*

Jesus also showed that he was separate from God. Jesus once said to opposers who challenged his authority: “In your own Law it is written, ‘The witness of two men is true.’ I am one that bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.” (John 8:17, 18) Jesus must be separate from Jehovah. How else could they be viewed as *two* witnesses?

**TMS REVIEW:**

\*\*\* w11 4/1 p. 7 Jesus—How He Lived \*\*\*



3. Illustrate how Jesus revealed his Father to imperfect humans. (John 8:28)  
[May 20, w11 4/1 p. 7 par. 3]

Jesus could rightly say: “Who the Son is no one knows but the Father; and who the Father is, no one knows but the Son, and he to whom the Son is willing to reveal him.” (Luke 10:22) When on earth as a man, Jesus willingly—yes, eagerly—revealed what his Father is like. Jesus spoke and taught from a unique perspective; he drew on memories acquired firsthand in the spirit realm and in the lofty presence of the Most High God.—John 8:28.

What Jesus did in revealing his Father might be illustrated by what an electric transformer does. Such a device can take in electricity of high voltage and change it into lower voltage, thus making it suitable for use by the average consumer. When on earth, Jesus took what he had learned in the heavens about his Father and transmitted it in ways that lowly humans on earth could readily grasp and easily apply.

\*\*\* w12 9/15 p. 22 par. 18 Learn From the Patience of Jehovah and Jesus \*\*\*

<sup>18</sup> Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth, and nothing can snatch you away from his protective care—except you. (John 10:28, 29) There is no need to fear the future or even death. Those who patiently endure to the end will be saved. So we must make sure that we do not allow the world to seduce us and make us stop relying on Jehovah. Instead, we must be determined to grow in faith and use the time of God's patience wisely.—Matt. 24:13; **read 2 Peter 3:17, 18.**



\*\*\* w12 11/1 p. 9 Question 3: Why Does God Allow Me to Suffer? \*\*\*

**Jesus identified the real source of much human suffering—Satan the Devil.** “That one,” said Jesus, “was a manslayer when he began.” (John 8:44) Jesus also identified Satan the Devil as “the ruler of this world” and the one who is “misleading the entire inhabited earth.”—John 12:31; Revelation 12:9.

\*\*\* w11 1/1 p. 8 Was There Really a Garden of Eden? \*\*\*

Was Satan the force behind the serpent? Jesus later referred to Satan as “a liar and the father of the lie.” (John 8:44) “The father of the lie” would be the author of the first lie ever told, would he not? The first lie is found in the serpent's words to Eve. Contradicting God's warning that eating the forbidden fruit would end in death, the serpent said: “You positively will not die.” (Genesis 3:4) Clearly, Jesus knew that Satan had manipulated the serpent. The Revelation that Jesus gave to the apostle John settles the matter, calling Satan “the original serpent.”—Revelation 1:1; 12:9.



Is it really far-fetched to believe that a powerful spirit person could manipulate a serpent, making it appear to talk? Even humans, though far less powerful than spirits, can perform baffling tricks of ventriloquism and create convincing special effects.

\*\*\* w11 1/1 p. 15 Did God Know That Adam and Eve Would Sin? \*\*\*

God's adversary, Satan, initiated the rebellion in Eden that resulted in negative consequences, including sin and death. Satan thus was “a manslayer.” He also proved to be “a liar and the father of the lie.” (John 8:44) Driven by bad motives himself, he strives to attribute bad motives to our loving Creator. It suits him well to shift the blame for man's sin to Jehovah.

\*\*\* w11 3/15 p. 25 par. 5 Prove Yourself Ready! \*\*\*

<sup>5</sup> God's Word describes the Devil as “a manslayer” and says that he has “the means to cause death.” (John 8:44; Heb. 2:14) His power is limited when it comes to causing death directly. Nonetheless, this vicious spirit fosters deceit and seduction. He plants murderous attitudes in the hearts and minds of people. For example, 1 out of every 142 children born in the United States will become a murder victim. With senseless violence so prevalent, do you think that Jehovah will take less notice today than he did in Noah's day? Will he fail to act?

\*\*\* w11 5/15 p. 7 par. 4 Christian Families—“Stay Awake” \*\*\*

<sup>4</sup> Since “a husband is head of his wife as the Christ also is head of the congregation,” a married man should examine and imitate the type of headship that Jesus provides for the congregation. (Eph. 5:23) Consider how Jesus described his relationship with his followers. (**Read John 10:14, 15.**) What is the key to success for a man who wants to build up his household spiritually? It is this: Study what Jesus said and did as “the fine shepherd,” and “follow his steps closely.”—1 Pet. 2:21.

\*\*\* w11 9/1 p. 14 Did You Know? \*\*\*

What was “the festival of dedication” mentioned at **John 10:22**?

▪ The three seasonal festivals that God commanded the Jews to observe—the Festival of Unfermented Cakes, the Festival of Pentecost, and the Festival of Ingathering—were held in early spring, late spring, and fall respectively. The festival mentioned at **John 10:22**, however, was held in “wintertime” and commemorated the rededication of Jehovah’s temple in 165 B.C.E. It was held for eight days, beginning on the 25th day of the month of Chislev, close to the winter solstice. What led to its institution?

In 168 B.C.E., the Syrian Seleucid ruler Antiochus IV (Epiphanes), in his effort to eradicate Jewish worship and customs, had a pagan altar erected atop the altar in Jehovah’s temple in Jerusalem. Upon it, he had sacrifices offered to the Greek god Zeus.

This incident sparked the Maccabean uprising. The Jewish leader Judas Maccabaeus recovered Jerusalem from the Seleucids and then had the defiled altar demolished and a new one built in its place. Exactly three years after the altar had first been desecrated, Judas rededicated the cleansed temple to Jehovah. This “festival of dedication” (Hebrew, *chanuk-kah*) has been celebrated in December by the Jews ever since. Today, the festival is known as Hanukkah.

\*\*\* km 5/12 p. 1 par. 2 Exercise Caution While in the Ministry \*\*\*

<sup>2</sup> **Act Shrewdly:** Proverbs 22:3 emphasizes the wisdom of ‘concealing ourselves’ from calamity. Stay alert! The conditions in a normally safe neighborhood can unexpectedly change. You may see an increase of police activity or crowds forming in the street. Sometimes a kind householder will provide a warning. Rather than lingering out of curiosity, it is shrewd to leave promptly and continue elsewhere.—Prov. 17:14; **John 8:59**; 1 Thess. 4:11.

\*\*\* km 4/08 p. 3 par. 7 “Follow His Steps Closely” \*\*\*

<sup>7</sup> **Persist Despite Apathy and Opposition:** Though Jesus performed powerful works, many did not listen to him. (Luke 10:13) Even members of Jesus’ own family felt that he had “gone out of his mind.” (Mark 3:21) Nonetheless, Jesus persisted. He maintained a positive attitude because he was totally convinced that he had the truth that could set men free. (**John 8:32**) With Jehovah’s help, we too are determined not to give up.—2 Cor. 4:1.

\*\*\* km 5/07 p. 1 pars. 3-4 Do You Champion God’s Word? \*\*\*

<sup>3</sup> **Let the Bible Speak:** While engaging in the ministry, we should let the Bible speak. For example, if circumstances allow, we should try to share a scripture with the householder. If he asks a question or raises an objection, it is best to use the Bible to give an answer. When the householder is busy, we may still be able to highlight a Biblical thought by saying, “Before I go, allow me to leave you with this one scripture.” Whenever possible, read directly from the Bible, allowing the listener to follow along as you read.

<sup>4</sup> When one householder was shown scriptures to refute the Trinity, he exclaimed, “I have attended church all my life, and I surely didn’t know the Bible says this!” He readily accepted a Bible study. Jesus said that his sheep would listen to his voice. (**John 10:16, 27**) The best way for honesthearted ones to recognize the truth is to see it directly from the Scriptures. Let us therefore be champions of God’s Word of truth!

## *Seek Out Deserving Ones*

(Matthew 10:11-15)

1. In preaching the Kingdom, our Lord showed the way,  
Instructing us how to proceed:  
'Wherever you go, seek in earnest to find  
Those aware of their spiritual need.  
By greeting the household and wishing it peace,  
To deserving ones peace you'll impart.  
If others should spurn you or turn you away,  
Shake the dust from your feet and depart.'
2. All those who receive you receive him as well.  
Their heart God will open up wide.  
Their right disposition for unending life  
Will impel them to serve at your side.  
And never be anxious about what to say,  
For Jehovah will help you to speak.  
Your answer when gracious and seasoned with salt  
Will appeal to the humble and meek.

## Preaching and Teaching in Burmese

Up until the mid-1950's, the brothers in Burma preached almost entirely in English, the language spoken by educated people in the larger towns and cities. But millions more spoke only Burmese (Myanmar), Kayin, Kachin, Chin, or other local languages. How could they be reached with the good news?

In 1934, Sydney Coote arranged for a Kayin schoolteacher to translate several booklets into Burmese and Kayin. Later, other publishers translated the book *“Let God Be True”* and several booklets into Burmese. Then, in 1950, Robert Kirk invited Ba Oo to translate study articles from *The Watchtower* into Burmese. The handwritten translations were typeset and printed by commercial printers in Yangon and then distributed to those who attended congregation meetings. Later, the branch office purchased a Burmese typewriter to speed up the translation process.

Those early translators faced numerous challenges. “I worked to support my family by day and then translated articles late into the night under a dim electric bulb,” recalls Naygar

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Ba Oo (left) translated study articles from *The Watchtower* into Burmese





Today, nearly 50 years later, Doris Raj still works as a translator at Yangon Bethel

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Po Han, who took over translation when Ba Oo was no longer able to do it. “My knowledge of English was very limited, so the resulting translation must have been quite inaccurate. But we desperately wanted our magazines to reach as many people as possible.” When Robert Kirk asked Doris Raj to translate *The Watchtower* into Burmese, she was so overwhelmed that she broke down and cried. “I had only a basic education and no translation experience,” explains

Doris. “Yet, Brother Kirk encouraged me to try. So I prayed to Jehovah and set to work.” Today, nearly 50 years later, Doris still works as a translator at Yangon Bethel. Naygar Po Han, now 93, is also at Bethel and is as enthusiastic as ever about advancing the Kingdom work.

In 1956, Nathan Knorr from world headquarters visited Burma and announced the release of *The Watchtower* in Burmese. He also urged the missionaries to learn the language so that they could preach more effectively. Encouraged by his remarks, the missionaries intensified their efforts to learn Burmese. The following year, Frederick Franz, an-



Toward the end of 1966, Lal Chhana, a former soldier but now a special pioneer, arrived in Falam, then the largest town in Chin State. There he was joined by Dunstan and Pramila O'Neill and Than Tum, another former soldier who had recently been baptized. These zealous workers located several interested families and soon established a small but active congregation.

The following year, Than Tum moved to Hakha, a town south of Falam, where he started pioneering and established a small group. He later went on to preach throughout Chin State and helped to establish congregations in Vanhna and Surkhua, as well as in Gangaw and other areas. Today, 45 years later, Than Tum remains active as a special pioneer in his home village, Vanhna.

When Than Tum left Hakha, Donald Dewar, a 20-year-old special pioneer, took his place. Because



Donald's parents, Frank and Lily (formerly Lily May) Dewar, had recently been deported, Donald's 18-year-old brother, Samuel, joined him there. "We lived in a small tin hut that was stifling in summer and freezing in winter," says Donald. "Yet, I found that loneliness was a greater challenge. I regularly worked alone in service and could barely speak the local language, Hakha Chin. Only Samuel and I and one or two other publishers attended the meetings. Gradually, I became depressed and even gave thought to leaving my assignment.

"About that time, I read a stirring *Yearbook* account about our brothers in Malawi staying faithful under brutal persecution.\* I asked myself, 'If I can't bear loneliness, how would I endure persecution?' I poured out my concerns to Jehovah in prayer and started to feel relief. I also gained strength from reading and meditating on the Bible and on articles in *The Watchtower*. When I received a surprise visit from Maurice Raj and Dunstan O'Neill, I felt as if I were seeing two angels! Slowly but surely, I regained my joy."

Later, while serving as a traveling overseer, Donald drew on his experience to encourage other isolated Witnesses. His efforts in Hakha also bore fruit. Hakha now boasts a thriving congregation and regularly hosts Christian assemblies and conventions. Two of the publishers who attended meetings in Hakha, Johnson Lal Vung and Daniel Sang Kha, became zealous special pioneers who helped spread the good news throughout much of Chin State.

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\* See the *1966 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses*, page 192.

*“Preach the Word”*

(2 Timothy 4:2)

1. God has commanded us this day;  
He has given us a charge to obey.  
At all times, be ready to impart  
The reason for the hope within your heart.

*(CHORUS)*

*So preach the Word,  
Oh, how vital that all hear!  
Preach the Word,  
As this system's end draws near.  
Preach the Word,  
Help the meek to understand.  
Preach the Word,  
Throughout the land!*

2. Seasons of trouble we will face;  
Opposition may bring shame and disgrace.  
Though preaching may out of season seem,  
Our trust is in our God, who is supreme.

*(Chorus)*

3. Seasons of favor we will see,  
And the need for us to teach, there will be.  
The way to salvation we proclaim  
And help to sanctify Jehovah's name.

*(Chorus)*