



MID-WEEK MEETING FILE

JUNE 17-21, 2013

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WEEK STARTING JUNE 17

Song 48 and Prayer

□ Congregation Bible Study:

jr chap. 10 ¶120-27 (30 min.)

□ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Acts 5-7 (10 min.)

No. 1: Acts 5:17-32 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: What Must a Person Do to Be Known by Jehovah?—2 Tim. 2:19 (5 min.)

No. 3: What Is Required of Us in Order to Benefit From Jesus' Sacrifice?—*rs* p. 310 ¶5–p. 311 ¶1 (5 min.)

□ Service Meeting:

Song 61

10 min: How to Demonstrate Respect in the Ministry. Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, page 190, paragraph 1, to page 192, paragraph 1. Have a brief realistic demonstration of a publisher showing a lack of respect for the householder. Then repeat the demonstration, this time with the publisher showing proper respect.

10 min: Help Your Student to Become a Publisher. Discussion based on the *Organized* book, page 78, paragraph 3, to the last bullet-point on page 80.

10 min: "Increased Opportunities to Laud Jehovah." Questions and answers. Briefly interview one or two publishers who auxiliary pioneered during the visit of the circuit overseer.

Song 9 and Prayer

Increased Opportunities to Laud Jehovah

¹ This past March, a new arrangement went into effect, giving publishers the opportunity to auxiliary pioneer with a 30-hour requirement each March and April and during the month of the circuit overseer's regular visit. If the visit of the circuit overseer spans

1. What new arrangement will help us to "laud Jehovah very much"?

two months, publishers who apply for the 30-hour requirement may choose one month or the other to auxiliary pioneer. All auxiliary pioneers may attend the *entire* meeting that he has with the regular and special pioneers. This means that if the 50-hour requirement is out of reach for us, we can still "laud Jehovah very much" as auxiliary pioneers up to four times a year with the 30-hour requirement!—Ps. 109:30; 119:171.

² **During the Circuit Overseer's Visit:** Now many more will be able to auxiliary pioneer during the visit of the circuit overseer and enjoy the interchange of encouragement that comes from working with him in the ministry. (Rom. 1:11, 12) Many auxiliary pioneers will likely arrange to take a day off during the week in order to work with the circuit overseer. Those who work secularly during weekdays can ask him if he will work with them on Saturday or Sunday. In addition, how encouraging it will be for the auxiliary pioneers to attend the pioneer meeting along with the regular and special pioneers!

³ **During March and April:** Those who took advantage of the former arrangement to auxiliary pioneer with the 30-hour requirement one month during the Memorial season can now double their "sacrifice of praise"! (Heb. 13:15) Both March and April are excellent months to expand our ministry as auxiliary pioneers. Each year during those months, we participate in an enjoyable campaign to invite others to attend the Memorial. In addition, because many expand their ministry during the Memorial season, we can work with a variety of publishers. After the Memorial, we follow up on the interest shown by those who attended and build enthusiasm for the special public talk. Will your heart motivate you to take advantage of these additional opportunities to auxiliary pioneer?—Luke 6:45.

2. What will those who auxiliary pioneer during the visit of the circuit overseer enjoy?

3. Why is the Memorial season an excellent time to auxiliary pioneer?

48 *Daily Walking With Jehovah* (Micah 6:8)

1. Hand in hand with our dear Father,
We would humbly walk with him each day.
Oh, how undeserved his kindness
That he grants to those who seek his way!
God for us has made provision
That we thus can take his hand.
So we make our dedication;
With Jehovah we take our stand.
2. In this day of mankind's judgment,
As the system's end is drawing near,
We are faced with opposition
That could make us turn away in fear.
But Jehovah gives protection;
Close to him we want to stay
That we might forever serve him.
Love him loyally, never stray.
3. Help for us God has provided
Through his spirit and his written Word,
Through the Christian congregation,
Through assurance that our prayer is heard.
As we're walking with Jehovah,
He will help us do what's right,
Help us imitate his kindness
And walk modestly in his sight.

(See also Gen. 5:24; 6:9; 1 Ki. 2:3, 4.)

DO YOU DAILY ASK, "WHERE IS JEHOVAH?"

²⁰ In the decisions that you face daily, do you make it a point to seek out what is God's will, to ask, "Where is Jehovah?" (Jer. 2:6-8) Unlike the Jews in his day, Jeremiah always looked to the Almighty for help in discerning which way he should go. Imitating Jeremiah in daily seeking Jehovah's view is undoubtedly the wise course for each of us when making a decision.

²¹ The decision does not have to be regarding a major issue or a turning point in life. For example, what of the decision to go out in the field ministry on the day you planned? Perhaps you wake up and note an overcast sky, which may not be inviting. The territory scheduled for house-to-house witnessing that day may have been covered repeatedly. You may recall that some of the people turned you away with feigned politeness or with outright rudeness. At that early point in the day, could you ask in prayer, "Where is Jehovah?" Doing so might help you to think of the beauty of the message you will bear and to sense more deeply that it is God's will that you declare that message. You then might feel the word of Jehovah becoming a source of joy and exultation for you, as it was for Jeremiah. (Jer. 15:16, 20) If later during your ministry you meet someone who is very harsh or even threatening, you can again express your feelings in prayer to God. Will you? Do not forget that he can provide holy spirit so that you can respond appropriately, and your desire to speak God's message will overpower negative feelings.—Luke 12:11, 12.

20. How can you imitate Jeremiah in seeking Jehovah?

21. What kind of prayer might help you in connection with your ministry, such as when someone responds harshly?

²² It is good to be aware that some prayers can be hampered, or blocked. (*Read Lamentations 3:44.*) Jehovah did not listen to the prayers of the rebellious Jews because they were 'turning their ear away from him' and persisting in a practice of lawlessness. (Prov. 28:9) The lesson must have been clear to Jeremiah, as it should be to us: If a person fails to act in harmony with his or her prayers, that will disappoint God and can result in His ceasing to hear the prayers. Surely, that is something we should seek to avoid at all costs.

²³ In addition to sincere prayer for Jehovah's direction, we need to continue in our personal study, a key means of finding out Jehovah's will. In this, we have an advantage over Jeremiah. We have the complete Bible.

22. Why might some prayers be blocked?

23, 24. (a) What is essential if we are to find out Jehovah's will?
(b) How can you make your personal study more beneficial?



Like Jeremiah, who did deep research to compile his inspired historic account, you can rove about in the Word of God and look for divine guidance, asking, “Where is Jehovah?” By seeking to learn his will, you put trust in him, and you “will certainly become like a tree planted by the waters, that sends out its roots right by the water-course.”—*Read Jeremiah 17:5-8.*

²⁴ As you read and meditate on the Holy Scriptures, try to discern what Jehovah wants you to do in various situations. You can look for principles that you want to remember and apply in your life. While reading historical accounts, divine commands, godly principles, and wise sayings in God's Word, consider how those passages should influence your daily decisions. In response to your asking, “Where is Jehovah?” he can reveal to you by means of his written Word how to deal with even dire situations you might face. Why, you may see in the Bible the “incomprehensible things that you have not known” or sensed in a certain light!—Jer. 33:3.

²⁵ Additionally, you can consider experiences, your own and those of others. For instance, you may see that a few stop relying on Jehovah, as in the case of Urijah. (2 Tim. 4:10) You can learn from their course and avoid the same disastrous outcome. Call to mind often Jehovah's loving-kindness in dealing with you, remembering that Jeremiah too appreciated God's mercies and compassion. No matter how desperate your situation, do not think that the Most High does not care about you. He does, just as he cared about Jeremiah.

²⁶ As you meditate on Jehovah's dealings with individuals today, you will realize that he is providing daily

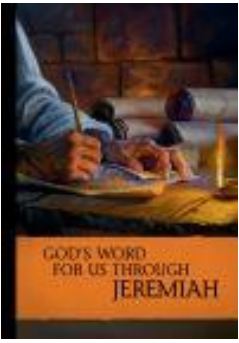
25, 26. Why can experiences benefit us?

guidance in various ways. Aki, a young sister in Japan, felt that she was unworthy of being a Christian. One day when in field service with the circuit overseer's wife, Aki expressed herself: "I feel that Jehovah is about to spew me out of his mouth, but I am hanging on to his lips, asking him to give me a little more time." The circuit overseer's wife looked her in the eye and said: "I've never felt that you were a lukewarm Christian!" Later, Aki mulled over that reassuring comment. In fact, there was no real indication that Jehovah had *ever* viewed her as lukewarm. Thereafter, Aki prayed to Jehovah: "Send me wherever you wish. I will do whatever you want me to do." About that time, she visited a foreign land where there was a small Japanese group that needed someone who spoke the language and who could stay and serve with them. It so happened that Aki had been born in that land, which made it easy for her to move there and help. But where could she live? A sister whose daughter had just relocated offered a room. "It was just like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle falling into place; Jehovah was opening the way for me," Aki concluded.

²⁷ Many brothers and sisters can relate instances in which they personally felt God's guidance, perhaps as they did Bible reading or personal study. You too may have had similar experiences. Such should strengthen your bond with Jehovah and move you to approach him in prayer even more frequently and fervently. Trust that as we daily keep asking, "Where is Jehovah?" he will show us his way.—Isa. 30:21.

27. Why should the question, "Where is Jehovah?" motivate you?

How can you find an answer to the question, "Where is Jehovah?" In what ways can you search for his guidance?



Paragraph 20

(Jeremiah 2:6-8) And they have not said, ‘Where is Jehovah, the One bringing us up out of the land of Egypt, the One walking us through the wilderness, through a land of desert plain and pit, through a land of no water and of deep shadow, through a land through which no man passed and in which no earthling man dwelt?’ ⁷ “And I gradually brought YOU to a land of the orchard, to eat its fruitage and its good things. But YOU came in and defiled my land; and my own inheritance YOU made something detestable. ⁸ The priests themselves did not say, ‘Where is Jehovah?’ And the very ones handling the law did not know me; and the shepherds themselves transgressed against me, and even the prophets prophesied by Ba’al, and after those who could bring no benefit they walked

Paragraph 21

(Jeremiah 15:16) Your words were found, and I proceeded to eat them; and your word becomes to me the exultation and the rejoicing of my heart; for your name has been called upon me, O Jehovah God of armies.

(Jeremiah 15:20) “And I have made you to this people a fortified copper wall; and they will certainly fight against you, but they will not prevail over you. For I am with you, to save you and to deliver you,” is the utterance of Jehovah.

(Luke 12:11, 12) But when they bring YOU in before public assemblies and government officials and authorities, do not become anxious about how or what YOU will speak in defense or what YOU will say; ¹² for the holy spirit will teach YOU in that very hour the things YOU ought to say.”

Paragraph 22

(Lamentations 3:44) You have blocked approach to yourself with a cloud mass, that prayer may not pass through.

(Proverbs 28:9) He that is turning his ear away from hearing the law—even his prayer is something detestable.

Paragraph 23

(Jeremiah 17:5-8) This is what Jehovah has said: “Cursed is the able-bodied man who puts his trust in earthling man and actually makes flesh his arm, and whose heart turns away from Jehovah himself. ⁶ And he will certainly become like a solitary tree in the desert plain and will not see when good comes; but he must reside in parched places in the wilderness, in a salt country that is not inhabited. ⁷ Blessed is the able-bodied man who puts his trust in Jehovah, and whose confidence Jehovah has become. ⁸ And he will certainly become like a tree planted by the waters, that sends out its roots right by the watercourse; and he will not see when heat comes, but his foliage will actually prove to be luxuriant. And in the year of drought he will not become anxious, nor will he leave off from producing fruit.

Paragraph 24

(Jeremiah 33:3) ‘Call to me, and I shall answer you and readily tell you great and incomprehensible things that you have not known.’”

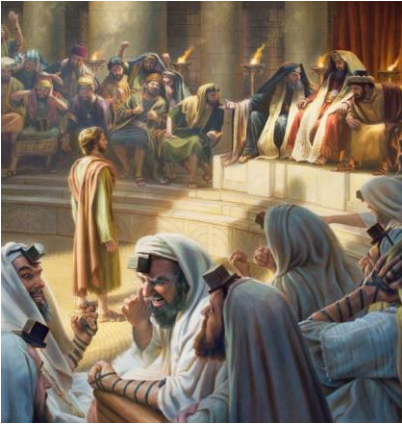
Paragraph 25

(2 Timothy 4:10) For De’mas has forsaken me because he loved the present system of things, and he has gone to Thes·sa·lo·ni’ca; Cres’cens to Ga·la’ti·a, Titus to Dal·ma’tia.

Paragraph 27

(Isaiah 30:21) And your own ears will hear a word behind you saying: “This is the way. Walk in it, YOU people,” in case YOU people should go to the right or in case YOU should go to the left.

(Jeremiah 15:15, 16) You yourself have known. O Jehovah, remember me and turn your attention to me and avenge me upon my persecutors. In your slowness to anger do not take me away. Take note of my bearing reproach on account of your own self. ¹⁶ Your words were found, and I proceeded to eat them; and your word becomes to me the exultation and the rejoicing of my heart; for your name has been called upon me, O Jehovah God of armies.



*** w08 5/15 p. 30-p. 31 Highlights From the Book of Acts *** Jehovah's Word Is Alive

Scriptural Questions Answered:

5:34-39—How could Luke know what Gamaliel had said in a closed session of the Sanhedrin? There are at least three possibilities: (1) Paul, formerly a student of Gamaliel, informed Luke; (2) Luke consulted a sympathetic member of the Sanhedrin, such as Nicodemus; (3) Luke received this information through divine inspiration.

TMS REVIEW:

9. Was Stephen praying to Jesus in the account found at Acts 7:59? [June 17, w08 5/15 p. 31 par. 2]

7:59—Was Stephen praying to Jesus? No, he was not. One's worship—and therefore one's prayers—should go only to Jehovah God. (Luke 4:8; 6:12) Under normal circumstances, Stephen would have appealed to Jehovah in the name of Jesus. (John 15:16) In this instance, though, Stephen had a vision of “the Son of man standing at God's right hand.” (Acts 7:56) Fully aware that Jesus had been given the power to resurrect the dead, Stephen spoke, but did not pray, directly to Jesus, asking Him to safeguard his spirit.—John 5:27-29.

Lessons for Us:

4:36–5:11. Joseph of Cyprus was surnamed Barnabas, which means “Son of Comfort.” The apostles may have given him the name Barnabas because he was warmhearted, kind, and helpful to others. We should be like him and not like Ananias and Sapphira, who resorted to pretense, hypocrisy, and deviousness.

*** w12 3/1 p. 8 “This Good News of the Kingdom Will Be Preached” ***

How Early Christians Measured Up: Jesus' disciples wasted no time in doing what Jesus told them. “Every day in the temple and from house to house they continued without letup teaching and declaring the good news about the Christ.” (Acts 5:42) Preaching was not limited to an elite group. Historian Neander observed that “Celsus, the first writer against Christianity, jeer[ed] at the fact, that wool-workers, cobblers, leather-dressers, the most illiterate and vulgar of mankind, were zealous preachers of the gospel.” In his book *The Early Centuries of the Church*, Jean Bernardi wrote: “[Christians] were to go out and speak everywhere and to everyone. On the highways and in the cities, on the public squares and in the homes. Welcome or unwelcome. . . . To the ends of the earth.”

***** w12 5/1 pp. 10-11 Sincere Believer and Responsible Citizen—How to Be Both *****

At the same time, Jehovah's Witnesses believe that it is their Christian responsibility to be good citizens. Hence, they honor and respect governmental authority. Through their publications and their witnessing work, they encourage their neighbors to be law-abiding. However, when a government demands what is in direct conflict with what God commands, the Witnesses do not comply. They "obey God as ruler rather than men."—[Acts 5:29](#); Romans 13:1-7.

Jehovah's Witnesses visit all those in their community to offer Bible education free of charge. As a result of this education, millions of hearts have been changed. Each year, hundreds of thousands of people are helped to overcome such damaging practices as smoking, drunkenness, misuse of drugs, gambling, and sexual promiscuity. They have become morally responsible citizens because they have learned to apply Bible principles in their lives.

***** w12 6/1 p. 15 Why Do Jehovah's Witnesses Preach From House to House? *****

What is the most effective way to spread the Kingdom message? Jesus, who knew how to reach as many as possible, sent his disciples to cities, villages, and homes of the people. (Matthew 10:7, 11, 12) After Jesus' death and resurrection, his disciples continued to preach "from house to house." ([Acts 5:42](#)) As Jesus did, they too preached in informal settings and in public places. (John 4:7-26; 18:20; Acts 17:17) Today, Jehovah's Witnesses use those same methods to preach to all people.

***** w12 12/15 p. 13 par. 19 You Are a Trusted Steward! *****

¹⁹ Another aspect to consider is what responsibilities we have or yearn to have. For example, a brother may desire to serve as an elder in the congregation or to be assigned parts at assemblies and conventions. It is good to work hard to qualify for such privileges, yet we should not become downhearted if they are not offered when we might have hoped they would be. For reasons we may not readily understand, some privileges may be extended much later than expected. Recall that Moses seemed ready to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, but he had to wait 40 years before doing so. This allowed him enough time to develop qualities he needed to lead a stiff-necked and rebellious people.—[Acts 7:22-25, 30-34](#).

***** w11 9/1 pp. 22-23 Taxes—Must You Pay Them? *****

Governments—represented by "Caesar"—mint or print money and help establish its value. So in God's view, they have the right to ask that it be paid back in the form of taxes. Yet, Jesus showed that "God's things"—our life and worship—cannot be claimed by any human institution. When human laws or requirements clash with God's laws, Christians "must obey God as ruler rather than men."—[Acts 5:29](#).

***** w11 12/15 p. 23 par. 4 Guided by God's Spirit in the First Century and Today *****

⁴ Have you at times felt somewhat overwhelmed by challenges or responsibilities in God's service? Each of us does well to ask himself: 'Do I completely trust in Jehovah to work matters out in harmony with his will? Am I truly demonstrating a willing spirit?' Be assured that God gives his spirit to those who trust in him with all their heart and recognize his sovereign will.—[Acts 5:32](#).

***** w09 3/1 p. 13 Five Reasons to Fear God and Not Man *****

On this account, many hesitated to take a stand for true worship. Of those who were looking for Jesus on one occasion, the Bible says: "No one, of course, would speak about him publicly because of the fear of the Jews." (John 7:13; 12:42) The religious leaders of the day threatened to ostracize any who put faith in Christ. Thus, fear of man prevented many from becoming Christians.—[Acts 5:13](#).

Even today, Satan still uses the fear of man as a weapon to hinder many from becoming Christ's genuine followers. Sincere people who are studying the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses face opposition or ridicule in school, at work, in the neighborhood, or in social circles. They may fear losing respect, friends, or material support. In some rural areas, farmers fear that neighbors might refuse to help with the harvest or to protect their livestock. Despite such fears, however, millions have resolved to trust in God and to live according to God's Word, in imitation of Jesus Christ. Jehovah has blessed them for doing so.

***** w09 7/15 pp. 16-17 pars. 8-9 Imitate Jesus—Teach With Love *****

⁸ Like Jesus, his first-century disciples loved Jehovah, and this love moved them to preach the good news with courage and zeal. They filled Jerusalem with their teaching, even though the powerful religious leaders opposed them. The disciples simply could not stop speaking about the things they had seen and heard. (Acts 4:20; 5:28) They knew that Jehovah was with them and would bless them—and bless them he did! In fact, less than 30 years after Jesus' death, the apostle Paul could write that the good news had been preached "in all creation that is under heaven."—Col. 1:23.

⁹ If we want to be truly effective teachers, we too need to make sure that we continue to strengthen our love for God. How can we do that? By often communicating with God through prayer. We also strengthen our love for God by studying his Word, by reading Bible-based publications, and by attending Christian meetings. As we grow in knowledge of God, our hearts will be filled with love for him. Then, as we express our love for God in words and deeds, others will observe it and may be drawn to Jehovah.—*Read Psalm 104:33, 34.*

***** w09 10/15 pp. 3-4 par. 5 “Be Aglow With the Spirit” *****

⁵ That same earnestness should be evident, states Paul, in the way overseers serve as teachers and carry out “a ministry.” The context seems to indicate that Paul here refers to “a ministry” carried out within the congregation, or the “one body.” (Rom. 12:4, 5) That ministry is similar to the one mentioned at Acts 6:4, where the apostles declare: “We shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” What does such a ministry involve? Christian elders use their gifts to build up the members of the congregation. They show themselves to “be at this ministry” when they earnestly provide guidance and instruction to the congregation from God's Word by their prayerful study, research, teaching, and shepherding. Overseers should use their gifts conscientiously and care for the sheep “with cheerfulness.”—Rom. 12:7, 8; 1 Pet. 5:1-3.

***** km 1/12 p. 1 par. 2 Direct Your Blows Wisely *****

² **Go Where the People Are:** Paul and other first-century evangelizers preached where they expected people to be. (Acts 5:42; 16:13; 17:17) So if many in our territory are at home in the evening, this may be the best time to go from house to house. Is the local bus or train station busy in the early mornings and late afternoons when people are going to work or returning home? When are the shopping areas in the territory filled with people? Street witnessing may be most productive during these times.

***** bt chap. 4 p. 35 pars. 19-20 “Men Unlettered and Ordinary” *****

¹⁹ A couple named Ananias and Sapphira also sold a possession and made a contribution. They made a pretense of giving the whole amount; however, they “secretly held back some of the price.” (Acts 5:2) Jehovah struck this couple dead, not because the amount they gave was insufficient, but because their motive for giving was wicked and they were deceptive. They “played false, not to men, but to God.” (Acts 5:4) Like the hypocrites whom Jesus condemned, Ananias and Sapphira were more concerned with seeking glory from men than the approval of God.—Matt. 6:1-3.

²⁰ With a generous spirit like that of faithful disciples in first-century Jerusalem, millions of present-day Witnesses support the worldwide preaching work by making voluntary donations. No one is forced to give either his time or his money to support this work. Indeed, Jehovah does not want us to serve him grudgingly or under compulsion. (2 Cor. 9:7) When we do give, Jehovah is interested, not in the amount, but in the motive for our giving. (Mark 12:41-44) Never would we want to be like Ananias and Sapphira, allowing our service to God to be prompted by self-interest or glory-seeking. Instead, like Peter, John, and Barnabas, may our service to Jehovah always be motivated by genuine love of God and of our fellow man.—Matt. 22:37-40.

*** bt chap. 5 pp. 38-39 pars. 7-8 “We Must Obey God as Ruler” ***

⁷ Sitting in jail awaiting trial, the apostles may have wondered whether they were about to suffer martyrdom at the hands of their enemies. (Matt. 24:9) But during the night, something most unexpected happened—“Jehovah’s angel opened the doors of the prison.” (Acts 5:19) The angel then gave them specific direction: Take “a stand in the temple,” and “keep on speaking.” (Acts 5:20) That command no doubt assured the apostles that they had been doing the right thing. The angel’s words may also have strengthened them to remain firm no matter what happened. With strong faith and courage, the apostles “entered into the temple at daybreak and began to teach.”—Acts 5:21.

⁸ Each of us does well to ask, ‘Would I have the faith and courage needed to continue preaching under similar circumstances?’ We may draw strength from knowing that the vital work of “bearing thorough witness concerning the kingdom of God” has angelic backing and direction.—Acts 28:23; Rev. 14:6, 7.

*** bt chap. 6 p. 50 pars. 18-19 Stephen—“Full of Graciousness and Power” ***

¹⁸ What can we learn from Stephen’s speech? He was thoroughly familiar with the Scriptures. Likewise, we need to be serious students of God’s Word if we are to handle “the word of the truth aright.” (2 Tim. 2:15) We can also learn about graciousness and tact from Stephen. His audience could hardly have been more hostile! Yet, for as long as possible, he maintained common ground with them by dwelling on things that those men held in high regard. He also addressed them with respect, calling the older men “fathers.” (Acts 7:2) We too need to present the truths of God’s Word with “a mild temper and deep respect.”—1 Pet. 3:15.

¹⁹ However, we do not hold back from sharing the truths of God’s Word for fear of offending people; nor do we soften Jehovah’s judgment messages. Stephen is a case in point. He could no doubt see that all the evidence that he had laid before the Sanhedrin had little effect on those hardhearted judges. So, moved by holy spirit, he concluded his talk by fearlessly showing them that they were just like their forefathers who had rejected Joseph, Moses, and all the prophets. (Acts 7:51-53) In fact, these judges of the Sanhedrin had murdered the Messiah, whose very coming Moses and all the prophets had foretold. Really, they had transgressed the Mosaic Law in the worst possible way!



44 Bottom: After World War II, an East German court wrongfully convicted Jehovah’s Witnesses as American spies.—Periodical *Neue Berliner Illustrierte*, October 3, 1950.

your servant, 'Why did nations become tumultuous and peoples meditate upon empty things?'^a **26** The kings of the earth took their stand and the rulers massed together as one against Jehovah and against his anointed one.'^b **27** Even so, both Herod and Pontius Pilate^c with men of nations and with peoples of Israel were in actuality gathered together in this city against your holy^d servant Jesus, whom you anointed,^e **28** in order to do what things your hand and counsel had foreordained to occur.^f **29** And now, Jehovah, give attention to their threats,^g and grant your slaves to keep speaking your word with all boldness,^h **30** while you stretch out your hand for healing and while signs and portentsⁱ occur through the name^j of your holy servant^k Jesus."

31 And when they had made supplication, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken,^l and they were one and all filled with the holy spirit^m and were speaking the word of God with boldness.ⁿ

32 Moreover, the multitude of those who had believed had one heart and soul,^o and not even one would say that any of the things he possessed was his own; but they had all things in common.^p **33** Also, with great power the apostles continued giving forth the witness concerning the resurrection of the Lord Jesus;^q and undeserved kindness in large measure was upon them all. **34** In fact, there was not one in need among them;^r for all those who were possessors of fields or houses would sell them and bring the values of the things sold **35** and they would deposit them at the feet of the apostles.^s In turn distribution^t would be made to each one, just as he would have the need. **36** So Joseph, who was surnamed Bar-

CHAP. 4

a Ps 2:1
b Ps 2:2
c Lu 23:12
d Ac 3:13
Heb 7:26
e Ps 45:7
Ac 10:38
f Isa 53:10
Lu 24:44
Ac 2:23
1Pe 1:20
g Isa 37:17
h Isa 58:1
Ac 19:8
i Ac 2:43
Ac 5:12
j Ac 3:16
k Ac 3:26
l Ac 2:2
m Ac 2:4
n 1Th 2:2
o Joh 17:21
Php 1:27
p Ac 2:44
q Ac 1:22
Ac 4:2
r De 15:4
Ac 2:45
1Jo 3:17
s Ac 5:2
t Ac 6:1

Second Col.

a Ac 11:22
Ac 12:25
b Pr 3:9
Lu 12:33

CHAP. 5

c Ac 4:35
d Lu 22:3
e Ps 101:7
Ps 119:118
Eph 4:25
Col 3:9
Re 21:8
f Nu 30:2
Ec 5:4
Ac 5:9
g De 23:23
h 1Sa 2:25
i 1Pe 4:17
j Ac 2:43
Ac 5:11
k Joh 19:40
l Ex 17:2
Ps 95:9
Mt 4:7
Lu 4:12
1Co 10:9
m Ac 5:5

na-bas^a by the apostles, which means, when translated, Son of Comfort, a Levite, a native of Cyprus, **37** possessing a piece of land, sold it and brought the money and deposited it at the feet of the apostles.^b

5 However, a certain man, An-a-ni'as by name, together with Sap-phi'ra his wife, sold a possession **2** and secretly held back some of the price, his wife also knowing about it, and he brought just a part and deposited it at the feet of the apostles.^c **3** But Peter said: "An-a-ni'as, why has Satan^d emboldened you to play false^e to the holy spirit^f and to hold back secretly some of the price of the field? **4** As long as it remained with you did it not remain yours, and after it was sold did it not continue in your control? Why was it that you purposed such a deed as this in your heart? You have played false,^g not to men, but to God."^h **5** On hearing these words An-a-ni'as fell down and expired.ⁱ And great fear^j came over all those hearing of it. **6** But the younger men rose, wrapped him in cloths,^k and carried him out and buried him.

7 Now after an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. **8** Peter said to her: "Tell me, did you two sell the field for so much?" She said: "Yes, for so much." **9** So Peter said to her: "Why was it agreed upon between you two to make a test^l of the spirit of Jehovah? Look! The feet of those who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." **10** Instantly she fell down at his feet and expired.^m When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her alongside her husband. **11** Consequently great fear came over the whole

congregation and over all those hearing about these things.

12 Moreover, through the hands of the apostles many signs and portents continued to occur among the people;^a and they were all with one accord in Sol'o-mon's colonnade.^b **13** True, not a one of the others had the courage to join himself to them;^c nevertheless, the people were extolling them.^d **14** More than that, believers in the Lord kept on being added, multitudes both of men and of women;^e **15** so that they brought the sick out even into the broad ways and laid them there upon little beds and cots, in order that, as Peter would go by, at least his shadow might fall upon some one of them.^f **16** Also, the multitude from the cities around Jerusalem kept coming together, bearing sick people and those troubled with unclean spirits, and they would one and all be cured.

17 But the high priest and all those with him, the then existing sect of the Sadducees, rose and became filled with jealousy,^g **18** and they laid hands upon the apostles and put them in the public place of custody.^h **19** But during the night Jehovah's angelⁱ opened the doors of the prison,^j brought them out and said: **20** "Be on YOUR way, and, having taken a stand in the temple, keep on speaking to the people all the sayings about this life."^k **21** After hearing this, they entered into the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

Now when the high priest and those with him arrived, they called together the San'he-drin and all the assembly of older men of the sons of Israel,^l and they sent out to the jail to have them brought. **22** But when the officers got there they did not find them in the prison. So they returned and made report, **23** saying: "The jail we found

CHAP. 5

- a Ac 4:30
- Ac 6:8
- Ac 7:36
- Ac 14:3
- Ac 15:12
- Ro 15:19
- 2Co 12:12
- b Joh 10:23
- Ac 3:11
- c Joh 19:38
- d Ac 2:47
- e Ac 6:7
- f Mt 9:21
- Mt 14:36
- Mr 6:56
- g Pr 27:4
- Mt 27:18
- h Lu 21:12
- Ac 4:3
- i Ps 34:7
- Ac 12:7
- Heb 1:14
- j Ac 16:26
- k Joh 6:68
- l Ac 4:5

Second Col.

- a Ac 4:1
- b Ac 4:20
- c Mt 14:5
- Lu 20:19
- d Ac 4:18
- e Joh 12:19
- f Mt 27:25
- Ac 3:15
- g 1Sa 15:22
- Da 3:18
- Joh 14:15
- Ac 4:19
- h Ac 2:24
- Ac 13:30
- i Ac 2:23
- Ac 10:39
- Ga 3:13
- 1Pe 2:24
- j Ac 3:15
- k Mt 1:21
- Heb 2:10
- l Ac 2:33
- Php 2:9
- m Ac 2:38
- n Isa 53:11
- Lu 24:47
- Ac 10:43
- Ac 13:38
- o Lu 24:48
- Ac 1:8
- Ac 1:22
- p Joh 15:26
- q Ac 7:54
- r Ac 22:3
- s Ac 4:15
- t Ac 2:22

locked with all security and the guards standing at the doors, but on opening up we found no one inside." **24** Well, when both the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they fell into a quandary over these matters as to what this would come to.^a **25** But a certain man arrived and reported to them: "Look! The men you put in the prison are in the temple, standing and teaching the people."^b **26** Then the captain went off with his officers and proceeded to bring them, but without violence, as they were afraid^c of being stoned by the people.

27 So they brought them and stood them in the San'he-drin hall. And the high priest questioned them **28** and said: "We positively ordered^d you not to keep teaching upon the basis of this name, and yet, look! YOU have filled Jerusalem with YOUR teaching,^e and YOU are determined to bring the blood^f of this man upon us." **29** In answer Peter and the other apostles said: "We must obey God as ruler rather than men.^g **30** The God of our forefathers raised^h up Jesus, whom YOU slew, hanging him upon a stake.ⁱ **31** God exalted this one as Chief Agent^j and Savior^k to his right hand,^l to give repentance^m to Israel and forgiveness of sins.ⁿ **32** And we are witnesses of these matters,^o and so is the holy spirit,^p which God has given to those obeying him as ruler."

33 When they heard this, they felt deeply cut and were wanting to do away with them.^q **34** But a certain man rose in the San'he-drin, a Pharisee named Ga-ma'-li-el,^r a Law teacher esteemed by all the people, and gave the command to put the men outside for a little while.^s **35** And he said to them: "Men of Israel,^t pay attention to yourselves as to what you intend to do respecting

these men. **36** For instance, before these days Theu'das rose, saying he himself was somebody,^a and a number of men, about four hundred, joined his party.^b But he was done away with, and all those who were obeying him were dispersed and came to nothing. **37** After him Judas the Gal-i-le'an rose in the days of the registration,^c and he drew off people after him. And yet that man perished, and all those who were obeying him were scattered abroad. **38** And so, under the present circumstances, I say to you, Do not meddle with these men, but let them alone; (because, if this scheme or this work is from men, it will be overthrown;^d **39** but if it is from God,^e you will not be able to overthrow them;)^f otherwise, you may perhaps be found fighters actually against God."^g **40** At this they gave heed to him, and they summoned the apostles, flogged them,^h and ordered them to stop speaking upon the basis of Jesus' name,ⁱ and let them go.

41 These, therefore, went their way from before the San'he-drin, rejoicing^j because they had been counted worthy to be dishonored in behalf of his name.^k **42** And every day in the temple and from house to house^l they continued without letup teaching^m and declaring the good news about the Christ, Jesus.ⁿ

6 Now in these days, when the disciples were increasing, a murmuring arose on the part of the Greek-speaking^o Jews against the Hebrew-speaking Jews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution.^p **2** So the twelve called the multitude of the disciples to them and said: "It is not pleasing for us to leave the word of God to distribute food to tables.^q **3** So, brothers,

CHAP. 5

- a Ac 8:9
- b Ac 21:38
- c Lu 2:2
- d Ps 127:1
Pr 21:30
Mt 15:13
- e Isa 26:12
Ro 8:31
- f Isa 8:10
- g Ac 26:14
- h Mt 10:17
Mr 13:9
Lu 20:10
Ac 22:19
- i Ac 4:18
- j Mt 5:12
Ac 16:25
Ro 5:3
2Co 12:10
Php 1:29
Heb 10:34
1Pe 4:13
- k Ac 9:16
- l Ac 20:20
- m Ac 2:46
Ac 4:31
Ac 18:5
- n 2Co 10:14

CHAP. 6

- o Ac 9:29
- p Ac 4:35
1Ti 5:3
Jas 1:27
- q Ex 18:18

Second Col.

- a De 1:13
- b Ac 6:10
Ac 16:2
1Ti 3:7
- c Ac 2:42
- d Ac 11:24
- e Ac 21:8
- f De 34:9
Ac 8:17
Ac 13:3
Ac 14:23
1Ti 4:14
1Ti 5:22
2Ti 1:6
- g Ac 12:24
Ac 19:20
- h Ac 2:47
- i Joh 12:42
Ac 15:5
- j Ro 16:26
- k Ac 2:43
- l Ac 18:24
- m Ac 23:34
- n Lu 21:15
Ac 6:3
- o Isa 54:17
Lu 21:15
- p Ex 23:1
Le 19:16
- q 1Ki 21:10
Mt 26:59
- r Lu 22:66
- s De 5:20
Pr 19:28
- t Jer 26:11
Ac 21:28

search out^a for yourselves seven certified men from among you, full of spirit and wisdom,^b that we may appoint them over this necessary business; **4** but we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."^c

5 And the thing spoken was pleasing to the whole multitude, and they selected Stephen, a man full of faith and holy spirit,^d and Philip^e and Proch'o-rus and Ni-ca'nor and Ti'mon and Par'-me-nas and Nic-o-la'us, a proselyte of Antioch; **6** and they placed them before the apostles, and, after having prayed, these laid their hands^f upon them.

7 Consequently the word of God went on growing,^g and the number of the disciples kept multiplying in Jerusalem very much;^h and a great crowd of priestsⁱ began to be obedient^j to the faith.

8 Now Stephen, full of graciousness and power, was performing great portents and signs^k among the people.

9 But certain men rose up of those from the so-called Synagogue of the Freedmen, and of the Cy-re'ni-ans and Alexandri-ans^l and of those from Ci-li'cia^m and Asia, to dispute with Stephen; **10** and yet they could not hold their own against the wisdomⁿ and the spirit with which he was speaking.^o

11 Then they secretly induced men to say:^p "We have heard him speaking blasphemous^q sayings against Moses and God."

12 And they stirred up the people and the older men and the scribes, and, coming upon him suddenly, they took him by force and led him to the San'he-drin.^r **13** And they brought forward false witnesses,^s who said: "This man does not stop speaking things against this holy place and against the Law.^t **14** For instance, we have heard him say that this Jesus the Naz-a-rene'

will throw down this place and change the customs that Moses handed down to us.”

15 And as all those sitting in the San'he-drin gazed at him,^a they saw that his face was as an angel's face.^b

7 But the high priest said: “Are these things so?” **2** He said: “Men, brothers and fathers, hear. The God of glory^c appeared to our forefather Abraham while he was in Mes·o·po·ta·mi·a, before he took up residence in Ha'ran,^d **3** and he said to him, ‘Go out from your land and from your relatives and come on into the land I shall show you.’^e **4** Then he went out from the land of the Chal·de'ans and took up residence in Ha'ran. And from there, after his father died,^f God caused him to change his residence to this land in which you now dwell.^g **5** And yet he did not give him any inheritable possession in it, no, not a footbreadth;^h but he promised to give it to him as a possession,ⁱ and after him to his seed,^j while as yet he had no child.^k **6** Moreover, God spoke to this effect, that his seed would be alien residents^l in a foreign land^m and the people would enslave them and afflict them for four hundred years.ⁿ **7** ‘And that nation for which they will slave I shall judge,’^o God said, ‘and after these things they will come out and will render sacred service to me in this place.’^p

8 “He also gave him a covenant of circumcision;^q and thus he became the father of Isaac^r and circumcised him on the eighth day,^s and Isaac of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve family heads.^t **9** And the family heads became jealous^u of Joseph and sold him into Egypt.^v But God was with him,^w **10** and he delivered him out of all his tribulations and gave him graciousness and wisdom in the sight of

CHAP. 6

a Mt 10:17
b Jg 13:6

CHAP. 7

c Ps 29:3
d Ge 11:31
Ge 15:7
Ne 9:7
e Ge 12:1
f Ge 11:32
Heb 11:8
g Ge 12:4
h De 2:5
i Ge 17:8
Ex 6:8
j Ge 48:4
De 32:49
Ne 9:24
k Ge 12:7
Ge 13:15
l Ge 15:13
Ps 39:12
1Pe 2:11
m Ex 12:40
n Ge 15:13
o Ge 15:14
p Ex 3:12
q Ge 17:10
r Ge 21:1
s Ge 21:4
Le 12:3
Lu 2:21
t Ge 29:32
u Ge 37:11
v Ge 37:28
Ge 45:4
Ps 105:17
w Ge 39:2

Second Col.

a Ge 41:40
Ge 41:41
Ge 41:46
Ps 105:21
b Ge 41:54
Ge 42:5
c Ge 42:2
d Ge 42:6
e Ge 45:1
f Ge 45:16
g Ge 45:9
h Ge 46:27
De 10:22
i Ge 46:29
De 26:5
j Ge 49:33
k Ex 1:6
l Ge 50:13
m Ex 13:19
Jos 24:32
n Ge 23:16
o Ex 1:7
p Ex 1:8
q Ex 1:10
r Ex 1:22
s Ex 2:2
t Heb 11:23
u Ex 2:5
Ex 2:10
v 1Ki 4:30
w Ex 11:3
Lu 24:19

Phar'aoh king of Egypt. And he appointed him to govern Egypt and his whole house.^a **11** But a famine came upon the whole of Egypt and Ca'naan, even a great tribulation; and our forefathers were not finding any provisions.^b **12** But Jacob heard there were foodstuffs in Egypt^c and he sent our forefathers out the first time.^d **13** And during the second time Joseph was made known to his brothers;^e and the family stock of Joseph became manifest to Phar'aoh.^f **14** So Joseph sent out and called Jacob his father and all his relatives from that place,^g to the number of seventy-five souls.^h **15** Jacob went down into Egypt.ⁱ And he deceased;^j and so did our forefathers,^k **16** and they were transferred to She'chem^l and were laid in the tomb^m that Abraham had bought for a price with silver money from the sons of Ha'mor in She'chem.ⁿ

17 “Just as the time was approaching for fulfillment of the promise that God had openly declared to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt,^o **18** until there rose a different king over Egypt, who did not know of Joseph.^p **19** This one used statecraft against our race^q and wrongfully forced the fathers to expose their infants, that they might not be preserved alive.^r **20** In that particular time Moses was born,^s and he was divinely beautiful.^t And he was nursed three months in his father's home. **21** But when he was exposed, the daughter of Phar'aoh picked him up and brought him up as her own son.^u **22** Consequently Moses was instructed in all the wisdom^v of the Egyptians. In fact, he was powerful in his words^w and deeds.

23 “Now when the time of his fortieth year was being fulfilled, it came into his heart to make an inspection of his brothers, the

sons of Israel.^a **24** And when he caught sight of a certain one being unjustly treated, he defended him and executed vengeance for the one being abused by striking the Egyptian down.^b

25 He was supposing his brothers would grasp that God was giving them salvation by his hand,^c but they did not grasp it.

26 And the next day he appeared to them as they were fighting, and he tried to bring them together again in peace,^d saying, 'Men, you are brothers. Why do you treat each other unjustly?'^e

27 But the one that was treating his neighbor unjustly thrust him away, saying, 'Who appointed you ruler and judge over us?'^f

28 You do not want to do away with me in the same manner that you did away with the Egyptian yesterday, do you?'^g **29** At this speech Moses took to flight and became an alien resident in the land of Mid'i-an,^h where he became the father of two sons.ⁱ

30 "And when forty years were fulfilled, there appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Si'nai an angel in the fiery flame of a thornbush.^j **31** Now when Moses saw it he marveled at the sight.^k But as he was approaching to investigate, Jehovah's voice came, **32** 'I am the God of your forefathers, the God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob.'^l Seized with trembling, Moses did not dare to investigate further. **33** Jehovah said to him, "Take the sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."^m

34 I have certainly seen the wrongful treatment of my people who are in Egypt,ⁿ and I have heard their groaning^o and I have come down to deliver them.^p And now come, I will send you off to Egypt.'^q **35** This Moses, whom they disowned, saying, 'Who appointed you ruler and judge?'^r this man God sent off^s as both

CHAP. 7

- a Ex 2:11
- b Ex 2:12
- c Heb 11:26
- d Ge 13:8
- e Ex 2:13
- f Ac 7:35
- g Ex 2:14
- h Ex 2:15
- i Ex 2:22
- Ex 18:3
- j Ex 3:2
- Isa 63:9
- k Ex 3:3
- l Ge 50:24
- Ex 3:6
- Mr 12:26
- Lu 20:37
- m Ex 3:5
- Jos 5:15
- n Ex 3:7
- De 26:7
- o Ex 2:24
- p Ex 3:8
- q Ex 3:10
- r Ex 2:14
- Ac 7:27
- s Ex 4:19

Second Col.

- a Ex 12:41
- b Ex 7:3
- Ex 8:5
- Ex 9:10
- Ps 105:27
- c Ex 14:21
- Ex 15:5
- Heb 11:29
- d Ex 16:35
- Nu 14:33
- e De 18:15
- Ac 3:22
- f Ex 19:3
- g De 5:27
- h De 5:4
- Isa 63:9
- Ac 7:53
- Ga 3:19
- Heb 2:2
- i Ex 21:1
- De 9:10
- Ro 3:2
- 1Pe 4:11
- j Nu 14:3
- k Ex 16:3
- l Ex 32:1
- Ex 32:23
- m Ex 32:4
- De 9:16
- n Ex 32:6
- Ps 106:19
- o Ps 81:12
- Ro 1:24
- 2Th 2:11
- p 2Ki 17:16
- Jer 7:18
- q Am 5:25
- r 1Ki 11:7
- s De 4:19
- Am 5:26
- t Jer 25:11
- Jer 29:10
- Am 5:27
- u Ex 25:40
- Heb 8:5
- v De 3:28
- De 31:3
- Jos 3:14
- w Ge 17:8
- Ne 9:24

ruler and deliverer by the hand of the angel that appeared to him in the thornbush. **36** This man led them out^a after doing portents and signs in Egypt^b and in the Red Sea^c and in the wilderness for forty years.^d

37 "This is the Moses that said to the sons of Israel, 'God will raise up for you from among YOUR brothers a prophet like me.'^e **38** This is he^f that came to be among the congregation^g in the wilderness with the angel^h that spoke to him on Mount Si'nai and with our forefathers, and he received living sacred pronouncementsⁱ to give you. **39** To him our forefathers refused to become obedient, but they thrust him aside^j and in their hearts they turned back to Egypt,^k **40** saying to Aaron, 'Make gods for us to go ahead of us. For this Moses, who led us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him.'^l **41** So they made a calf in those days^m and brought up a sacrifice to the idol and began to enjoy themselves in the works of their hands.ⁿ **42** So God turned and handed them over^o to render sacred service to the army of heaven, just as it is written in the book of the prophets,^p 'It was not to me that you offered victims and sacrifices for forty years in the wilderness, was it, O house of Israel?'^q **43** But it was the tent of Mo'loch^r and the star^s of the god Re'phan that you took up, the figures which you made to worship them. Consequently I will deport^t YOU beyond Babylon.'

44 "Our forefathers had the tent of the witness in the wilderness, just as he gave orders when speaking to Moses to make it according to the pattern he had seen.^u **45** And our forefathers who succeeded to it also brought it in with Joshua^v into the land possessed by the nations,^w

whom God thrust out from before our forefathers.^a Here it remained until the days of David. **46** He found favor^b in the sight of God and asked for the privilege of providing a habitation^c for the God of Jacob. **47** However, Sol'o-mon built a house for him.^d **48** Nevertheless, the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands;^e just as the prophet says, **49** "The heaven is my throne,^f and the earth is my footstool.^g What sort of house will you build for me? Jehovah says. Or what is the place for my resting?"^h **50** My hand made all these things, did it not?"ⁱ

51 "Obstinate men and uncircumcised in hearts^j and ears, you are always resisting the holy spirit; as YOUR forefathers did, so you do.^k **52** Which one of the prophets did YOUR forefathers not persecute?^l Yes, they killed^m those who made announcement in advance concerning the coming of the righteous One,ⁿ whose betrayers and murderers you have now become,^o **53** you who received the Law as transmitted by angels^p but have not kept it."

54 Well, at hearing these things they felt cut to their hearts^q and began to gnash^r their teeth at him. **55** But he, being full of holy spirit, gazed into heaven and caught sight of God's glory and of Jesus standing at God's right hand,^s **56** and he said: "Look! I behold the heavens opened^t up and the Son of man^u standing at God's right hand."^v **57** At this they cried out at the top of the voice and put their hands over their ears^w and rushed upon him with one accord. **58** And after throwing him outside the city,^x they began casting stones at him.^y And the witnesses^z laid down their outer garments at the feet of a young man called Saul.^a **59** And they went on casting stones at Stephen as he made appeal and said:

CHAP. 7

a Jos 23:9
 Jos 24:18
 b Ps 89:20
 c 2Sa 7:2
 1Ch 22:7
 Ps 132:5
 d 1Ki 6:1
 1Ch 17:12
 2Ch 3:1
 e Isa 66:1
 Ac 17:24
 f Ps 11:4
 Mt 5:34
 g Mt 5:35
 h Isa 66:1
 i Heb 3:4
 j Le 26:41
 De 10:16
 k Isa 1:4
 Isa 63:10
 Jer 6:10
 l 2Ch 36:16
 m Mt 23:31
 n Ac 3:14
 1Jo 2:1
 o Isa 53:8
 p Ac 7:38
 Ga 3:19
 Heb 2:2
 q Ac 5:33
 r Ps 35:16
 Ps 112:10
 s Ps 110:1
 Mt 26:64
 t Eze 1:1
 Mt 3:16
 Joh 1:51
 u Da 7:13
 v Ro 8:34
 Eph 1:20
 Col 3:1
 w Zec 7:11
 Lu 16:24
 x 1Ki 21:13
 Heb 13:12
 y Le 24:16
 Mt 23:37
 z De 17:7
 Joh 16:2
 a Ac 8:1
 Ac 22:20

Second Col.

a Ps 31:5
 b Mt 5:44

CHAP. 8

c Ac 7:58
 d Ac 11:19
 e Mt 10:23
 f Mt 14:12
 g Ge 50:10
 h Ac 9:1
 Ac 22:4
 Ac 26:10
 1Co 15:9
 Ga 1:13
 Php 3:6
 i Isa 52:7
 Ac 11:19
 j Ac 1:8
 k Mt 10:1
 Mr 6:7
 l Ac 9:33
 m Joh 4:42
 n Ac 13:6
 o Ac 5:36

"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."^a **60** Then, bending his knees, he cried out with a strong voice: "Jehovah, do not charge this sin against them."^b And after saying this he fell asleep in death.

8 Saul, for his part, was approving of the murder of him.^c

On that day great persecution^d arose against the congregation that was in Jerusalem; all except the apostles were scattered^e throughout the regions of Ju-de'a and Sa-mar'i-a. **2** But reverent men carried Stephen to the burial,^f and they made a great lamentation^g over him. **3** Saul, though, began to deal outrageously with the congregation. Invading one house after another and, dragging out both men and women, he would turn them over to prison.^h

4 However, those who had been scattered went through the land declaring the good news of the word.ⁱ **5** Philip, for one, went down to the city of Sa-mar'i-a^j and began to preach the Christ to them. **6** With one accord the crowds were paying attention to the things said by Philip while they listened and looked at the signs he was performing. **7** For there were many that had unclean spirits,^k and these would cry out with a loud voice and come out. Moreover, many that were paralyzed^l and lame were cured. **8** So there came to be a great deal of joy in that city.^m

9 Now in the city there was a certain man named Simon, who, prior to this, had been practicing magical artsⁿ and amazing the nation of Sa-mar'i-a, saying he himself was somebody great.^o **10** And all of them, from the least to the greatest, would pay attention to him and say: "This man is the Power of God, which can be called Great." **11** So they would pay attention to him

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.**

What do you need to do?

Show consideration for others, according them honor.

THE Scriptures tell us to “honor men of all sorts” and “to speak injuriously of no one.” (1 Pet. 2:17; Titus 3:2) Indeed, every human we meet has “come into existence ‘in the likeness of God.’” (Jas. 3:9) Each person is someone for whom Christ died. (John 3:16) And all deserve to hear the good news in order to act on it and be saved. (2 Pet. 3:9) Some people have qualities or authority that merit special deference.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Showing respect is a Christian requirement that promotes an atmosphere in which others are more likely to accept what you present to them from the Bible.

Why might some people try to excuse themselves from showing the sort of respect that the Bible encourages? Local culture may dictate who is eligible for honor according to caste, color, gender, health, age, wealth, or social status. Widespread corruption among public officials has eroded respect for authority. In some lands people are greatly dissatisfied with their lot in life, perhaps working long hours just to have the bare necessities, and they are surrounded by people who do not manifest respect. Youths experience peer pressure to join in rebellion against unpopular teachers and other authority figures. Many are influenced by television’s portrayal of children outsmarting and dominating their parents. It takes effort to keep such fleshly concepts from altering our regard for others. Yet, when we accord people dignity, this engenders an atmosphere in which an interchange of ideas is more readily possible.

Respectful Approach. A person who is engaging in religious work is expected to show respect by dressing and acting appropriately. What is viewed as appropriate decorum varies from place to place. Some consider it disrespectful to approach another person while wearing a hat or having one hand in a pocket. In other places, people might accept such decorum. Take local feelings into account so as not to offend. Doing so can help you to avoid impediments to your making known the good news effectively.

The same applies to our manner of addressing others, especial-

ly those who are elderly. It is generally viewed as impertinent for youths to call adults by their first name unless the youths receive permission to do so. In some places adults too are expected to refrain from addressing strangers by their first name. Also, many languages employ a plural form of the word “you” or some other device to show respect for someone older or in authority.

Respectful Acknowledgment. In smaller communities it is expected that you will acknowledge the presence of someone you encounter, either while walking along the road or when entering a room. This is accomplished by means of a simple greeting, a smile, a nod of the head, or even the raising of the eyebrows. Ignoring another person is viewed as disrespectful.

Some, though, may feel ignored even if you acknowledge their presence. How so? Because of their perception that you fail to see them as individuals. It is not uncommon for people to be categorized by some physical trait. People with disabilities and health problems are often shunned. Yet, God’s Word shows us how to treat such individuals with love and respect. (Matt. 8:2, 3) All of us are affected in some way by our inheritance of Adamic sin. Would you feel respected if others always identified you by your flaws? Would you not rather want to be recognized for your many positive qualities?

Respect also involves acknowledging headship. In some places it is necessary to speak to the head of the house before witnessing to others in the household. Although our commission to preach and teach comes from Jehovah, we recognize that parents are the ones authorized by God to train, discipline, and direct their children. (Eph. 6: 1-4) Hence, when calling at a home, it is usually appropriate to speak first to the parents before engaging children in any extended discussion.

With age comes life experience that must be respected. (Job 32: 6, 7) Acknowledging this helped a young pioneer sister in Sri Lanka who called on an elderly man. He at first objected to her visit, saying: “How can a youngster like you teach me the Bible?” But she replied: “Really, I didn’t come to teach but to share with you something I learned that made me so happy I just have to tell others.” The pioneer’s respectful response aroused the man’s interest. “Then tell me,

HOW TO DO IT

Recognize how Jehovah views people.

Acknowledge headship, age, and authority.

Allow people their opinions.

Understand your audience.

what did you learn?" he asked. "I have learned how to live forever," she said. The elderly man began to study the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses. Not all older people will voice a desire to be treated with such respect, but most will appreciate it.

It is possible, however, to carry displays of deference too far. In the islands of the Pacific and elsewhere, the respectful use of the customary form of address when approaching village or tribal chiefs can help the Witnesses to gain a hearing ear and an opportunity to speak to both the chiefs and the people under their jurisdiction. Yet, flattery is neither necessary nor proper. (Prov. 29:5) Similarly, a language may include honorifics as part of its grammar, but Christian respect does not require that these be multiplied excessively.

Respectful Delivery. The Bible urges us to explain the reason for our hope "with a mild temper and deep respect." (1 Pet. 3:15) So, although we might be able quickly to expose the flaws of another person's viewpoint, is it wise to do so in a manner that may deprive him of his dignity? Might it not be better to listen patiently, perhaps ask why he feels the way he does, and then take his feelings into account as we reason with him from the Scriptures?

Respect like that shown in one-on-one situations should also be evident when addressing an audience from the platform. A speaker who respects his audience will not harshly criticize them or exude an attitude that implies: "You could do this if you really wanted to." Speaking in such a manner only discourages others. How much better to view the audience as an assembly of people who love Jehovah and want to serve him! In imitation of Jesus, we should show understanding when dealing with those who may be spiritually weak, less experienced, or slower to apply Bible counsel.

The audience will sense the speaker's respect for them if he includes himself as one needing to apply God's Word more fully. Thus, it is wise to avoid constant use of the personal pronoun "you" when applying scriptures. Note, for example, the difference between the question "Are you doing everything that you can?" and the statement "Each of us does well to ask himself: 'Am I doing everything that I can?'" The point of each question is the same, but the first implies that the speaker does not put himself on the same level as his audience. The second encourages each person, including the speaker, to analyze his own situation and his own motives.

others who respond to Jesus' invitation to "come be [his] follower," even down to this day. (Luke 18:22) All who respond have a divine commission to preach the good news of the Kingdom and to make disciples. —Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20.

Having come to Jesus, therefore, in response to his invitation to follow him, we have been blessed with knowledge of Jehovah God and of Jesus Christ. (John 17:3) We have been taught Jehovah's ways. With his help we have been able to make our mind over, change our personality, and harmonize our daily conduct with Jehovah's righteous standards. (Rom. 12:1, 2; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:9, 10) Our heartfelt appreciation has moved us to dedicate ourselves to Jehovah and to symbolize that by baptism in water. Baptism constitutes our ordination as ministers.

Always keep in mind that service to God must be rendered with clean hands and out of a pure heart. (Ps. 24:3, 4; Isa. 52:11; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1) Through faith in Jesus Christ, we have gained a clean conscience and freeness of speech. (Heb. 10:19-23, 35, 36; Rev. 7: 9,10,14) The apostle Paul admonished Christians to do all things for God's glory, so as not to be stumbling others. Also, the apostle Peter pointed out the value of exemplary godly conduct in winning unbelievers over to the truth. (1 Cor. 10:31, 33; 1 Pet. 3:1) How can you help someone qualify to become a minister of the good news?

NEW PUBLISHERS

From the time you begin conducting a home Bible study with an interested person, encourage him to speak to others about what he is learning from the Bible. He could be urged to speak with relatives, friends, work associates, and others on an informal

basis. This is an important step in teaching new ones to be followers of Jesus Christ as ministers of the good news. (Matt. 9:9; Luke 6:40) As the new one grows spiritually and becomes adept at informal witnessing, he will no doubt express a desire to have a share in the public ministry with the congregation.

MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS

Before inviting a person to accompany you in the field ministry for the first time and before you suggest that he report any field service to the congregation, there are certain qualifications he should meet. When a person accompanies us in the field ministry, he identifies himself publicly with the congregation of Jehovah's people, so it is understood that he has already brought his life into harmony with Jehovah's righteous standards and can be an unbaptized publisher in the congregation.

Very likely, as you study with a person and discuss Bible principles with him, you will become aware of his circumstances. You may observe that he is living in harmony with the information he has learned from studying the Bible. But there are some aspects of the student's life that the elders will want to discuss with him and you together before you invite him to accompany you in the field service and to share in publicly witnessing to others.

The presiding overseer will arrange to have two elders (one being a member of the Congregation Service Committee) discuss this matter with you and the Bible student. They will consider the following points:

- Do the person's expressions show that he believes that the Bible is the inspired Word of God? (2 Tim. 3:16)

- Does he know and believe the basic teachings of the Scriptures so that when asked questions, he will answer in harmony with the Bible and not according to false religious teachings or his own ideas? (Matt. 7:21-23; 2 Tim. 2:15)
- Is he heeding the Bible's command to associate with Jehovah's people at congregation meetings if he physically and circumstantially can? (Ps. 122:1; Heb. 10: 24, 25)
- Does he know what the Bible teaches about fornication, adultery, polygamy, and homosexuality, and is he living in harmony with such teachings? If the person is living with one of the opposite sex, are they properly married? (Matt. 19:9; 1 Cor. 6:9, 10; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Heb 13:4)
- Does he heed the Bible's prohibition of drunkenness? (Eph. 5:18; 1 Pet. 4:3, 4) Is he free from all nonmedical use of addictive or mind-altering natural or synthetic substances? (2 Cor. 7:1)
- Does he see the value of avoiding unwholesome association? (1 Cor. 15:33)
- Has he definitely broken off membership in all false religious organizations with which he may have been affiliated, and has he ceased attending their meetings and supporting or sharing in their activities? (2 Cor. 6: 14-18; Rev. 18:4)
- Is he free from all involvement in the political affairs of the world? (John 6:15; 15:19; Jas. 1:27)
- Does he believe and live in harmony with what the Bible says at Isaiah 2:4 about the affairs of the nations?
- Does he really want to be one of Jehovah's Witnesses? (Ps. 110:3)

If the elders are not sure how the student feels about some of these matters, they should invite him to look up the scriptures here cited and comment on

9

Praise Jehovah, Our God!

(Psalm 145:12)

1. Praise our God! Praise Jehovah God!

Make his glorious name known to all!
Sound alarm! For his day is near,
And all men must heed his warning call.
Our God has decreed that now is the time
For his Firstborn to rule as King.
Reach out to all men, and tell them the news,
Tell what blessings our God will bring!

(CHORUS)

*Praise our God! Praise Jehovah God!
Make his greatness known in all the earth!*

2. Praise our God! Sing it loud and clear!

With a joyful song, laud his name!
From the heart, From a grateful heart,
All his glory boldly we proclaim.
Though grand is our God and great are his works,
He is humble and good to all.
He shows loving-kindness, mercy, and love
And will hear when to him we call.

(Chorus)