

MID-WEEK MEETING FILE

A vibrant illustration of a man in a red poncho with a gold and black patterned sash, standing on a balcony and presenting to a group of people. He is holding a large white sheet of paper with a drawing and a small inset image of a person. The group consists of men, women, and children, many wearing traditional colorful clothing and hats. They are seated on a balcony with a stone railing, overlooking a lush valley with terraced green fields, a winding river, and distant mountains under a blue sky with white clouds. The scene is bright and colorful, suggesting a warm, sunny day.

SEPTEMBER 2-6, 2013

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 2

Song 47 and Prayer [Declare the Good News](#)

❑ Congregation Bible Study:

jr chap. 13 ¶¶20-26 (30 min.)

❑ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: 1 Corinthians 1-9 (10 min.)

No. 1: 1 Corinthians 4:18–5:13 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Does a Strange Feeling of Being Familiar With Entirely New Acquaintances and Places Prove Reincarnation to Be a Fact?—*rs* p. 317 ¶¶3–p. 319 ¶1 (5 min.)

No. 3: How Christians Maintain Joy in Spite of Illness—Phil. 4:6, 7 (5 min.)

❑ Service Meeting:

Song 72 [Cultivating the Quality of Love](#)

10 min: Ideas for Offering the Magazines in September. Discussion. Take 30 to 60 seconds to relate why the magazines will have appeal in your territory. Then, using the cover subject of *The Watchtower*, invite the audience to give suggestions on an interest-arousing question to ask. Next, invite suggestions on a scripture to read. Do the same for *Awake!* and, if time allows, for one other article from either magazine. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: Imitate the Example of Barnabas. Discussion. Invite comments from the audience on how imitating Barnabas' example can help us as evangelizers.

Song 65 and Prayer ["This Is the Way"](#)

w11 12/15
pp. 27-30

see bt
pp. 85-99

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **August:** Feature one of the following 32-page brochures: *Good News From God!*, *Listen to God*, or *Listen to God and Live Forever*. **September and October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. **November:** Special campaign distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 38, "Can the Dead Really Live Again?" If the congregation works all of its territory or places its entire supply of *Kingdom News*, publishers should offer *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?*

■ Beginning the week of October 28, 2013, the brochure *Who Are Doing Jehovah's Will Today?* will be considered at the Congregation Bible Study. After completing this brochure, the book *Draw Close to Jehovah* will be considered beginning the week of January 6, 2014. Congregations needing a supply of these publications should request them on their next literature request.

■ Starting in September, circuit overseers will give the public talk entitled "How Love and Faith Conquer the World."

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in September

"Hello. We're visiting briefly to provide a reliable resource to help couples make marriage a success. In your opinion, what's the biggest obstacle to a happy marriage?" [Allow for response.] Show the back of the September 1 *Watchtower*, and consider together the material under the first question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® September 1 ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"We're visiting because many in our community wonder why God has allowed so much suffering. Have you ever wondered about that? [Allow for response.] It's interesting that the Bible promises that there will be a time when mourning and pain will be gone. [Read Revelation 21:4.] This magazine examines five fundamental reasons why there is so much suffering. It also shows what the Bible says about how God will end suffering."

Awake!® September

"We're here to provide information regarding a popular holiday that's approaching—Halloween. Some have chosen not to celebrate, pointing to warnings such as this one from the Bible. [Read Leviticus 19:31.] Other people do not believe in supernatural spirits and view Halloween as harmless fun. What's your opinion about this holiday? [Allow for response.] This magazine reveals the dark origins of Halloween."

Field Service Highlights

When comparing the first six months of this service year with the same period the previous year, the number of regular pioneers increased by 8.8 percent in the Bahamas and by 7.3 percent in the United States. Also during this same period, the number of return visits increased by 6.8 percent in Bermuda and by 13.4 percent in the Turks and Caicos Islands. We rejoice that Jehovah's servants take seriously their responsibility of 'watering' seeds of Kingdom truth.—1 Cor. 3:6.



Declare the Good News

(Revelation 14:6, 7)

1. The fullness of the Kingdom truth
was long concealed.

The truth about the promised Seed is now revealed.
Jehovah in his mercy and his love of right

Considered man's condition in his sinful plight.

He formed his purpose that his Son
should rule the earth;

In God's due time the Kingdom rule would be
brought to birth.

And that he might arrange to bring his Son a bride,
A little flock of chosen ones is glorified.

2. The good news that we now declare
was long foreknown.

Jehovah wills that in this time it shall be shown.
Along with us, his angels take delight to share,

To aid us as the Kingdom truth we now declare.

We have the duty and the honor in these days

To sanctify his name and give him his rightful
praise.

We're honored as his Witnesses that name to bear

With everlasting good news that we now declare.

individuals and nations. The majority of these prophecies have already been fulfilled. This reality alone makes the book worth your attention and study because it confirms for you something about your great God. Jehovah has done what he had in mind, and he will yet do so. (*Read Isaiah 46:9-11.*) This can strengthen your confidence in what the Bible foretells. In fact, some prophecies Jeremiah recorded have fulfillments that directly affect you and your future. Let us examine some of these in the remaining section of this chapter.

What are some prophecies that were fulfilled after Jeremiah's death, and why are these important to you?

9/2/2013

PROPHECIES THAT AFFECT YOU

20 A Bible prophecy may have more than one fulfillment. That is true of the answer Jesus gave to his disciples' question about the sign of his "presence and of the conclusion of the system of things." (Matt. 24:3) There was a fulfillment in the years 66 to 70 C.E. It is evident, however, that in certain respects that prophecy will yet be fulfilled during the "great tribulation" to come on this entire wicked system. That will be a tribulation "such as has not occurred since the world's beginning until now, no, nor will occur again." (Matt. 24:21) Similar parallels exist in the prophecies recorded by Jeremiah. Some of these had an initial fulfillment that occurred in 607 B.C.E. but a secondary fulfillment that would occur much later, as we noted in connection with "Rachel weeping over her sons." (Jer. 31:15) Indeed, some of what Jeremiah foretold refers to the time

20-22. Why may it be said that Bible prophecies, including some in the book of Jeremiah, have more than one fulfillment? Illustrate.

in which you live, and the fulfillment affects you personally.

21 You can see that from the book of Revelation. Under inspiration, the apostle John referred back to prophecies that Jeremiah had given concerning the end of Babylon in 539 B.C.E. We find in Revelation parallels between that earlier event and what is destined to occur on a larger scale. Among the prophecies spoken by Jeremiah and fulfilled in modern times was one about the fall of a great empire—the world empire of false religion, “Babylon the Great.” (Rev. 14:8; 17:1, 2, 5; Jer. 50:2; 51:8) God’s people would have to “get out of her” so as not to share her fate. (Rev. 18:2, 4; Jer. 51:6) The waters of that city, symbolizing her peoples, or adherents, would “dry up.”—Jer. 51:36; Rev. 16:12.

22 Still to be fulfilled in our future is the promise that God will execute vengeance on false religion for her ill-treatment of his people. Jehovah will “pay back to her according to . . . all that she has done.” (Jer. 50:29; 51:9; Rev. 18:6) And the figurative lands of false religion must become a desolate waste.—Jer. 50:39, 40.

23 As you may have already noted, the prophecies that Jeremiah presented also have an optimistic tone. Accordingly, he foretold a restoration of true worship on earth in modern times. The release of Jewish captives from the ancient city of Babylon found a parallel in the release of God’s modern-day people from Babylon the Great after the Kingdom was established in heaven. In a spiritual sense, Jehovah restored his people to pure worship, their state being marked by thanksgiving and

23. What spiritual restoration, foretold by Jeremiah, took place in the 20th century?



*Do not 'steal away Jehovah's words'
by concealing what is to happen*

(Jeremiah 30:18, 19)
This is what Jehovah has said: "Here I am gathering the captive ones of the tents of Jacob, and for his tabernacles I shall have pity. And the city will actually be rebuilt upon her mound; and upon its rightful site the dwelling tower itself will sit. 19□ And from them there will certainly go forth thanksgiving, and the sound of those who are laughing. And I will multiply them, and they will not become few; and I will make them heavy in number, and they will not become insignificant.

rejoicing. He has blessed their efforts to help others come to worship him and to be richly fed spiritually. **(Read Jeremiah 30:18, 19.)** You also know from personal experience how in modern times Jehovah has fulfilled his promise to provide his people with shepherds—spiritually mature men who really care for and protect the flock.—Jer. 3:15; 23:3, 4.

24 Jeremiah's words to God's ancient people balanced a promise of better things for the faithful with a warning of destruction for those not holding to their relationship with Jehovah. It is similar today. We can hardly fail to see the urgency of the warning implicit in these words: "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

24. What dramatic words of Jeremiah are yet to be fulfilled?

they be gathered up or be buried. As manure on the surface of the ground they will become."—Jer. 25:33.

25 Yes, like Jeremiah, we live in critical times. As in his day, people's reaction to Jehovah's message can mean life or death. God's people today are not prophets. We are not inspired to add to Jehovah's infallible words of truth found in the Bible. Still, we have been commissioned to preach the good news of the Kingdom all the days until the end of the system of things. (Matt. 28:19, 20) We certainly do not want to 'steal away Jehovah's words' by concealing from people what is about to happen. (**Read Jeremiah 23:30.**) We are determined not to take away from his words their force and effect. Many prophecies that God had Jeremiah proclaim have already been fulfilled. This assures us that those remaining to be fulfilled are absolutely trustworthy. We must tell people that God will unfailingly do 'what he has in mind and what he commanded from the days of long ago.'—Lam. 2:17.

(Jeremiah 23:30)
"Therefore here I am against the prophets," is the utterance of Jehovah, "the ones who are stealing away my words, each one from his companion."

26 No consideration of Jeremiah's prophetic activity and message would be complete without giving attention to Jehovah's grand promises of "a new covenant" with his people, the laws of which he would write in their heart. (Jer. 31:31-33) This prophecy and its fulfillment, which have a direct bearing on you, are the subject of the following chapter.

END

25. God's people today have what responsibility?

26. What further prophecy remains to be considered?

What prophecies in the book of Jeremiah have been fulfilled in modern times? How do you feel about those remaining to be fulfilled?



Paragraph 20

(Matthew 24:3) While he was sitting upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples approached him privately, saying: "Tell us, When will these things be, and what will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things?"

(Matthew 24:21) for then there will be great tribulation such as has not occurred since the world's beginning until now, no, nor will occur again.

(Jeremiah 31:15) "This is what Jehovah has said, 'In Ra'mah a voice is being heard, lamentation and bitter weeping; Rachel weeping over her sons. She has refused to be comforted over her sons, because they are no more.'"

Paragraph 21

(Revelation 14:8) And another, a second angel, followed, saying: "She has fallen! Babylon the Great has fallen, she who made all the nations drink of the wine of the anger of her fornication!"

(Revelation 17:1, 2) And one of the seven angels that had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying: "Come, I will show you the judgment upon the great harlot who sits on many waters, ² with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, whereas those who inhabit the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

(Revelation 17:5) And upon her forehead was written a name, a mystery: "Babylon the Great, the mother of the harlots and of the disgusting things of the earth."

(Jeremiah 50:2) "Tell [it] among the nations and publish [it]. And lift up a signal; publish [it]. Hide nothing, O men. Say, 'Babylon has been captured. Bel has been put to shame. Mer'o-dach has become terrified. Her images have been put to shame. Her dungy idols have become terrified.'

(Jeremiah 51:8) Suddenly Babylon has fallen, so that she is broken. Howl over her, YOU people. Take balsam for her pain. Perhaps she may be healed."

(Revelation 18:2) And he cried out with a strong voice, saying: "She has fallen! Babylon the Great has fallen, and she has become a dwelling place of demons and a lurking place of every unclean exhalation and a lurking place of every unclean and hated bird!

(Revelation 18:4) And I heard another voice out of heaven say: "Get out of her, my people, if YOU do not want to share with her in her sins, and if YOU do not want to receive part of her plagues.

(Jeremiah 51:6) "FLEE out of the midst of Babylon, and provide escape each one for his own soul. Do not be rendered inanimate through her error. For it is the time of vengeance belonging to Jehovah. There is treatment that he is paying back to her.

(Jeremiah 51:36) Therefore this is what Jehovah has said: "Here I am conducting your legal case, and I shall certainly execute vengeance for you. And I will dry up her sea, and I will make her wells dry.

(Revelation 16:12) And the sixth one poured out his bowl upon the great river Eu-phra'tes, and its water was dried up, that the way might be prepared for the kings from the rising of the sun.

Paragraph 22

(Jeremiah 50:29) "SUMMON against Babylon archers, all who are treading the bow. Encamp against her all around. May there prove to be no escapees. Pay back to her according to her activity. According to all that she has done, do to her. For it is against Jehovah that she has acted presumptuously, against the Holy One of Israel.

(Jeremiah 51:9) "We would have healed Babylon, but she has not been healed. Leave her, YOU people, and let us go each one to his own land. For clear to the heavens her judgment has reached, and it has been lifted up to the cloudy skies.

(Revelation 18:6) Render to her even as she herself rendered, and do to her twice as much, yes, twice the number of the things she did; in the cup in which she put a mixture put twice as much of the mixture for her.

(Jeremiah 50:39, 40) Therefore the haunters of waterless regions will dwell with the howling animals, and in her the ostriches must dwell; and she will nevermore be dwelt in, nor will she reside for generation after generation." ⁴⁰ "Just as with God's overthrow of Sod'om and of Go-mor'rah and of her neighbor [towns]," is the utterance of Jehovah, "no man will dwell there, nor will the son of mankind reside in her as an alien.

Paragraph 23

(Jeremiah 30:18, 19) This is what Jehovah has said: "Here I am gathering the captive ones of the tents of Jacob, and for his tabernacles I shall have pity. And the city will actually be rebuilt upon her mound; and upon its rightful site the dwelling tower itself will sit. ¹⁹ And from them there will certainly go forth thanksgiving, and the sound of those who are laughing. And I will multiply them, and they will not become few; and I will make them heavy in number, and they will not become insignificant.

(Jeremiah 3:15) And I will give YOU shepherds in agreement with my heart, and they will certainly feed YOU with knowledge and insight.

(Jeremiah 23:3, 4) "And I myself shall collect together the remnant of my sheep out of all the lands to which I had dispersed them, and I will bring them back to their pasture ground, and they will certainly be fruitful and become many. ⁴ And I will raise up over them shepherds who will actually shepherd them; and they will be afraid no more, neither will they be struck with any terror, and none will be missing," is the utterance of Jehovah.

Paragraph 24

(Jeremiah 25:33) 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 25

(Matthew 28:19, 20) Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded YOU. And, look! I am with YOU all the days until the conclusion of the system of things."

(Jeremiah 23:30) "Therefore here I am against the prophets," is the utterance of Jehovah, "the ones who are stealing away my words, each one from his companion."

(Lamentations 2:17) Jehovah has done what he had in mind. He has accomplished his saying, What he had commanded from the days of long ago. He has torn down and shown no compassion. And over you he causes the enemy to rejoice. He has made the horn of your adversaries high.

Paragraph 26

(Jeremiah 31:31-33) "Look! There are days coming," is the utterance of Jehovah, "and I will conclude with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah a new covenant; ³² not one like the covenant that I concluded with their forefathers in the day of my taking hold of their hand to bring them forth out of the land of Egypt, 'which covenant of mine they themselves broke, although I myself had husbandly ownership of them,' is the utterance of Jehovah." ³³ "For this is the covenant that I shall conclude with the house of Israel after those days," is the utterance of Jehovah. "I will put my law within them, and in their heart I shall write it. And I will become their God, and they themselves will become my people."

THE FIRST TO THE
CORINTHIANS

9/2/2013

1 Paul, called to be an apostle^a of Jesus Christ through God's will,^b and Sos'the-nes^c our brother **2** to the congregation of God that is in Corinth,^d to you who have been sanctified^e in union with Christ Jesus, called to be holy ones,^f together with all who everywhere are calling upon the name^g of our Lord, Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:^h

3 May you have undeserved kindnessⁱ and peace^j from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.^k

4 I always thank God for you in view of the undeserved kindness^l of God given to you in Christ Jesus;^m **5** that in everything you have been enrichedⁿ in him, in full ability to speak and in full knowledge,^o **6** even as the witness about the Christ^p has been rendered firm among you, **7** so that you do not fall short in any gift^q at all, while you are eagerly waiting for the revelation^r of our Lord Jesus Christ. **8** He will also make you firm^s to the end, that you may be open to no accusation^t in the day^u of our Lord Jesus Christ.^v **9** God is faithful,^w by whom you were called into a sharing^x with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

10 Now I exhort^y you, brothers, through the name^z of our Lord Jesus Christ that you should all speak in agreement,^a and that there should not be divisions^b among you, but that you may be fitly united in the same mind and in the same line of thought.^c **11** For the disclosure^d was made to me about you, my brothers, by those of the house of Chlo'e, that dissensions exist among you. **12** What I mean is this, that each one of you says: "I be-

CHAP. 1

- a Ac 9:15
- Ro 1:1
- 1Ti 2:7
- b 2Co 1:1
- Col 1:1
- c Ac 18:17
- d Ac 18:1
- e Joh 17:19
- 1Co 6:11
- Heb 2:11
- Heb 9:14
- f Da 7:27
- 1Pe 1:15
- g Mt 12:21
- Ac 4:12
- h Ro 3:22
- Eph 4:5
- i Tit 2:11
- j Nu 6:26
- Php 4:7
- k 2Pe 1:2
- l Joh 1:17
- m Eph 1:7
- Eph 2:7
- n 2Co 8:9
- Eph 3:19
- o Col 1:9
- p Ac 18:5
- 2Ti 1:8
- q Heb 6:4
- r Lu 17:30
- 2Th 1:7
- 1Pe 1:7
- s Ro 14:4
- 1Th 3:13
- 2Th 3:3
- t Col 1:22
- u 1Co 4:5
- 1Co 5:5
- Re 1:10
- v 1Th 5:23
- w De 7:9
- Isa 49:7
- x Joh 17:21
- 1Jo 1:3
- y 2Th 3:6
- z 2Co 13:10
- a 2Co 13:11
- Php 2:2
- b Ro 16:17
- Eph 4:3
- c Ro 15:5
- 2Co 13:11
- d Le 5:1
- 1Co 5:1

Second Col.

- a Ac 18:24
- 1Co 3:4
- 1Co 3:21
- b Eph 4:5
- c Ac 2:38
- d Ac 18:8
- e Ro 16:23
- f 1Co 16:15
- g Ac 9:15
- h 1Co 2:1
- i Ac 17:18
- 1Co 2:14
- j 1Jo 2:17
- k 1Co 15:2
- l Ro 1:16
- m Ps 33:10
- 1Co 3:19

long to Paul," "But I to A-pol'los,"^a "But I to Ce'phas," "But I to Christ." **13** The Christ exists divided.^b Paul was not impaled for you, was he? Or were you baptized^c in the name of Paul? **14** I am thankful I baptized none of you except Cris'pus^d and Ga'ius,^e **15** so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. **16** Yes, I also baptized the household of Steph'a-nas.^f As for the rest, I do not know whether I baptized anybody else. **17** For Christ dispatched me,^g not to go baptizing, but to go declaring the good news, not with wisdom of speech,^h that the torture stake of the Christ should not be made useless.

18 For the speech about the torture stake is foolishnessⁱ to those who are perishing,^j but to us who are being saved^k it is God's power.^l **19** For it is written: "I will make the wisdom of the wise men perish,^m and the intelligence of the intellectualⁿ men I will shove aside."^o **20** Where is the wise man? Where the scribe?^p Where the debater^q of this system of things?^r Did not God make the wisdom of the world foolish?^s **21** For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom^t did not get to know God,^u God saw good through the foolishness^v of what is preached to save those believing.

22 For both the Jews ask for signs^w and the Greeks look for wisdom,^x **23** but we preach Christ impaled,^y to the Jews a cause for stumbling^z

n Jer 8:9; 1Ti 6:20; o Isa 29:14; p Isa 33:18; q Ac 17:18; r Eph 2:2; s Job 12:17; Ro 1:22; t Col 2:8; u Mt 11:25; Lu 10:21; v Ac 17:19; 1Co 2:14; 1Co 3:18; w Mt 12:38; Lu 11:29; x Ac 17:18; y 1Co 2:2; z Isa 8:14.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:24–2:16

Physical man vs. spiritual man

1424

but to the nations foolishness;^a **24** however, to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power^b of God and the wisdom^c of God. **25** Because a foolish thing of God is wiser than men, and a weak thing of God is stronger than men.^d

26 For you behold his calling of you, brothers, that not many wise^e in a fleshly way were called,^f not many powerful,^g not many of noble birth; **27** but God chose the foolish things of the world,^h that he might put the wise men to shame; and God chose the weak things of the world, that he might put the strong things to shame;ⁱ **28** and God chose the ignoble things of the world and the things looked down upon, the things that are not,^j that he might bring to nothing^k the things that are, **29** in order that no flesh might boast^l in the sight of God. **30** But it is due to him that you are in union with Christ Jesus, who has become to us wisdom^m from God, also righteousnessⁿ and sanctification^o and release by ransom;^p **31** that it may be just as it is written: “He that boasts, let him boast in Jehovah.”^q

2 And so I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come with an extravagance of speech^r or of wisdom declaring the sacred secret^s of God to you. **2** For I decided not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ,^t and him impaled. **3** And I came to you in weakness and in fear and with much trembling;^u **4** and my speech and what I preached were not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of spirit and power,^v **5** that your faith might be, not in men’s wisdom,^w but in God’s power.^x

6 Now we speak wisdom among those who are mature,^y

CHAP. 1

a Ac 17:32
b Mr 13:26
c 1Co 1:30
Col 2:3
d 2Co 13:4
e Ac 4:13
f Ro 8:30
g Joh 7:48
Jas 2:5
h Lu 16:8
i Mt 11:25
j Ro 4:17
k 1Co 2:6
l Ro 3:27
1Co 4:7
m Jer 23:5
Re 5:12
n Ro 10:4
2Co 5:21
o Joh 17:19
Heb 10:10
p Ro 3:24
Col 1:14
q Jer 9:24
2Co 10:17

CHAP. 2

r 1Co 1:17
2Co 10:10
2Co 11:6
s Eph 3:5
Col 2:2
t Ga 6:14
Php 3:8
u 2Co 10:1
Ga 4:13
v Ro 15:19
1Co 4:20
1Th 1:5
2Pe 1:16
w Eph 1:17
x 2Co 4:7
2Co 6:7
y 1Co 14:20
Eph 4:13
Heb 5:14

Second Col.

a 1Co 3:20
2Co 1:12
1Ti 6:20
b Mt 20:25
c 1Co 15:24
d Ge 3:15
Ro 16:25
Eph 3:9
e Col 1:26
f Joh 7:48
Ac 13:27
g 1Co 1:18
2Co 3:14
h Ac 4:10
Ac 5:30
i Isa 64:4
j De 29:29
Mt 16:17
Mr 4:11
Eph 3:5
2Ti 1:10
1Pe 1:12
k Joh 14:26
1Jo 2:27
l Ro 8:26
m Job 11:7
Ro 11:33
Eph 3:18
n Ro 1:9
Ro 8:16
o Joh 14:17
Ro 8:27

but not the wisdom^a of this system of things nor that of the rulers of this system of things,^b who are to come to nothing.^c **7** But we speak God’s wisdom in a sacred secret,^d the hidden wisdom, which God foreordained before the systems^e of things for our glory. **8** This wisdom not one of the rulers^f of this system of things came to know,^g for if they had known it they would not have impaled^h the glorious Lord. **9** But just as it is written: “Eye has not seen and ear has not heard, neither have there been conceived in the heart of man the things that God has prepared for those who love him.”ⁱ **10** For it is to us God has revealed^j them through his spirit,^k for the spirit^l searches into all things, even the deep^m things of God.

11 For who among men knows the things of a man except the spiritⁿ of man that is in him? So, too, no one has come to know the things of God, except the spirit^o of God. **12** Now we received, not the spirit^p of the world, but the spirit^q which is from God, that we might know the things that have been kindly given us by God.^r **13** These things we also speak, not with words taught by human wisdom,^s but with those taught by the spirit,^t as we combine spiritual matters with spiritual words.^u

14 But a physical man does not receive the things of the spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot get to know them,^v because they are examined spiritually. **15** However, the spiritual^w man examines indeed all things, but he himself is not examined^x by any man. **16** For “who has come to know the mind of Jehovah,^y that

p 1Jo 4:3; 1Jo 5:19; Re 16:14; q Joh 15:26; r 1Jo 4:6; s Col 2:8; 1Ti 6:20; 2Pe 1:16; t Joh 16:13; u Pr 1:23; Joh 6:63; v Mt 16:23; w Ro 8:5; x 1Co 4:3; y Ro 11:34.

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he may instruct him?"^a But we do have the mind^b of Christ.

3 And so, brothers, I was not able to speak to YOU as to spiritual men,^c but as to fleshly men, as to babes^d in Christ. **2** I fed YOU milk, not something to eat,^e for YOU were not yet strong enough. In fact, neither are YOU strong enough now,^f **3** for YOU are yet fleshly.^g For whereas there are jealousy and strife among YOU,^h are YOU not fleshly and are YOU not walking as men do?ⁱ **4** For when one says: "I belong to Paul," but another says: "I to A-pol'los,"^j are YOU not simply men?

5 What, then, is A-pol'los?^k Yes, what is Paul? Ministers^l through whom YOU became believers, even as the Lord granted each one. **6** I planted,^m A-pol'los watered,ⁿ but God kept making it grow;^o **7** so that neither is he that plants anything^p nor is he that waters, but God who makes it grow.^q **8** Now he that plants and he that waters are one,^r but each person will receive his own reward according to his own labor.^s **9** For we are God's fellow workers.^t You people are God's field under cultivation,^u God's building.^v

10 According to the undeserved kindness^w of God that was given to me, as a wise director of works I laid a foundation,^x but someone else is building on it. But let each one keep watching how he is building on it.^y

11 For no man can lay any other foundation^z than what is laid, which is Jesus Christ.^a **12** Now if anyone builds on the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood materials, hay, stubble, **13** each one's work will become manifest, for the day will show it up, because it will be revealed by means of fire;^b and the fire itself will prove what sort of work each one's is. **14** If anyone's

CHAP. 2

a Isa 40:13
b Ro 15:5
Php 2:5

CHAP. 3

c Mt 5:3
1Co 2:15
Col 1:9
Jude 19
d 1Co 14:20
e Heb 5:12
Heb 5:14
f Heb 5:13
g Ro 8:7
Ga 5:17
h Ro 13:13
2Co 12:20
Ga 5:19
i 1Pe 4:3
j 1Co 1:12
1Co 11:18
k Ac 18:24
l 2Co 3:6
Col 1:23
1Ti 1:12
m Ac 18:4
n Ac 18:25
Ac 18:28
Ac 19:1
o Isa 55:10
2Co 9:10
p 2Co 12:11
Ga 6:3
q Ro 9:16
2Co 6:1
r Ga 3:28
s Ro 2:6
1Co 4:5
Php 2:13
Re 22:12
t 1Co 3:6
u Mt 13:38
v Eph 2:22
1Pe 2:5
w 1Co 15:10
x Ro 15:20
Heb 6:1
y 1Pe 4:11
z Isa 28:16
1Pe 2:6
a Ps 118:22
Mt 21:42
Ac 4:11
Eph 2:20
b Da 11:35
Zec 13:9
1Pe 1:7
1Pe 4:12

Second Col.

a Mt 7:25
b 1Co 9:17
c Eze 3:19
d Jude 23
e 2Co 6:16
Eph 2:21
1Pe 2:5
f Ro 8:9
1Co 6:19
g Isa 54:15
2Th 1:6
h Ps 11:4
i 2Co 6:16
j 1Pe 2:5
k Pr 3:7
Lu 16:8
l Da 12:3
Da 12:10
m 1Co 1:20

work that he has built on it remains,^a he will receive a reward;^b **15** if anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved;^c yet, if so, it will be as through fire.^d

16 Do you not know that you people are God's temple,^e and that the spirit of God dwells in you?^f **17** If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him;^g for the temple of God is holy,^h which templeⁱ you people are.^j

18 Let no one be seducing himself: If anyone among YOU thinks he is wise^k in this system of things, let him become a fool, that he may become wise.^l

19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God;^m for it is written: "He catches the wise in their own cunning."ⁿ **20** And again: "Jehovah knows that the reasonings of the wise men are futile."^o **21** Hence let no one be boasting in men; for all things belong to YOU,^p **22** whether Paul or A-pol'los^q or Ce'phas or the world or life or death or things now here or things to come,^r all things belong to YOU; **23** in turn you belong to Christ;^s Christ, in turn, belongs to God.^t

4 Let a man so appraise us as being subordinates^u of Christ and stewards^v of sacred secrets^w of God. **2** Besides, in this case, what is looked for in stewards^x is for a man to be found faithful.^y **3** Now to me it is a very trivial matter that I should be examined by YOU or by a human tribunal.^z Even I do not examine myself. **4** For I am not conscious^a of anything against myself. Yet by this I am not proved righteous, but he that examines

n Job 5:13; Lu 20:23; o Ps 94:11; p 2Co 4:15; q 1Co 1:12; r Ro 8:38; s Joh 17:9; 2Co 10:7; t 1Co 11:3; CHAP. 4 u Lu 1:2; 2Co 5:20; v Lu 12:42; 1Co 9:17; Col 1:25; Tit 1:7; w Mt 13:11; Ro 16:25; x Ge 24:2; y Ge 39:9; Ga 3:9; Heb 3:5; z Mt 10:17; 1Pe 4:6; a Job 27:6; Ac 23:1; Ac 24:16.

1 CORINTHIANS 4:5-5:5

Theatrical spectacle. Fornication

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me is Jehovah.^a **5** Hence do not judge^b anything before the due time, until the Lord comes,^c who will both bring the secret things of darkness to light^d and make the counsels of the hearts manifest,^e and then each one will have his praise come to him from God.^f

6 Now, brothers, these things I have transferred so as to apply to myself and A-pol'los^g for YOUR good, that in our case YOU may learn the rule: "Do not go beyond the things that are written,"^h in order that YOU may not be puffed upⁱ individually in favor of the one against the other.^j **7** For who makes you to differ^k from another? Indeed, what do you have that you did not receive?^l If, now, you did indeed receive it,^m why do you boastⁿ as though you did not receive it?

8 You men already have YOUR fill, do YOU? You are rich already, are YOU?^o You have begun ruling as kings^p without us, have YOU? And I wish indeed that you had begun ruling as kings, that we also might rule with YOU as kings.^q **9** For it seems to me that God has put us the apostles last on exhibition^r as men appointed to death,^s because we have become a theatrical spectacle^t to the world, and to angels,^u and to men.^v **10** We are fools^w because of Christ, but YOU are discreet^x in Christ; we are weak,^y but YOU are strong;^z YOU are in good repute,^a but we are in dishonor.^b **11** Down to this very hour we continue to hunger^c and also to thirst^d and to be scantily clothed^e and to be knocked^f about and to be homeless^g **12** and to toil,^h working with our own hands.ⁱ When being reviled, we bless;^j when being persecuted, we bear up;^k **13** when being defamed, we entreat;^l we have become as the refuse of the world, the offscouring of all things, until now.^m

CHAP. 4

a Pr 21:2
 Ro 14:10
 Heb 4:13
 b Mt 7:1
 c Mal 3:2
 Mt 24:3
 Re 1:10
 d Pr 10:9
 Mt 10:26
 Lu 8:17
 1Ti 5:24
 e Lu 2:35
 1Th 2:4
 f Joh 5:44
 Ro 2:29
 2Co 10:18
 g 1Co 1:12
 1Co 3:22
 h 1Co 1:31
 2Jo 9
 3Jo 9
 i Ro 12:3
 j 2Co 12:20
 k Ro 12:6
 l Joh 3:27
 Jas 1:17
 m 1Pe 4:10
 n Ga 6:14
 o Re 3:17
 p Re 20:4
 Re 20:6
 q 2Ti 2:12
 Re 3:21
 r 1Co 15:32
 s Ps 44:22
 Ro 8:36
 2Co 6:9
 Re 6:9
 t Heb 10:33
 u Eph 6:12
 1Pe 1:12
 v 2Co 2:16
 w 1Co 3:18
 x Mt 10:16
 y 2Co 11:29
 z 1Co 10:12
 a Ga 2:6
 b Joh 8:49
 c Php 4:12
 d 2Co 11:27
 e Ro 8:35
 f Ac 14:19
 Ac 23:2
 2Co 11:24
 g Mt 8:20
 h 1Th 2:9
 i Ac 18:3
 Ac 20:34
 2Th 3:8
 j Ps 109:28
 Ro 12:14
 1Pe 3:9
 k Mt 5:44
 l 1Pe 2:23
 m La 3:45

Second Col.

a 2Co 6:13
 b Ga 3:24
 c 3Jo 4
 d Ga 4:19
 1Th 2:11
 e 1Co 11:1
 Php 3:17
 1Th 1:6
 f Ac 19:22
 Php 2:19
 1Th 3:2
 g 2Ti 1:2
 h Lu 6:40
 2Ti 1:13

14 I am writing these things, not to shame YOU, but to admonish you as my beloved children.^a

15 For though you may have ten thousand tutors^b in Christ, you certainly do not have many fathers;^c for in Christ Jesus I have become YOUR father through the good news.^d **16** I entreat you, therefore, become imitators of me.^e **17** That is why I am sending Timothy to you,^f as he is my beloved and faithful child^g in the Lord; and he will put you in mind of my methods in connection with Christ Jesus,^h just as I am teaching everywhere in every congregation.

18 Some are puffed upⁱ as though I were in fact not coming to you. **19** But I will come to you shortly, if Jehovah wills,^j and I shall get to know, not the speech of those who are puffed up, but their power. **20** For the kingdom of God lies not in speech, but in power.^k **21** What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod,^l or with love and mildness of spirit?^m

5 Actually fornicationⁿ is reported among you, and such fornication as is not even among the nations, that a wife a certain man has of his father.^o **2** And are YOU puffed up,^p and did YOU not rather mourn,^q in order that the man that committed this deed should be taken away from YOUR midst?^r **3** I for one, although absent in body but present in spirit, have certainly judged already,^s as if I were present, the man who has worked in such a way as this, **4** that in the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are gathered together, also my spirit with the power of our Lord Jesus,^t **5** you hand such a man over to Satan^u for the de-

i 1Ti 3:6; j Ac 18:21; Jas 4:15; k 1Co 2:4; 1Th 1:5; l 2Co 10:8; 2Co 13:10; m Ga 6:1; CHAP. 5
 n Eph 5:3; o Ge 35:22; Le 18:8; De 22:30; p 1Co 4:18; q Eze 9:4; 2Co 7:9; r 1Co 5:13; 2Jo 10; s 1Co 6:3; t Joh 20:23; u Ac 26:18; 1Ti 1:20.

1427 Court cases. Not inherit Kingdom

struction of the flesh, in order that the spirit^a may be saved in the day of the Lord.^b

6 YOUR cause for boasting^c is not fine. Do YOU not know that a little leaven ferments^d the whole lump?^e **7** Clear away the old leaven, that you may be a new lump,^f according as you are free from ferment. For, indeed, Christ^g our passover^h has been sacrificed.ⁱ **8** Consequently let us keep the festival,^j not with old leaven,^k neither with leaven^l of badness and wickedness,^m but with unfermented cakes of sincerity and truth.ⁿ

9 In my letter I wrote you to quit mixing in company with fornicators, **10** not meaning entirely with the fornicators^o of this world^p or the greedy persons and extortioners or idolaters. Otherwise, you would actually have to get out of the world.^q **11** But now I am writing you to quit mixing in company^r with anyone called a brother that is a fornicator or a greedy^s person or an idolater or a reviler or a drunkard^t or an extortioner, not even eating with such a man. **12** For what do I have to do with judging those outside?^u Do you not judge those inside,^v **13** while God judges those outside?^w "Remove the wicked man from among yourselves."^x

6 Does anyone of you that has a case^y against the other dare to go to court before unrighteous men,^z and not before the holy ones?^a **2** Or do YOU not know that the holy ones will judge^b the world?^c And if the world is to be judged by YOU, are you unfit to try very trivial^d matters? **3** Do YOU not know that we shall judge angels?^e Why, then, not matters of this life? **4** If, then, you do have matters of this life to be tried,^f is it the men looked down upon in the congregation that you put in as judges?^g **5** I am speak-

CHAP. 5

a 1Co 7:34
b 1Co 1:8
c 1Co 3:21
Jas 4:16
d Ga 5:9
2Ti 2:17
e Ec 9:18
1Co 15:33
f Ga 6:15
g 1Pe 1:19
h Joh 1:29
i Re 5:12
j Ex 13:7
k De 16:3
l Mt 16:12
m 1Pe 4:3
n Joh 1:17
Joh 17:17
o Ro 1:28
1Co 6:9
Eph 5:5
p 1Jo 2:17
q Joh 17:15
r Nu 16:26
Ro 16:17
2Th 3:6
2Jo 10
s Eph 5:5
t De 21:20
1Co 6:10
Ga 5:21
1Pe 4:3
u Mr 4:11
v 1Co 6:5
w Ec 12:14
x Ge 3:24
De 17:7
Tit 3:10
2Jo 10

CHAP. 6

y Mt 18:15
z Ac 18:17
a 1Co 5:3
Tit 1:9
Heb 13:17
b Lu 22:30
Re 20:4
c 2Pe 3:7
d 1Co 4:3
e Ro 16:20
f Mt 18:17
g Pr 29:27

Second Col.

a 1Co 15:34
b De 1:13
1Ti 3:2
c 2Co 6:15
d 2Ch 19:8
Lu 12:13
e Pr 20:22
Mt 5:39
Ro 12:17
1Th 5:15
1Pe 3:9
f Ps 146:7
g 1Th 4:6
h Eph 5:5
Re 22:15
i Re 21:8
j Col 3:5
k Heb 13:4
l Ro 1:27
m 1Ti 1:10
n 1Co 5:11

1 CORINTHIANS 5:6-6:14

ing to move YOU to shame.^a Is it true that there is not one wise man^b among you that will be able to judge between his brothers, **6** but brother goes to court with brother, and that before unbelievers?^c

7 Really, then, it means altogether a defeat for YOU that YOU are having lawsuits^d with one another. Why do you not rather let yourselves be wronged?^e Why do you not rather let yourselves be defrauded?^f **8** To the contrary, YOU wrong and defraud, and YOUR brothers at that.^g

9 What! Do YOU not know that unrighteous persons will not inherit God's kingdom?^h Do not be misled. Neither fornicators,ⁱ nor idolaters,^j nor adulterers,^k nor men kept for unnatural purposes,^l nor men who lie with men,^m **10** nor thieves, nor greedyⁿ persons, nor drunkards,^o nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit God's kingdom.^p **11** And yet that is what some of YOU were.^q But YOU have been washed clean,^r but you have been sanctified,^s but you have been declared righteous^t in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ^u and with the spirit of our God.^v

12 All things are lawful for me; but not all things are advantageous.^w All things are lawful^x for me; but I will not let myself be brought under authority by anything.^y **13** Foods for the belly, and the belly for foods;^z but God will bring both it and them to nothing.^a Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord;^b and the Lord is for the body.^c **14** But God both raised up the Lord^d and will raise us up out of death^e through his power.^f

o De 21:20; Pr 23:20; 1Pe 4:3; p Heb 12:14; 1Pe 4:18; q Col 3:7; Tit 3:3; r Joh 13:10; Ac 22:16; Heb 10:22; s Eph 5:26; 2Th 2:13; t Ro 5:18; u 1Jo 2:12; v Ro 8:33; w 1Co 10:23; x Ro 6:14; y Ro 6:16; z Tit 1:12; a Ro 14:17; b 1Th 4:3; c Col 1:18; 1Th 5:23; d Ac 2:24; Ro 6:4; Eph 1:20; e Ro 6:5; Ro 8:11; 2Co 4:14; f Eph 1:19.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:15–7:18

15 Do you not know that YOUR bodies are members^a of Christ?^b Shall I, then, take the members of the Christ away and make them members of a harlot?^c Never may that happen! **16** What! Do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body? For, “The two,” says he, “will be one flesh.”^d **17** But he who is joined to the Lord is one^e spirit.^f **18** Flee from fornication.^g Every other sin that a man may commit is outside his body, but he that practices fornication is sinning against his own body.^h **19** What! Do you not know that the body of YOU people is the templeⁱ of the holy spirit within you,^j which you have from God? Also, you do not belong to yourselves,^k **20** for you were bought with a price.^l By all means, glorify God^m in the bodyⁿ of YOU people.

7 Now concerning the things about which YOU wrote, it is well for a man not to touch^o a woman; **2** yet, because of prevalence of fornication,^p let each man have his own wife^q and each woman have her own husband. **3** Let the husband render to his wife her due;^r but let the wife also do likewise to her husband.^s **4** The wife does not exercise authority over her own body, but her husband does;^t likewise, also, the husband does not exercise authority over his own body, but his wife does.^u **5** Do not be depriving each other of it,^v except by mutual consent for an appointed time,^w that you may devote time to prayer and may come together again, that Satan may not keep tempting^x you for YOUR lack of self-regulation.^y **6** However, I say this by way of concession,^z not in the way of a command.^a **7** But I wish all men were as I myself am.^b Nevertheless, each one has his own gift^c from God, one in this way, another in that way.

Marriage dues. Unbelieving mates 1428

CHAP. 6

a 1Co 12:18
1Co 12:27
Eph 5:30
b Ro 12:5
Eph 4:15
c Jas 4:4
d Ge 2:24
Mt 19:5
Eph 5:31
e Joh 17:21
f Eph 4:3
Eph 4:4
g Ge 39:12
1Th 4:3
h Ro 1:24
Ro 1:27
Ro 6:12
i 1Co 3:16
2Co 6:16
j 1Th 4:8
k Ro 14:8
l 1Co 7:23
Heb 9:12
1Pe 1:18
m Mt 5:16
n Ro 12:1
1Co 12:27
Eph 4:12

CHAP. 7

o Ge 20:6
De 22:28
Pr 6:29
p Jer 5:7
1Th 4:3
q Ge 2:24
Pr 5:19
Heb 13:4
r Ex 21:10
1Co 7:5
s Ho 3:3
1Pe 3:7
t Eph 5:24
u Eph 5:21
v Ge 4:1
1Sa 1:19
Mt 1:25
Heb 13:4
w Ex 19:15
x 2Co 2:11
1Th 3:5
y 1Co 9:25
z Mt 19:8
a 1Co 7:25
2Co 8:8
b 1Co 9:5
c Mt 19:11

Second Col.

a 1Co 7:27
b 1Co 9:5
c 1Th 4:4
1Ti 5:11
d 1Ti 5:14
e 1Th 4:5
f Mt 5:32
g Jer 3:20
Mt 19:6
Mr 10:11
Lu 16:18
h 1Co 7:25
i Eph 6:1
j Ro 11:16
k Mal 2:15
l Heb 12:14
m 1Pe 3:1
n Jas 5:20

8 Now I say to the unmarried persons^a and the widows, it is well for them that they remain even as I am.^b **9** But if they do not have self-control,^c let them marry, for it is better to marry^d than to be inflamed with passion.^e

10 To the married people I give instructions, yet not I but the Lord,^f that a wife should not depart from her husband;^g **11** but if she should actually depart, let her remain unmarried or else make up again with her husband; and a husband should not leave his wife.

12 But to the others I say, yes, I, not the Lord:^h If any brother has an unbelieving wife, and yet she is agreeable to dwelling with him, let him not leave her; **13** and a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and yet he is agreeable to dwelling with her, let her not leave her husband. **14** For the unbelieving husband is sanctified in relation to his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified in relation to the brother; otherwise, YOUR children would really be unclean,ⁱ but now they are holy.^j **15** But if the unbelieving one proceeds to depart,^k let him depart; a brother or a sister is not in servitude under such circumstances, but God has called you to peace.^l **16** For, wife, how do you know but that you will save your husband?^m Or, husband, how do you know but that you will save your wife?ⁿ

17 Only, as Jehovah has given each one a portion,^o let each one so walk as God has called him.^p And thus I ordain^q in all the congregations. **18** Was any man called circumcised?^r Let him not become uncircumcised. Has any man been called in uncircumcision?^s Let him not get cir-

o Ps 143:10; Isa 46:11; 1Co 12:18; p 1Co 7:7; q 1Co 9:14; r Ac 21:20; s Ac 10:45; Ga 5:2.

1429 Singleness. Marry only in Lord

cumcised.^a **19** Circumcision^b does not mean a thing, and uncircumcision^c means not a thing, but observance of God's commandments does.^d **20** In whatever state each one was called,^e let him remain in it.^f **21** Were you called when a slave? Do not let it worry you;^g but if you can also become free, rather seize the opportunity. **22** For anyone in the Lord that was called when a slave is the Lord's freedman,^h likewise he that was called when a freemanⁱ is a slave^j of Christ. **23** You were bought with a price;^k stop becoming slaves^l of men. **24** In whatever condition^m each one was called, brothers, let him remain in it associated with God.

25 Now concerning virgins I have no command from the Lord, but I give my opinionⁿ as one who had mercy shown him by the Lord^o to be faithful.^p **26** Therefore I think this to be well in view of the necessity here with us, that it is well for a man to continue as he is.^q **27** Are you bound to a wife?^r Stop seeking a release.^s Are you loosed from a wife? Stop seeking a wife. **28** But even if you did marry, you would commit no sin.^t And if a virgin person married, such one would commit no sin. However, those who do will have tribulation in their flesh.^u But I am sparing you.

29 Moreover, this I say, brothers, the time left is reduced.^v Henceforth let those who have wives be as though they had none,^w **30** and also those who weep be as those who do not weep, and those who rejoice as those who do not rejoice, and those who buy as those not possessing, **31** and those making use of the world^x as those not using it to the full; for the scene of this world is changing.^y **32** Indeed, I want you to be free from

CHAP. 7

- a Ac 15:1
- Ac 15:24
- b Ro 2:25
- c Ga 6:15
- Col 3:11
- d Ec 12:13
- Jer 7:23
- Ga 5:6
- 1Jo 5:3
- e Eph 4:1
- f 1Co 7:17
- g Ga 3:28
- h Joh 8:36
- Phm 16
- i Eph 6:8
- j 1Pe 2:16
- k 1Co 6:20
- Heb 9:12
- 1Pe 1:18
- l Ga 4:9
- Ga 5:1
- m 1Co 7:26
- n 1Co 7:12
- o 1Ti 1:16
- p 1Ti 1:12
- q 1Co 7:17
- r Mt 19:6
- s Mal 2:16
- Eph 5:33
- t Heb 13:4
- u Ge 3:16
- v Mt 24:33
- Ro 13:11
- 1Pe 4:7
- w Lu 14:26
- x 1Jo 2:16
- y 2Ti 3:13

Second Col.

- a Lu 10:41
- b Lu 14:20
- 1Ti 5:8
- c 1Co 7:4
- d Lu 10:42
- 1Ti 5:5
- e Pr 31:12
- f 1Co 6:12
- g Lu 10:40
- h Mt 19:12
- i 1Co 7:28
- j Mt 19:11
- k Heb 13:4
- l 1Co 7:32
- m Ro 7:2
- n Ge 24:3
- De 7:3
- De 7:4
- Ne 13:25
- 2Co 6:14
- o 1Co 7:26
- p 1Th 4:8

CHAP. 8

- q Ac 15:20
- r Ro 14:14
- 1Co 8:10
- s 1Co 8:13
- 1Co 13:5
- Eph 3:19

1 CORINTHIANS 7:19-8:2

anxiety.^a The unmarried man is anxious for the things of the Lord, how he may gain the Lord's approval. **33** But the married man is anxious^b for the things of the world, how he may gain the approval of his wife,^c **34** and he is divided. Further, the unmarried woman, and the virgin, is anxious for the things of the Lord,^d that she may be holy both in her body and in her spirit. However, the married woman is anxious for the things of the world, how she may gain the approval of her husband.^e **35** But this I am saying for YOUR personal advantage, not that I may cast a noose upon YOU, but to move YOU to that which is becoming^f and that which means constant attendance upon the Lord without distraction.^g

36 But if anyone thinks he is behaving improperly toward his virginity,^h if that is past the bloom of youth, and this is the way it should take place, let him do what he wants; he does not sin. Let them marry.ⁱ **37** But if anyone stands settled in his heart, having no necessity, but has authority over his own will and has made this decision in his own heart, to keep his own virginity, he will do well.^j **38** Consequently he also that gives his virginity in marriage does well,^k but he that does not give it in marriage will do better.^l

39 A wife is bound during all the time her husband is alive.^m But if her husband should fall asleep in death, she is free to be married to whom she wants, only in the Lord.ⁿ **40** But she is happier if she remains as she is,^o according to my opinion. I certainly think I also have God's spirit.^p

8 Now concerning foods offered to idols:^a we know we all have knowledge.^r Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.^s **2** If anyone thinks he has

1 CORINTHIANS 8:3-9:13

Food to idols. Not stumble others 1430

acquired knowledge of something,^a he does not yet know it just as he ought to know it.^b

3 But if anyone loves God,^c this one is known by him.^d

4 Now concerning the eating^e of foods offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing^f in the world, and that there is no God but one.^g **5** For even though there are those who are called “gods,”^h whether in heavenⁱ or on earth,^j just as there are many “gods” and many “lords,”^k **6** there is actually to us one God^l the Father,^m out of whom all things are, and we for him;ⁿ and there is one Lord,^o Jesus Christ,^p through whom all things are,^q and we through him.

7 Nevertheless, there is not this knowledge in all persons;^r but some, being accustomed until now to the idol, eat food as something sacrificed to an idol,^s and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.^t **8** But food will not commend us to God;^u if we do not eat, we do not fall short, and, if we eat, we have no credit to ourselves.^v **9** But keep watching that this authority of YOURS does not somehow become a stumbling block to those who are weak.^w **10** For if anyone should see you, the one having knowledge, reclining at a meal in an idol temple, will not the conscience of that one who is weak be built up to the point of eating foods offered to idols?^x **11** Really, by your knowledge, the man that is weak is being ruined, your brother for whose sake Christ died.^y **12** But when YOU people thus sin against YOUR brothers and wound their conscience^z that is weak, YOU are sinning against Christ. **13** Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble,^a I will never again eat flesh at all, that I may not make my brother stumble.^b

CHAP. 8

a Ga 6:3
b 1Ti 6:4
c 1Jo 4:8
d Ex 33:12
Na 1:7
e 1Co 10:18
f De 32:21
2Ki 19:18
Isa 44:10
Jer 16:20
g De 6:4
De 32:39
Eph 4:6
h Ps 82:1
Joh 10:35
i Ps 8:5
Heb 2:7
j Ps 82:6
k Ps 136:3
l 1Ti 2:5
m Mal 2:10
Mt 23:9
n Ac 17:28
Ro 11:36
o Eph 4:5
p Php 2:11
q Joh 1:3
Col 1:16
r Ro 14:14
1Co 10:27
s 1Co 10:28
t Ro 14:23
u Ro 14:17
v Heb 13:9
w Ro 14:13
Ro 14:20
x Re 2:14
y Mt 20:28
Ro 14:15
z 1Co 10:29
a Ro 14:15
b Mt 18:6
Ro 14:21
2Co 11:29

Second Col.

CHAP. 9

a Ga 5:1
b 2Co 12:12
1Ti 2:7
c Ac 9:5
1Co 15:8
d 2Co 3:2
e 1Co 4:3
f Lu 10:8
g Mt 19:11
h Mt 13:55
Ga 1:19
i Mt 8:14
Joh 1:42
j Ac 13:2
k Ac 18:3
2Th 3:8
l De 20:6
Pr 27:18
m De 32:14
1Pe 5:2
n Ro 3:5
o Ps 19:7
p De 25:4
1Ti 5:18
q Ro 15:4
1Co 10:11
r 2Ti 2:6
s 1Co 2:13
Ga 1:11

9 Am I not free?^a Am I not an apostle?^b Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?^c Are not YOU my work in the Lord? **2** If I am not an apostle to others, I most certainly am to YOU, for you are the seal confirming^d my apostleship in relation to the Lord.

3 My defense to those who examine me is as follows:^e **4** We have authority to eat^f and drink, do we not? **5** We have authority to lead about a sister as a wife,^g even as the rest of the apostles and the Lord's brothers^h and Ce'phas,ⁱ do we not? **6** Or is it only Bar'na-bas^j and I that do not have authority to refrain from secular work?^k **7** Who is it that ever serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit?^l Or who shepherds a flock and does not eat some of the milk of the flock?^m

8 Am I speaking these things by human standards?ⁿ Or does not the Law^o also say these things? **9** For in the law of Moses it is written: “You must not muzzle a bull when it is threshing out the grain.”^p Is it bulls God is caring for? **10** Or is it altogether for our sakes he says it? Really for our sakes it was written,^q because the man who plows ought to plow in hope and the man who threshes ought to do so in hope of being a partaker.^r

11 If we have sown spiritual things^s to YOU, is it something great if we shall reap things for the flesh from YOU?^t **12** If other men partake of this authority over YOU,^u do we not much more so? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this authority,^v but we are bearing all things, in order that we might not offer any hindrance to the good news^w about the Christ. **13** Do you not know that the men perform-

t Ro 15:27; Ga 6:6; Php 4:17; u Mt 17:25; Lu 20:25; v Ac 20:34; w 2Co 6:3; 2Co 11:7.

1431 Woe if not preach. Rock-mass

ing sacred duties eat^a the things of the temple, and those constantly attending^b at the altar have a portion for themselves with the altar? **14** In this way, too, the Lord ordained^c for those proclaiming the good news to live by means of the good news.^d

15 But I have not made use of a single one of these provisions.^e Indeed, I have not written these things that it should become so in my case, for it would be finer for me to die than—no man is going to make my reason for boasting^f void! **16** If, now, I am declaring the good news,^g it is no reason for me to boast, for necessity^h is laid upon me. Really, woeⁱ is me if I did not declare the good news! **17** If I perform this willingly,^j I have a reward;^k but if I do it against my will, all the same I have a stewardship^l entrusted to me. **18** What, then, is my reward? That while declaring the good news I may furnish the good news without cost,^m to the end that I may not abuse my authority in the good news.

19 For, though I am free from all persons, I have made myself the slaveⁿ to all, that I may gain^o the most persons. **20** And so to the Jews I became as a Jew,^p that I might gain Jews; to those under law I became as under law,^q though I myself am not under law,^r that I might gain those under law. **21** To those without law^s I became as without law,^t although I am not without law toward God but under law^u toward Christ,^v that I might gain those without law. **22** To the weak I became weak, that I might gain the weak.^w I have become all things to people of all sorts,^x that I might by all means save some. **23** But I do all things for the sake of the good news, that I may become a sharer^y of it with others.

24 Do you not know that the

CHAP. 9

- a Le 6:16
- Nu 18:31
- De 18:1
- b 1Co 7:35
- c Mt 10:10
- Lu 10:7
- d Ro 15:27
- Ga 6:6
- 1Th 2:9
- Heb 13:16
- e Ac 18:3
- Ac 20:34
- 1Co 4:12
- 2Th 3:8
- f 2Co 11:10
- g Re 22:17
- h Jer 20:9
- Lu 17:10
- i Eze 3:18
- j 1Pe 5:2
- k 1Co 3:14
- l Ga 2:7
- Eph 3:2
- Col 1:25
- m 2Co 11:7
- n Ga 5:13
- o 1Pe 3:1
- p Ac 16:3
- Ac 18:18
- q Ac 21:24
- Ac 21:26
- r Ro 6:14
- s Ro 2:12
- t Ga 2:3
- u Joh 13:34
- Ga 6:2
- v 1Co 7:22
- w Ro 14:1
- Ro 15:1
- 2Co 11:29
- x Ga 3:28
- y Ac 19:26
- 1Th 2:8

Second Col.

- a Ga 5:7
- b Php 3:14
- Col 2:18
- c Ga 2:2
- Php 2:16
- d Mt 10:22
- Mt 24:13
- 2Ti 4:8
- e 2Pe 1:6
- f 2Ti 2:5
- g Jas 1:12
- h Heb 12:1
- i 1Co 14:9
- j Ro 8:13
- Col 3:5
- k 2Co 13:6

CHAP. 10

- l Ex 13:21
- m Ex 14:22
- n Heb 3:5
- o Ex 16:15
- p Ex 17:6
- Ps 78:15
- q Nu 20:11
- r Mt 16:18
- 1Pe 2:4
- s Joh 4:10
- Joh 4:25
- t Nu 14:16
- Eze 20:15
- Jude 5

1 CORINTHIANS 9:14–10:9

runners^a in a race all run, but only one receives the prize?^b Run^c in such a way that you may attain it.^d **25** Moreover, every man taking part in a contest exercises self-control^e in all things. Now they, of course, do it that they may get a corruptible crown,^f but we an incorruptible one.^g **26** Therefore, the way I am running^h is not uncertainly; the way I am directing my blows is so as not to be striking the air;ⁱ **27** but I pummel my body^j and lead it as a slave, that, after I have preached to others, I myself should not become disapproved^k somehow.

10 Now I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud^l and all passed through the sea^m **2** and all got baptized into Mosesⁿ by means of the cloud and of the sea; **3** and all ate the same spiritual food^o **4** and all drank the same spiritual drink.^p For they used to drink from the spiritual rock-mass^q that followed them, and that rock-mass^r meant the Christ.^s **5** Nevertheless, on most of them God did not express his approval,^t for they were laid low^u in the wilderness.

6 Now these things became our examples, for us not to be persons desiring injurious things,^v even as they desired them. **7** Neither become idolaters, as some of them did;^w just as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they got up to have a good time.”^x **8** Neither let us practice fornication, as some of them committed fornication,^y only to fall, twenty-three thousand of them in one day.^z **9** Neither let us put Jehovah^a to the test, as some of them put him to the test,^b

u Nu 14:29; Heb 3:17; v Nu 11:34; Ps 106:14; w Ex 32:4; x Ex 32:6; y Nu 25:1; 2Pe 2:2; z Nu 25:9; a De 6:16; b Nu 21:5.

END



*** w08 7/15 p. 26 Highlights From the Letters to the Corinthians ***

THE apostle Paul is deeply concerned about the spiritual welfare of the congregation in Corinth. He has heard that there are dissensions among the brothers there. Immorality is being tolerated. The congregation has also written Paul, inquiring about certain matters. So about 55 C.E., when he is in Ephesus during the course of his third missionary journey, Paul writes the first of his two letters to the Corinthians.

Scriptural Questions Answered:

1:21—Does Jehovah really use “foolishness” to save those believing? No, he does not. However, since “the world through its wisdom did not get to know God,” what he uses to save people appears foolish to the world.—John 17:25.

5:5—What does it mean to “hand [the wicked] man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, in order that the spirit may be saved”? When an unrepentant practitioner of gross sin is disfellowshipped from the congregation, he again becomes part of Satan’s wicked world. (1 John 5:19) Hence, he is spoken of as being handed over to Satan. The person’s expulsion results in the destruction, or the removal, of the corrupting element from the congregation and in the preservation of its spirit, or dominant attitude.—2 Tim. 4:22.

7:33, 34—What is meant by “the things of the world” for which a married man or woman is anxious? Paul is referring to the mundane things in life with which married Christians need to be concerned. These include food, clothing, and housing, but exclude the bad things of this world, which Christians shun.—1 John 2:15-17.

Lessons for Us:

1:26-31; 3:3-9; 4:7. Humbly boasting in Jehovah, not in ourselves, promotes unity in the congregation.

2:3-5. While witnessing in Corinth, a center of Greek philosophy and learning, Paul may have been concerned about whether he would be able to persuade his listeners. However, he did not allow any weakness or fear he might have had to interfere with the carrying out of his God-given ministry. Likewise, we should not permit unusual circumstances to hold us back from declaring the good news of God’s Kingdom. We can confidently look to Jehovah for help as did Paul.

1. What does it mean to have “the mind of Christ”? (1 Cor. 2:16) [Sept. 2, w08 7/15 p. 27 par. 7]

TMS REVIEW: 2:16. To have “the mind of Christ” is to know the pattern of his thinking, to think as he does, to have a grasp of the full range of his personality, and to imitate his example. (1 Pet. 2:21; 4:1) How important it is that we carefully study Jesus’ life and ministry!

carefully study Jesus’ life and ministry!

3:10-15; 4:17. We should analyze and improve our ability to teach and make disciples. (Matt. 28:19, 20) If we do not teach well, our student may not survive tests of faith, and we may suffer a loss so painful that our salvation will be “as through fire.”

7:29. Marriage mates ought to be careful not to get so absorbed in each other that Kingdom interests take second place in their lives.



2. In what ways do we “flee from fornication”? (1 Cor. 6:18) [Sept. 2, w08 7/15 p. 27 par. 9; w04 2/15 p. 12 par. 9]

TMS REVIEW: 6:18. To “flee from fornication” is to avoid not only acts of *por-nei'a* but also pornography, moral uncleanness, sexual fantasizing, flirting—anything that can lead to fornication.—Matt. 5:28; Jas. 3:17.



*** w12 2/15 p. 18 par. 2 Preserve the Positive Spirit of the Congregation ***

² Each congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses today likewise manifests a certain spirit, or dominant attitude. Some congregations are especially known for showing a warm, loving spirit. Others are exceptional in their zealous support of the Kingdom-preaching work and in showing high regard for the full-time ministry. When we as individuals cultivate a positive spirit, we contribute to the unity of the congregation and further its spiritual advancement in general. (1 Cor. 1:10) On the other hand, a negative spirit on our part can contribute to spiritual drowsiness, a lukewarm attitude, and even the toleration of wrongdoing in the congregation. (1 Cor. 5:1; Rev. 3:15, 16)

*** w12 2/15 pp. 20-21 par. 9 Preserve the Positive Spirit of the Congregation ***

⁹ To promote a healthy, positive spirit in the congregation, we should give attention to our zeal for the field service. The congregation is organized for the purpose of searching out sheeplike individuals in the territory and building them up spiritually. Hence, we need to share in the disciple-making work with enthusiasm, as Jesus did. (Matt. 28:19, 20; Luke 4:43) The greater our zeal for the ministry, the more united we will be as “God’s fellow workers.” (1 Cor. 3:9) As we observe others in the field service defending their faith and expressing appreciation for spiritual things, we are moved to love and respect them more. Also, serving “shoulder to shoulder” in the ministry produces a united spirit in the congregation.—**Read Zephaniah 3:9.**

*** w12 2/15 p. 22 par. 16 Preserve the Positive Spirit of the Congregation ***

¹⁶ The Christian congregation is a spiritual haven, and we must help to protect it by reporting serious wrongdoing. If the elders bring the wrongdoer to his senses and he repentantly accepts reproof and correction, he no longer endangers the spirit of the congregation. But what if the practitioner of gross sin is unrepentant and does not respond to the loving counsel of the elders? His expulsion from the congregation results in “the destruction,” or removal, of the corrupting element from among us, and the spirit of the congregation is preserved. (**Read 1 Corinthians 5:5.**) Yes, preserving the spirit of the congregation requires that each of us take proper action, cooperate with the body of elders, and protect the welfare of fellow believers.

*** w12 4/15 p. 12 par. 16 Betrayal—An Ominous Sign of the Times! ***

¹⁶ There are members of the congregation who committed serious sins and who were reproved “with severity, that they may be healthy in the faith.” (Titus 1:13) For some, their conduct has required that they be disfellowshipped. For “those who have been trained by it,” the discipline has helped them to become spiritually restored. (Heb. 12:11) What if we have a relative or a close friend who is disfellowshipped? Now our loyalty is on the line, not to that person, but to God. Jehovah is watching us to see whether we will abide by his command not to have contact with *anyone* who is disfellowshipped.—**Read 1 Corinthians 5:11-13.**



***** w12 5/15 p. 4 pars. 6-7 Do You Really Appreciate God's Gift of Marriage? *****

—**1 Cor. 7:39.** ⁷ If a dedicated servant of Jehovah married an unbeliever, this would be an act of disobedience to God. The Israelites of Ezra's day acted unfaithfully by giving "a dwelling to foreign wives," and it would be wrong to try to water down the plain statements of the Scriptures. (Ezra 10:10; 2 Cor. 6:14, 15) A Christian who marries an unbeliever is not exemplary and lacks real appreciation for God's gift of marriage. Entering such a union after baptism can cost one some privileges among God's people. And it

would be illogical to expect blessings while admitting in prayer, 'Jehovah, I deliberately disobeyed you, but please bless me anyway.'

***** w12 5/15 p. 9 par. 4 Take a Positive View of a Strained Marriage *****

⁴ Some Christians do not marry "only in the Lord" and suffer the often painful consequences of a religiously divided household. (**1 Cor. 7:39**) If that is your experience, pray for God's forgiveness and help. He does not remove the effects of a person's past errors, but he does assist repentant ones to cope with trials. (Ps. 130:1-4) Put your heart into pleasing him now and forever, and 'the joy of Jehovah will be your stronghold.'—Neh. 8:10.

***** w12 5/15 pp. 11-12 par. 17 Take a Positive View of a Strained Marriage *****

¹⁷ A Christian who is married to an unbeliever should earnestly endeavor to keep the marriage bond intact. Yet, a Christian need not feel guilty if, despite the Christian's sincere effort to preserve the union, an unbelieving mate refuses to remain with the believer. "If the unbelieving one proceeds to depart, let him depart," wrote Paul. "A brother or a sister is not in servitude under such circumstances, but God has called you to peace."—**1 Cor. 7:15.** **

****See "Keep Yourselves in God's Love," pages 219-221; *The Watchtower* of November 1, 1988, pages 26-27; September 15, 1975, page 575.**

***** w12 8/15 pp. 23-24 pars. 16-17 Beware of the Devil's Snares! *****

¹⁶ Some individuals continue to harbor guilt over sins for which they have actually been forgiven. If that is true of you, remember that Jehovah forgave Peter and the other apostles for abandoning His beloved Son in Jesus' greatest hour of need. Jehovah forgave the man who was expelled from the congregation in Corinth for flagrant immorality but who later repented. (**1 Cor. 5:1-5**; 2 Cor. 2:6-8) God's Word speaks of gross sinners who repented and were forgiven by God.—2 Chron. 33:2, 10-13; **1 Cor. 6:9-11.**

***** km 10/12 p. 1 par. 1 Could You Share in Evening Witnessing? *****

¹ According to the book *Daily Life in Bible Times*, the apostle Paul typically shared in the house-to-house ministry "from 4 p.m. till far into the night." We do not know whether this was Paul's actual schedule, but we do know that Paul was willing to "do all things for the sake of the good news." (**1 Cor. 9:19-23**) This would have included arranging his affairs to go from house to house when it was most productive to do so.

***** km 1/11 p. 1 par. 3 A Most Enjoyable Work *****

³ **Can You Have a Share?** If you would like to participate in this most enjoyable work, ask Jehovah for the privilege of conducting a Bible study, and then work in harmony with your prayers. (1 John 5:14) Preach where and when people can be found. Offer a Bible study on every appropriate occasion. (Eccl. 11:6) When you find interest and plant a seed of truth, return to water it.—**1 Cor. 3:6-9.**

Cultivating the Quality of Love

(1 Corinthians 13:1-8)

1. We humbly bow to our God in prayer,
That all his qualities we may share.
But most important of all those things
Is love, which having his spirit brings.
We may be talented, wise, or bold,
But we are nothing if love grows cold.
So may we cultivate lasting love;
Then we'll endure and please God above.
2. It's not enough to use just the mind,
As we keep teaching the sheep we find.
We need to love them in word and deed,
While helping them on His Word to feed.
Love helps us patiently suffer wrong,
Bears heavy loads when it's really strong.
And so remember in each travail,
Love bears all things; it will never fail.

“Ideas for Offering the Magazines in . . .”

We customarily have a monthly Service Meeting part about offering the magazines. Its purpose is not to review the contents of the magazines. Rather, this part is designed to *discuss ideas* for offering the magazines. Therefore, according to the instructions, the assigned brother gives a *very brief* introduction to stimulate enthusiasm for the magazines. Then, he obtains publishers’ suggestions on

one article (or series) at a time so that all can follow along and take note of ideas they want to use. Rather than inviting the audience to give an entire presentation, he requests several comments on an interest-arousing question to ask and then asks for some comments on a scripture to read. He concludes by having demonstrations for each magazine. We are encouraged to review the magazines in advance and to be ready to give our suggestions. If all prepare well, this part will help us to sharpen the face of one another.—Prov. 27:17.



the WATCHTOWER® September 1
ANNOUNCING JERUSALEM'S KINGDOM

“We’re visiting because many in our community wonder why God has allowed so much suffering. Have you ever wondered about that? [Allow for response.] It’s interesting that the Bible promises that there will be a time when mourning and pain will be gone. [Read Revelation 21:4.] This magazine examines five fundamental reasons why there is so much suffering. It also shows what the Bible says about how God will end suffering.”

Awake!® September

“We’re here to provide information regarding a popular holiday that’s approaching—Halloween. Some have chosen not to celebrate, pointing to warnings such as this one from the Bible. [Read Leviticus 19:31.] Other people do not believe in supernatural spirits and view Halloween as harmless fun. What’s your opinion about this holiday? [Allow for response.] This magazine reveals the dark origins of Halloween.”



Relate why the magazines will have appeal in the territory: (30-60 sec.)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Interest-arousing questions to ask & suggested Scriptures to read: (using the cover series)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

⁴ But why did the holy spirit specifically direct that Barnabas and Saul be set apart “for the work”? (Acts 13:2) The Bible does not say. We do know that the holy spirit directed the choosing of these men. There is no indication that the prophets and teachers in Antioch contested the decision. Instead, they fully supported the appointment. Imagine how Barnabas and Saul must have felt as their spiritual brothers, without envy, “fasted and prayed and laid their hands upon them and let them go.” (Acts 13:3) We too should support those who receive theocratic assignments, including men appointed as congregation overseers. Rather than being envious of those who receive such privileges, we should “give them more than extraordinary consideration in love because of their work.”—1 Thess. 5:13.

⁵ After walking to Seleucia, a harbor near Antioch, Barnabas and Saul sailed to the island of Cyprus, a journey of about 120 miles.* As a native of Cyprus, Barnabas no doubt was eager to bring the good

* In the first century, a ship could travel about a hundred miles in a day if winds were favorable. In unfavorable conditions, such a journey could take much longer.

4. (a) What directed the choosing of Barnabas and Saul, and how did fellow believers react to the appointment? (b) How can we give support to those who receive theocratic assignments?

5. Describe what was involved in witnessing on the island of Cyprus.

see w98 4/15 20-3

BARNABAS—“SON OF COMFORT”

A prominent member of the early Jerusalem congregation was Joseph, a Levite and a native of Cyprus. The apostles gave him an additional name, descriptive of his personality—Barnabas, meaning “Son of Comfort.” (Acts 4:36) When Barnabas saw a need among his fellow believers, he hastened to meet it.

At Pentecost 33 C.E., 3,000 new disciples were baptized. It is likely that many of these had traveled to Jerusalem for the festival and had not planned to stay in the city for as long as they did. The congregation needed resources to care for this multitude. Therefore, Barnabas sold



a piece of land and generously brought the money to the apostles as a contribution.—Acts 4:32-37.

As a mature Christian overseer, Barnabas was eager to help others. It was he who aided newly converted Saul of Tarsus when all the other disciples feared him because of his reputation as a persecutor. (Acts 9:26, 27) Barnabas responded humbly when Paul gave him and Peter strong counsel concerning the proper relationship between Jewish and Gentile Christians. (Gal. 2:9, 11-14) These few examples show that Barnabas truly lived up to his name—“Son of Comfort.”

“This Is the Way”
(Isaiah 30:20, 21)

1. There is a way of peace,
The way you've come to know.
It is the way you learned,
The way of long ago,
The way that Jesus taught you
When his voice you heard.
This is the way of peace,
Found in Jehovah's Word.

(CHORUS)

*This is the Way to life; This is the Way.
Don't look aside; Not for a moment stray!
God's voice is calling: 'This is the Way;
Do not look back, for yes, This is the Way.'*

2. There is a way of love,
No need to look around.
God's voice has shown the way
He lets himself be found.
His love is full and good;
His love is warm and true.
This is the way of love;
It touches all we do.

(Chorus)

3. There is a way of life,
No need to look behind.
Our God has promised us:
No better way we'll find,
No higher way to peace,
No finer way to love.
This is the way to life,
Thanks to our God above.
(Chorus)

(See also Ps. 32:8; 139:24; Prov. 6:23.)