



MID-WEEK MEETING FILE

SEPTEMBER 16-20, 2013

(Ecclesiastes 12:1) Remember, now, your Grand Creator in the days of your young manhood, before the calamitous days proceed to come, or the years have arrived when you will say: "I have no delight in them";

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 16

Song 21 and Prayer [Happy, the Merciful!](#)

□ Congregation Bible Study:

jr chap. 14 ¶8-13 (30 min.)

□ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: 2 Corinthians 1-7 (10 min.)

No. 1: 2 Corinthians 1:15–2:11 (4 min. or less)

w12 12/1----
pp. 18-20 **No. 2:** How Much of a Difference Is There Between Reincarnation and the Hope Held Out in the Bible?—*rs* p. 320 ¶3-4 (5 min.)

w11 1/15----
pp. 3-7 **No. 3:** What Must One Do to Take Refuge in the Name of Jehovah?—Zeph. 3:12 (5 min.)

□ Service Meeting:

Song 41 [Worship Jehovah During Youth](#)

see [jw.org](#)---

10 min: Youths—What Will You Do With Your Life?—Part 2. Talk based on the *Your Life* tract, from paragraph 10 to the conclusion. Briefly interview someone who has pursued full-time service as a youth. What influenced his decision to do so? What blessings has he enjoyed?

km 5/12
page 1;
km 11/94
page 3;

10 min: When You Are Working Alone. Discussion. (1) When we preach without a partner, what will help us to maintain joy? (2) What cautions are in order when making return visits alone? (3) If no one usually meets for field service on the days that we share in the ministry, how can we encourage others in the congregation to join us? (4) What are the advantages of purposely working alone on occasion whenever and wherever it is safe to do so?

10 min: “Who Are Doing Jehovah’s Will Today?” Questions and answers. Briefly review the design and features of the brochure.—See the March 2013 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 3.

Song 107 and Prayer [Come to Jehovah’s Mountain](#)

Who Are Doing Jehovah’s Will Today?

¹ Beginning the week of October 28, *Who Are Doing Jehovah’s Will Today?* will be considered at the Congregation Bible Study. This new brochure, released at the “Safeguard Your Heart!” District Convention, is designed to di-

1. When will we begin considering *Who Are Doing Jehovah’s Will Today?* and how will this benefit us?

rect Bible students to the organization. Not only will consideration of this publication heighten our appreciation for being a part of Jehovah’s organization but it will also help us become well-acquainted with this valuable tool for the ministry.—Ps. 48:13.

² **How It Will Be Studied:** The conductor will need to apportion his time so that each lesson receives equal coverage. He will introduce each of the 28 lessons by reading the question that forms the title. Then, he will invite the reader to read the introductory paragraph. Next, the conductor will ask the audience a question that he has prepared for the introduction. Thereafter, each section that begins with a statement in bold print should be read and discussed separately. After the section is read, the conductor will invite comments on how it answers the question that is the title of the lesson. The brochure also has many illustrations that can be commented on. Key scriptures should be read as time allows. Before moving on to the next lesson, the conductor will review by asking the questions at the bottom of the page. If there is a “Find Out More” box, he will have it read, and then he will invite comments from the audience on how a Bible student will benefit from following the suggestion. If time allows at the conclusion of the study, the conductor may use the titles of the lessons as review questions. Keep in mind that this is not necessarily the procedure for conducting a home Bible study.

³ In order to benefit to the full, come to the meeting well-prepared. Endeavor to share in commenting. During the discussion, think about why the material is beneficial for Bible students. May our consideration of this new brochure equip us to help others to join us in doing God’s will so that they too may have the prospect of remaining forever.—1 John 2:17.

2. How will the brochure be studied in the congregation?
3. How may we benefit to the full from studying this brochure?

Happy, the Merciful! (Matthew 5:7)

1. How happy are the merciful!

In God's eyes they are beautiful.
They tell to all who love the right
That God in mercy takes delight.
Through Jesus, mercy God displayed,
Provision for our ransom made.
He offers mercy to the meek
Because he knows our frame is weak.

2. Those merciful like God are blessed;

Through sins forgiven they have rest.
They benefit by mercy shown,
Since Christ appeared before God's throne.
This mercy they would gladly share
By preaching God's Word ev'rywhere,
By telling men, "Be of good cheer
Because the Kingdom now is here."

3. The meek will see Jehovah's love
When they are judged by him above.
His mercy they will really know,
Since they, like him, true mercy show.
So merciful let's strive to be
And cultivate that quality.
Our God and Christ have shown the way;
May we show mercy ev'ry day.

(See also Luke 6:36; Rom. 12:8; Jas. 2:13.)

after the incident. Even otherwise exemplary Christians may say things that they later regret.—Jas. 3:5-10.

⁷ None of us should feel that we could never stray into inappropriate conduct. (1 Cor. 10:12) Even the apostle Paul realized that he erred. (*Read Romans 7:21-25.*) In this connection, the new covenant should come to mind. God promised that one key aspect of the new covenant would be his remembering sins no more. What an incomparable benefit! Foretelling that must have truly moved Jeremiah, and we can similarly be moved as we learn more about the new covenant and see how we can benefit from it.

Why did God conclude a new covenant?

9/16/2013

WHAT IS THE NEW COVENANT?

⁸ As you come to know Jehovah better, you increasingly realize how kind and merciful he is to imperfect humans. (Ps. 103:13, 14) In foretelling the new covenant, Jeremiah highlighted that Jehovah would “forgive their error” and remember sin no more. (Jer. 31:34) You can imagine that Jeremiah might have wondered how God would accomplish that forgiveness. At least he could understand that in speaking of a new *covenant*, God meant that there would be an agreement, or contract, between Him and humans. Somehow, by means of that covenant, Jehovah would accomplish what he inspired Jeremiah to outline, including forgiveness. More details would have to await God’s further revealing of his purpose, including what the Messiah would do.

⁹ You may have seen parents who spoil their children,

8, 9. What did it cost Jehovah to make forgiveness of sin possible?

not disciplining them. Would you expect Jehovah to be like that? Not at all! This is clear from the way the new covenant took effect. Instead of just canceling sins, God scrupulously met his own standard of justice by providing the legal basis for forgiving sins, doing so at great cost to himself. You can gain insight into this by noting what Paul wrote when discussing the new covenant. **(Read Hebrews 9:15, 22, 28.)** Paul mentioned “release by ransom” and said that “unless blood is poured out no forgiveness takes place.” In the case of the new covenant, this did not mean the sacrificial blood of bulls or goats as offered under the Law. No, the new covenant was made operative by Jesus’ blood. Based on that perfect sacrifice, Jehovah could ‘forgive error and sin’ lastingly. (Acts 2:38; 3:19) But who would be in this new covenant and gain that forgiveness? Not the Jewish nation. Jesus said that God would reject the Jews, those who offered animal sacrifices under the Law, and He would turn to another nation. (Matt. 21:43; Acts 3:13-15) That proved to be “the Israel of God,” composed of Christians anointed with holy spirit. In basic terms, the

(Hebrews 9:15) So that is why he is a mediator of a new covenant, in order that, because a death has occurred for [their] release by ransom from the transgressions under the former covenant, the ones who have been called might receive the promise of the everlasting inheritance.
 (Hebrews 9:22) Yes, nearly all things are cleansed with blood according to the Law, and unless blood is poured out no forgiveness takes place.
 (Hebrews 9:28) so also the Christ was offered once for all time to bear the sins of many; and the second time that he appears it will be apart from sin and to those earnestly looking for him for [their] salvation.



Law covenant was between God and natural Israel, while the new covenant is between Jehovah God and spiritual Israel, with Jesus as its Mediator.—Gal. 6:16; Rom. 9:6.

¹⁰ Jeremiah depicted the coming One, the Messiah, as the “sprout” for David. That is fitting. Even while Jeremiah was serving as a prophet, David’s royal family tree was cut down. However, the stump was not dead. In time, Jesus was born in the line of King David. He could be called “Jehovah Is Our Righteousness,” highlighting God’s deep concern for that quality. **(Read Jeremiah 23:5, 6.)** Jehovah allowed his only-begotten Son to experience suffering on earth and to die. Then Jehovah—in harmony with justice—could apply the value of the ransom sacrifice of the “sprout” for David as a basis for forgiveness. (Jer. 33:15) This opened the way for some humans to be declared “righteous for life” and anointed with holy spirit, becoming parties to the new covenant. As further evidence of God’s concern for righteousness, others who are not directly in that covenant can and do benefit from it, as we will see.—Rom. 5:18.

(Jeremiah 23:5, 6)
“Look! There are days coming,” is the utterance of Jehovah, and I will raise up to David a righteous sprout. And a king will certainly reign and act with discretion and execute justice and righteousness in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel itself will reside in security. And this is his name with which he will be called, Jehovah Is Our Righteousness.”

¹¹ Would you like to know other distinctive aspects of the new covenant? One major difference between it and the Mosaic Law covenant is what they were written on. **(Read Jeremiah 31:33.)** The Ten Commandments of the Law covenant were written on stone tablets, which eventually disappeared. In contrast, Jeremiah prophesied that the law of the new covenant would be written in human hearts, and it would endure. Those who are parties to the new covenant, anointed Christians, truly appreciate this

(Jeremiah 31:33)
“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.”

10. (a) Who is the “sprout” for David? (b) How can humans benefit from the “sprout”?

11. (a) On what is the law of the new covenant written? (b) Why are the “other sheep” interested in the law of the new covenant?



“The law of the Christ” moves one to serve Jehovah willingly

law. What of those who are not directly in the new covenant, the “other sheep,” who hope to live forever on earth? (John 10:16) These too delight in God’s law. In a sense, they are like the alien residents in Israel, who accepted and benefited from the Mosaic Law. —Lev. 24:22; Num. 15:15.

12 How would you reply if asked, ‘What is this law that is inscribed in the heart of anointed Christians?’ Well, this law is also

called “the law of the Christ.” It was first given to spiritual Israelites, those in the new covenant. (Gal. 6:2; Rom. 2: 28, 29) You could sum up “the law of the Christ” in one word: love. (Matt. 22:36-39) How do those of the anointed get this law written in their heart? Key ways are by their studying God’s Word and approaching Jehovah in prayer. Accordingly, those aspects of true worship should be regular features of the lives of all true Christians, even those who are not in the new covenant but who want to benefit from it.

13 “The law of the Christ” is referred to as “the perfect law that belongs to freedom” and “the law of a free peo-

12, 13. (a) What is the law of the new covenant? (b) Under “the law of the Christ,” why would you not feel coerced into serving God?

ple.” (Jas. 1:25; 2:12) Many were born under the Mosaic Law, but no one is born into the new covenant or under the law of the Christ. None who become obedient to the law of the Christ are coerced into serving God. Rather, they are delighted to know that God’s law can be written in hearts and that lasting benefits of the covenant that Jeremiah foretold are available to humans today.

How did God make forgiveness possible through the new covenant? How can you learn about the law that is written in hearts?

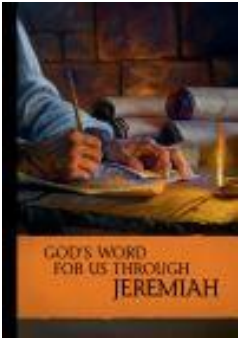
END

BENEFICIARIES OF THE NEW COVENANT

¹⁴ Upon learning that the 144,000 are in the new covenant, some may have thought that only these benefit from it. Perhaps they thought so because only anointed ones are to partake of the emblems at the annual Memorial of Christ’s death, where the wine represents the “blood of the covenant.” (Mark 14:24) Recall, though, that those in the new covenant are to be associates with Jesus as the “seed” of Abraham, by means of which all nations will be blessed. (Gal. 3:8, 9, 29; Gen. 12:3) Somehow, through the new covenant, Jehovah will fulfill his promise to bless all mankind through Abraham’s “seed.”

¹⁵ Jesus Christ, the primary part of the seed of Abraham, serves as High Priest, and he provided the perfect sacrifice that makes possible forgiveness of error and sin. (*Read Hebrews 2:17, 18.*) Yet, God long ago pointed forward to “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” (Ex. 19:6) In natural Israel the priests were from one tribe,

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14. Who clearly benefit from the new covenant?
 15. What role are the anointed foretold to have?



Paragraph 8

(Psalm 103:13, 14) As a father shows mercy to his sons, Jehovah has shown mercy to those fearing him. ¹⁴ For he himself well knows the formation of us, Remembering that we are dust.

(Jeremiah 31:34) “And they will no more teach each one his companion and each one his brother, saying, ‘KNOW Jehovah!’ for they will all of them know me, from the least one of them even to the greatest one of them,” is the utterance of Jehovah. “For I shall forgive their error, and their sin I shall remember no more.”

Paragraph 9

(Hebrews 9:15) So that is why he is a mediator of a new covenant, in order that, because a death has occurred for [their] release by ransom from the transgressions under the former covenant, the ones who have been called might receive the promise of the everlasting inheritance.

(Hebrews 9:22) Yes, nearly all things are cleansed with blood according to the Law, and unless blood is poured out no forgiveness takes place.

(Hebrews 9:28) so also the Christ was offered once for all time to bear the sins of many; and the second time that he appears it will be apart from sin and to those earnestly looking for him for [their] salvation.

(Acts 2:38) Peter [said] to them: “Repent, and let each one of YOU be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for forgiveness of YOUR sins, and YOU will receive the free gift of the holy spirit.

(Acts 3:19) “Repent, therefore, and turn around so as to get YOUR sins blotted out, that seasons of refreshing may come from the person of Jehovah

(Matthew 21:43) This is why I say to YOU, The kingdom of God will be taken from YOU and be given to a nation producing its fruits.

(Acts 3:13-15) The God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our forefathers, has glorified his Servant, Jesus, whom YOU, for YOUR part, delivered up and disowned before Pilate’s face, when he had decided to release him. ¹⁴ Yes, YOU disowned that holy and righteous one, and YOU asked for a man, a murderer, to be freely granted to YOU, ¹⁵ whereas YOU killed the Chief Agent of life. But God raised him up from the dead, of which fact we are witnesses.

(Galatians 6:16) And all those who will walk orderly by this rule of conduct, upon them be peace and mercy, even upon the Israel of God.

(Romans 9:6) However, it is not as though the word of God had failed. For not all who [spring] from Israel are really “Israel.”

Paragraph 10

(Jeremiah 23:5, 6) “Look! There are days coming,” is the utterance of Jehovah, “and I will raise up to David a righteous sprout. And a king will certainly reign and act with discretion and execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel itself will reside in security. And this is his name with which he will be called, Jehovah Is Our Righteousness.”

(Jeremiah 33:15) In those days and at that time I shall make sprout for David a righteous sprout, and he will certainly execute justice and righteousness in the land.

(Romans 5:18) So, then, as through one trespass the result to men of all sorts was condemnation, likewise also through one act of justification the result to men of all sorts is a declaring of them righteous for life.

Paragraph 11

(Jeremiah 31:33) “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.”

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

(Leviticus 24:22) “One judicial decision should hold good for YOU. The alien resident should prove to be the same as the native, because I am Jehovah YOUR God.”

(Numbers 15:15) YOU who are of the congregation and the alien resident who is residing as an alien will have one statute. It will be a statute to time indefinite for YOUR generations. The alien resident should prove to be the same as YOU before Jehovah.

Paragraph 12

(Galatians 6:2) Go on carrying the burdens of one another, and thus fulfill the law of the Christ.

(Romans 2:28, 29) For he is not a Jew who is one on the outside, nor is circumcision that which is on the outside upon the flesh. ²⁹ But he is a Jew who is one on the inside, and [his] circumcision is that of the heart by spirit, and not by a written code. The praise of that one comes, not from men, but from God.

(Matthew 22:36-39) “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ He said to him: “You must love Jehovah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ The second, like it, is this, ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’

Paragraph 13

(James 1:25) But he who peers into the perfect law that belongs to freedom and who persists in [it], this [man], because he has become, not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, will be happy in his doing [it].

(James 2:12) Keep on speaking in such a way and keep on doing in such a way as those do who are going to be judged by the law of a free people.

13 Stay awake,^a stand firm in the faith,^b carry on as men,^c grow mighty.^d **14** Let all YOUR affairs take place with love.^e

15 Now I exhort YOU, brothers: you know that the household of Steph'a-nas is the firstfruits^f of A-cha'ia and that they set themselves to minister to the holy ones.^g **16** May you also keep submitting yourselves to persons of that kind and to every-one cooperating and laboring.^h **17** But I rejoice over the presence of Steph'a-nasⁱ and For-tuna'tus and A-cha'i-cus, because they have made up for YOUR not being here. **18** For they have refreshed my spirit^j and YOURS.

CHAP. 16

a 1Th 5:6
b 1Co 15:58
Php 1:27
c Ac 4:29
d Eph 6:10
Col 1:11
e 1Co 13:4
1Pe 4:8
f Ro 16:5
g 2Co 8:4
Heb 6:10
h Php 2:29
1Th 5:12
1Ti 5:17
i 1Co 1:16
j 2Co 7:13

Second Col.

a Php 2:29
b Ro 16:5
c Phm 2
d Ro 16:16
e 2Th 3:17
Phm 19
f Ga 1:8
g Re 22:20

Therefore recognize men of that sort.^a

19 The congregations of Asia send YOU their greetings.^b Aq'-ui-la and Pris'ca together with the congregation that is in their house^c greet you heartily in the Lord. **20** All the brothers greet YOU. Greet one another with a holy kiss.^d

21 Here is my greeting, Paul's, in my own hand.^e

22 If anyone has no affection for the Lord, let him be accursed.^f O our Lord, come!^g **23** May the undeserved kindness of the Lord Jesus be with YOU. **24** May my love be with all of YOU in union with Christ Jesus.

THE SECOND TO THE

CORINTHIANS

9/16/2013

1 Paul, an apostle^a of Christ Jesus through God's will, and Timothy^b our brother to the congregation of God that is in Corinth, together with all the holy ones^c who are in all of A-cha'ia:^d

2 May you have undeserved kindness and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.^e

3 Blessed be the God and Father^f of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of tender mercies^g and the God of all comfort,^h

4 who comforts us in all our tribulation,ⁱ that we may be able to comfort^j those in any sort of tribulation through the comfort with which we ourselves are being comforted by God.^k **5** For just as the sufferings for the Christ abound in us,^l so the comfort we get also abounds through the Christ.^m **6** Now whether we are in tribulation, it is for YOUR comfort and salvation;ⁿ or

CHAP. 1

a 1Co 1:1
1Ti 1:1
b Ac 16:1
Php 2:20
c Col 1:2
d 1Th 1:8
e Ro 1:7
Eph 1:3
Php 1:2
f Joh 20:17
Eph 4:6
g Ex 34:6
Ps 86:5
Mic 7:18
h Isa 51:3
Ro 15:5
i Ps 23:4
2Co 7:6
j Eph 6:22
1Th 4:18
k Ro 15:4
2Th 2:16
l 1Co 4:11
Col 1:24
m Php 2:1
2Th 2:16
n Eph 1:13

Second Col.

a Ro 8:17
1Pe 3:17
1Pe 4:16
b Ro 8:18
2Ti 2:12
c Ac 19:22
Ac 20:18

whether we are being comforted, it is for YOUR comfort that operates to make you endure the same sufferings that we also suffer.^a **7** And so our hope for you is unwavering, knowing as we do that, just as you are sharers of the sufferings, in the same way you will also share the comfort.^b

8 For we do not wish you to be ignorant, brothers, about the tribulation that happened to us in the district of Asia,^c that we were under extreme pressure beyond our strength, so that we were very uncertain even of our lives.^d **9** In fact, we felt within ourselves that we had received the sentence of death. This was that we might have our trust,^e not in ourselves, but in the God who raises up the dead.^f **10** From such a great thing as

d Ac 19:23; 1Co 15:32; 1Co 16:9; 2Co 11:23; e Ps 33:20; Jer 17:7; 2Co 12:10; f Heb 11:19.

1441 Token—the spirit. Man reinstated

death he did rescue us and will rescue us;^a and our hope is in him that he will also rescue us further.^b **11** You also can help along by YOUR supplication for us,^c in order that thanks^d may be given by many in our behalf for what is kindly given to us due to many prayerful faces.^e

12 For the thing we boast of is this, to which our conscience bears witness,^f that with holiness and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom^g but with God's undeserved kindness, we have conducted ourselves in the world, but more especially toward you. **13** For we are really not writing you things except those which YOU well know or also recognize; and which I hope YOU will continue to recognize to the end,^h **14** just as YOU have also recognized, to an extent, that we are a cause for YOU to boast,ⁱ just as YOU will also be for us in the day of our Lord Jesus.^j

15 So, with this confidence, I was intending before to come to you,^k that you might have a second^l occasion for joy, **16** and after a stopover with you to go to Mac·e·do'ni·a,^m and to come back from Mac·e·do'ni·a to youⁿ and be conducted^o partway by YOU to Ju·de'a. **17** Well, when I had such an intention, I did not indulge in any lightness,^p did I? Or what things I purpose, do I purpose them according to the flesh,^q that with me there should be "Yes, Yes" and "No, No"?^r **18** But God can be relied upon that our speech addressed to you is not Yes and yet No. **19** For the Son of God,^s Christ Jesus, who was preached among YOU through us, that is, through me and Sil·va'nus and Timothy,^t did not become Yes and yet No, but Yes has become Yes in his case.^u **20** For no matter how many the promises^v of God are, they have become Yes by means of him.^w

CHAP. 1

- a Ps 34:19
- 2Pe 2:9
- b Ps 34:7
- 2Ti 4:18
- c Ro 15:30
- Php 1:19
- Phm 22
- d 2Co 9:11
- e Ac 12:5
- f Ac 23:1
- g 1Co 2:4
- h 1Co 4:14
- i 2Co 5:12
- j Php 2:16
- 1Th 2:19
- k 1Co 4:19
- l Ac 20:2
- m 1Co 16:5
- n Ac 20:3
- o Ac 17:15
- Ro 15:24
- 1Co 16:6
- p 2Co 10:2
- q 2Co 5:16
- r Mt 5:37
- Jas 5:12
- s Lu 1:35
- Ac 9:20
- t Ac 18:5
- u Heb 13:8
- v Ge 3:15
- Ge 17:7
- Ge 49:10
- w Ro 15:8

Second Col.

- a 1Co 14:16
- Re 3:14
- b 1Jo 2:20
- 1Jo 2:27
- c Eph 4:30
- d 2Co 5:5
- Eph 1:14
- e Ro 8:9
- Ro 8:23
- 1Co 12:13
- f Ro 1:9
- Php 1:8
- g 1Co 4:21
- h Heb 13:17
- 1Pe 5:3
- i 1Co 3:9
- 1Jo 1:3
- j Ro 11:20
- k 1Co 15:1

CHAP. 2

- l Ro 9:2
- m 1Co 4:21
- n 2Co 12:21
- o 2Co 7:16
- p Ga 5:10
- q Ac 20:31
- r 2Co 7:8
- s 1Co 5:1
- t 1Ti 5:20
- u Lu 15:24
- v Heb 12:12
- w Ro 12:10
- Col 1:4
- x 2Co 10:6

2 CORINTHIANS 1:11–2:10

Therefore also through him is the "Amen"^a said to God for glory through us. **21** But he who guarantees that you and we belong to Christ and he who has anointed^b us is God. **22** He has also put his seal^c upon us and has given us the token^d of what is to come, that is, the spirit,^e in our hearts.

23 Now I call upon God as a witness^f against my own soul that it is to spare you^g that I have not yet come to Corinth.

24 Not that we are the masters^h over YOUR faith, but we are fellow workersⁱ for YOUR joy, for it is by YOUR faith^j that you are standing.^k

TMS Review:
w13 1/15
page 27,
pars. 2-3

2 For this is what I have decided for myself, not to come to you again in sadness.^l **2** For if I make you sad,^m who indeed is there to cheer me except the one that is made sad by me? **3** And so I wrote this very thing, that, when I come, I may not get sadⁿ because of those over whom I ought to rejoice,^o because I have confidence^p in all of you that the joy I have is that of all of you. **4** For out of much tribulation and anguish of heart I wrote you with many tears,^q not that you might be saddened,^r but that you might know the love that I have more especially for you.

5 Now if anyone has caused sadness,^s he has saddened, not me, but all of you to an extent—not to be too harsh in what I say. **6** This rebuke^t given by the majority is sufficient for such a man, **7** so that, on the contrary now, you should kindly forgive^u and comfort him, that somehow such a man may not be swallowed up by his being overly sad.^v **8** Therefore I exhort you to confirm YOUR love^w for him. **9** For to this end also I write to ascertain the proof of you, whether you are obedient in all things.^x **10** Anything you

2 CORINTHIANS 2:11–3:15

Not peddlers. Qualified by God 1442

kindly forgive anyone, I do too.^a In fact, as for me, whatever I have kindly forgiven, if I have kindly forgiven anything, it has been for YOUR sakes in Christ's sight; **11** that we may not be overreached by Satan,^b for we are not ignorant of his designs.^c

12 Now when I arrived in Tro'as^d to declare the good news about the Christ, and a door was opened to me in the Lord,^e **13** I got no relief in my spirit on account of not finding Titus^f my brother, but I said good-bye to them and departed for Mac'e-do'ni-a.^g

14 But thanks be to God who always leads^h us in a triumphal procession in companyⁱ with the Christ and makes the odor of the knowledge of him perceptible through us in every place!^j **15** For to God we are a sweet odor^k of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing;^l **16** to the latter ones an odor issuing from death to death,^m to the former ones an odor issuing from life to life. And who is adequately qualified for these things?ⁿ **17** We are; for we are not peddlers of the word of God^o as many men are,^p but as out of sincerity, yes, as sent from God, under God's view, in company with Christ, we are speaking.^q

3 Are we starting again to recommend ourselves?^r Or do we, perhaps, like some men, need letters^s of recommendation to you or from you? **2** You yourselves are our letter,^t inscribed on our hearts and known and being read by all mankind.^u **3** For you are shown to be a letter of Christ written by us as ministers,^v inscribed not with ink but with spirit^w of a living God, not on stone tablets,^x but on fleshly tablets, on hearts.^y

4 Now through the Christ we have this sort of confidence^z to-

CHAP. 2

a Joh 20:23
b Lu 22:31
Eph 6:12
2Ti 2:26
c Eph 6:11
1Pe 5:8
d Ac 16:8
Ac 20:6
e 1Co 16:9
f Ga 2:3
Tit 1:4
g Ac 16:9
2Co 7:5
h Ps 68:7
i Re 14:4
j Ac 8:5
k Eph 5:2
l 1Co 1:18
m Joh 15:19
2Co 4:3
1Pe 2:8
n 1Co 15:10
o 2Co 4:2
p 2Co 11:13
q 2Co 12:19

CHAP. 3

r 2Co 5:12
2Co 10:12
s Ac 18:27
t 1Co 9:2
u Joh 5:36
Joh 10:38
v Ro 15:16
1Co 3:5
w Joh 14:17
x Ex 31:18
Ex 34:1
y Pr 3:3
Pr 7:3
Eze 11:19
Eze 36:26
z Eph 3:12

Second Col.

a Ro 15:18
1Co 2:7
b Ex 4:15
Php 2:13
1Jo 2:27
c Heb 8:6
1Jo 2:20
d Ro 13:9
e Ro 7:6
f Ga 3:10
g Joh 6:63
h Ro 7:10
i Ex 31:18
Ex 32:16
j Ex 34:29
k Ex 34:30
l Ac 2:4
Ga 3:5
m Heb 2:4
1Pe 4:14
n De 27:26
o Ex 34:35
p Ro 3:21
2Co 5:18
q 2Co 4:6
r Col 2:15
s Col 2:17
t Ex 19:16
Ex 24:17
u Heb 12:22
v 1Pe 1:3
w Ex 34:33

ward God. **5** Not that we of ourselves are adequately qualified to reckon anything as issuing from ourselves,^a but our being adequately qualified issues from God,^b **6** who has indeed adequately qualified us to be ministers of a new covenant,^c not of a written code,^d but of spirit;^e for the written code condemns^f to death, but the spirit makes alive.^g

7 Moreover, if the code which administers death^h and which was engraved in letters in stonesⁱ came about in a glory,^j so that the sons of Israel could not gaze intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face,^k a glory that was to be done away with, **8** why should not the administering of the spirit^l be much more with glory?^m **9** For if the code administering condemnationⁿ was glorious,^o much more does the administering of righteousness^p abound with glory.^q **10** In fact, even that which has once been made glorious has been stripped of glory in this respect,^r because of the glory that excels it.^s **11** For if that which was to be done away with was brought in with glory,^t much more would that which remains be with glory.^u

12 Therefore, as we have such a hope,^v we are using great freedom of speech, **13** and not doing as when Moses would put a veil^w upon his face, that the sons of Israel might not gaze intently at the end^x of that which was to be done away with. **14** But their mental powers were dulled.^y For to this present day the same veil remains unlifted at the reading of the old covenant,^z because it is done away with by means of Christ.^a **15** In fact, down till today whenever Moses is read,^b a veil lies upon their

x Ro 10:4; y Ro 11:7; z Isa 6:10; Joh 12:40; a Ro 7:6; Eph 2:15; b Ac 15:21.

1443 This system's god. Treasure

hearts.^a **16** But when there is a turning to Jehovah, the veil is taken away.^b **17** Now Jehovah is the Spirit;^c and where the spirit^d of Jehovah^e is, there is freedom.^f **18** And all of us,^g while we with unveiled faces reflect like mirrors the glory of Jehovah,^h are transformedⁱ into the same image^j from glory to glory,^k exactly as done by Jehovah^l the Spirit.

4 That is why, since we have this ministry^m according to the mercy that was shown us,ⁿ we do not give up; **2** but we have renounced the underhanded things of which to be ashamed,^o not walking with cunning, neither adulterating the word of God,^p but by making the truth manifest recommending ourselves to every human conscience in the sight of God.^q **3** If, now, the good news we declare is in fact veiled, it is veiled among those who are perishing,^r **4** among whom the god of this system of things^s has blinded the minds of the unbelievers,^t that the illumination^u of the glorious good news^v about the Christ, who is the image^w of God, might not shine through.^x **5** For we are preaching, not ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord,^y and ourselves as YOUR slaves^z for Jesus' sake. **6** For God is he who said: "Let the light shine out of darkness,"^a and he has shone on our hearts to illuminate^b them with the glorious knowledge^c of God by the face of Christ.^d

7 However, we have this treasure^e in earthen^f vessels,^g that the power^h beyond what is normal may be God'sⁱ and not that out of ourselves.^j **8** We are pressed in every way,^k but not cramped beyond movement; we are perplexed, but not absolutely with no way out;^l **9** we are persecuted, but not left in the lurch;^m we are thrown down,ⁿ but not destroyed.^o **10** Always

CHAP. 3

a Ro 11:8
b Ex 34:34
Ro 11:23
Ro 11:26
c Ge 6:3
Joh 4:24
d Ga 5:18
e Isa 61:1
f Ro 6:14
Ro 8:15
Ga 5:1
Ga 5:13
g Ro 8:30
h Ps 138:5
Isa 40:5
Isa 60:1
i Joh 1:12
Ga 4:5
j Eph 4:24
Eph 5:1
k Ro 8:30
1Co 13:12
1Pe 1:4
1Jo 3:2
l 2Co 4:6

CHAP. 4

m Ro 11:13
1Ti 1:12
n Ac 9:15
o Ro 6:21
p 2Co 2:17
2Co 6:3
2Co 8:20
Ga 1:9
q 2Co 6:4
r 2Co 2:15
s Joh 14:30
Eph 2:2
1Jo 5:19
t 2Co 11:14
u Mt 5:14
v 1Ti 1:11
w Col 1:15
Heb 1:3
x Isa 60:2
Joh 8:12
y 1Co 1:23
z Mt 20:27
a Ge 1:3
b 1Pe 2:9
c Joh 17:3
d 2Pe 1:3
e 2Co 4:1
f Ps 8:4
Isa 64:8
1Co 15:47
g Ac 9:15
1Th 4:4
h Eph 1:19
i 1Co 2:5
j 2Co 12:9
Php 4:13
k 2Co 7:5
l Ps 7:1
1Co 10:13
m Heb 13:5
n Ac 14:19
o Re 2:10

Second Col.

a Ro 8:38
Php 3:10
1Pe 4:13
b Ac 4:13
c Ro 8:36
1Co 4:9
1Co 15:31
d 2Co 6:9
e 2Co 2:16

2 CORINTHIANS 3:16-5:2

we endure everywhere in our body the death-dealing treatment given to Jesus,^a that the life of Jesus may also be made manifest in our body.^b **11** For we who live are ever being brought face to face with death^c for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus may also be made manifest in our mortal flesh.^d **12** Consequently death is at work in us, but life in YOU.^e

13 Now because we have the same spirit of faith as that of which it is written: "I exercised faith, therefore I spoke,"^f we too exercise faith and therefore we speak, **14** knowing that he who raised Jesus up will raise us up also together with Jesus and will present us together with YOU.^g **15** For all things are for YOUR sakes,^h in order that the undeserved kindness which was multiplied should abound because of the thanksgiving of many more to the glory of God.ⁱ

16 Therefore we do not give up, but even if the man we are outside is wasting away, certainly the man we are inside^j is being renewed from day to day. **17** For though the tribulation is momentary^k and light, it works out for us a glory that is of more and more surpassing weight and is everlasting;^l **18** while we keep our eyes, not on the things seen, but on the things unseen.^m For the things seen are temporary,ⁿ but the things unseen are everlasting.^o

5 For we know that if our earthly house,^p this tent,^q should be dissolved,^r we are to have a building from God, a house not made with hands,^s everlasting^t in the heavens. **2** For in this dwelling house

f Ps 116:10; g Ro 8:11; 1Co 6:14; h 1Co 3:21; i 2Ti 2:10; j Ro 7:22; Col 3:10; k 1Pe 1:6; l Mt 5:12; Ro 8:18; m Ro 8:34; 2Co 5:7; Heb 11:1; n Ps 37:10; Jas 1:11; o Da 7:27; CHAP. 5 p Ec 12:3; 2Co 4:7; q 2Pe 1:13; r 2Pe 1:14; s 1Co 15:48; 1Co 15:50; Php 3:21; t Lu 16:9.

we do indeed groan,^a earnestly desiring to put on the one for us from heaven,^b **3** so that, having really put it on, we shall not be found naked.^c **4** In fact, we who are in this tent groan, being weighed down; because we want, not to put it off, but to put on the other,^d that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.^e **5** Now he that produced us for this very thing is God,^f who gave us the token^g of what is to come, that is, the spirit.^h

6 We are therefore always of good courage and know that, while we have our home in the body, we are absent from the Lord,ⁱ **7** for we are walking by faith, not by sight.^j **8** But we are of good courage and are well pleased rather to become absent from the body and to make our home with the Lord.^k **9** Therefore we are also making it our aim that, whether having our home with him or being absent from him,^l we may be acceptable to him.^m **10** For we must all be made manifest before the judgment seat of the Christ,ⁿ that each one may get his award for the things done through the body, according to the things he has practiced, whether it is good or vile.^o

11 Knowing, therefore, the fear^p of the Lord, we keep persuading^q men, but we have been made manifest to God. However, I hope that we have been made manifest also to YOUR consciences.^r **12** We are not again recommending^s ourselves to you, but giving you an inducement for boasting in respect to us,^t that you may have an answer for those who boast over the outward appearance^u but not over the heart.^v **13** For if we were out of our mind,^w it was for God; if we are sound in mind,^x it is for you. **14** For the love the Christ has compels us, because

CHAP. 5

a Ro 8:23
b Ro 6:4
1Co 15:48
c Re 3:18
d 1Co 15:43
Php 1:21
e 1Co 15:53
1Pe 1:4
f Eph 2:10
g 2Co 1:22
Eph 1:14
h Ro 8:23
1Co 12:13
i Joh 14:3
j Ro 8:24
2Co 4:18
k Php 1:23
l Php 1:24
m Ac 10:35
n Ac 17:31
o Col 3:24
Re 22:12
p Heb 10:31
1Pe 1:17
q Ac 18:4
r 2Co 4:2
s 2Co 3:1
2Co 10:12
t 2Co 1:14
u Jer 9:23
2Co 10:10
v Jer 9:24
w 2Co 11:1
2Co 11:16
x 2Co 12:6

Second Col.

a Isa 53:10
Mt 20:28
1Ti 2:6
b Ro 14:7
c Ro 6:11
d Ac 3:15
e Mt 12:50
2Co 7:1
1Pe 4:6
f Mt 23:39
g Joh 20:17
h Ro 6:4
Ga 6:15
i Isa 43:18
Eph 4:22
j Eph 4:24
k Ro 5:10
Eph 2:16
Col 1:20
l Ac 20:24
m Ro 3:24
n Ro 5:6
Ro 11:15
1Jo 2:2
o Ps 37:29
Re 21:3
p Isa 43:25
Ro 4:25
Ro 5:18
q Ac 13:38
r Mt 28:19
s Php 3:20
t Eph 6:20
u Mt 25:40
v 2Co 2:14
w Re 22:17
x Joh 8:46
Heb 4:15
Heb 7:26
y Le 16:21
Heb 9:28
z De 21:23
Ro 1:17

this is what we have judged, that one man died for all;^a so, then, all had died; **15** and he died for all that those who live might live no longer for themselves,^b but for him^c who died for them and was raised up.^d

16 Consequently from now on we know no man according to the flesh.^e Even if we have known Christ according to the flesh,^f certainly we now know him so no more.^g **17** Consequently if anyone is in union with Christ, he is a new creation;^h the old things passed away,ⁱ look! new things have come into existence.^j **18** But all things are from God, who reconciled^k us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry^l of the reconciliation, **19** namely, that God was by means of Christ^m reconciling a worldⁿ to himself,^o not reckoning to them their trespasses,^p and he committed the word^q of the reconciliation to us.^r

20 We^s are therefore ambassadors^t substituting for Christ,^u as though God were making entreaty through us.^v As substitutes for Christ we beg:^w "Become reconciled to God." **21** The one who did not know sin^x he made to be sin^y for us, that we might become God's righteousness^z by means of him.

6 Working together with him,^a we also entreat you not to accept the undeserved kindness of God and miss its purpose.^b **2** For he says: "In an acceptable time I heard you, and in a day of salvation I helped you."^c Look! Now is the especially acceptable time.^d Look! Now is the day of salvation.^e

3 In no way are we giving any cause for stumbling,^f that our ministry might not be found fault with;^g **4** but in every way

CHAP. 6 a Mt 28:20; 2Co 5:20; b Ro 2:4; Heb 12:15; c Isa 49:8; d Lu 4:19; e Joh 9:4; Heb 3:13; f Ro 14:13; g 1Co 9:22.

we recommend^a ourselves as God's ministers, by the endurance of much, by tribulations, by cases of need, by difficulties,^b **5** by beatings, by prisons,^c by disorders, by labors, by sleepless nights, by times without food,^d **6** by purity, by knowledge, by long-suffering,^e by kindness,^f by holy spirit, by love free from hypocrisy,^g **7** by truthful speech, by God's power;^h through the weaponsⁱ of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, **8** through glory and dishonor, through bad report and good report; as deceivers^j and yet truthful, **9** as being unknown and yet being recognized,^k as dying and yet, look! we live,^l as disciplined^m and yet not delivered to death,ⁿ **10** as sorrowing but ever rejoicing, as poor but making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing all things.^o

11 Our mouth has been opened to you, Corinthians, our heart^p has widened out. **12** You are not cramped for room within us,^q but you are cramped for room in YOUR own tender affections.^r **13** So, as a recompense in return—I speak as to children^s—YOU, too, widen out.

14 Do not become unevenly yoked with unbelievers.^t For what fellowship do righteousness and lawlessness have?^u Or what sharing does light have with darkness?^v **15** Further, what harmony is there between Christ and Be'li-al?^w Or what portion^x does a faithful person have with an unbeliever? **16** And what agreement does God's temple have with idols?^y For we are a temple^z of a living God; just as God said: "I shall reside among them^a and walk among them, and I shall be their God, and they will be my people."^b **17** "Therefore get out from among them, and

CHAP. 6

a 2Co 4:2
b 2Co 11:23
c Re 2:10
d 2Co 11:27
e Eph 4:2
Col 3:13
1Th 5:14
f Mic 6:8
Eph 4:32
g Ro 12:9
1Ti 1:5
h 1Co 2:4
i 2Co 10:4
Eph 6:11
j Mt 10:16
k Ac 4:13
2Co 4:10
l 2Co 4:11
m Ps 118:18
Heb 12:6
n Ac 14:19
2Co 4:9
o Php 4:13
Re 2:9
p 2Co 8:16
q 2Co 12:15
r 1Pe 2:17
1Jo 4:20
s 1Co 4:14
t Ex 23:32
De 7:3
1Ki 11:4
1Co 7:39
u 1Co 5:11
Jas 4:4
v Eph 5:8
w Mt 4:10
Re 12:7
x 1Co 10:21
y 1Co 10:14
z 1Co 3:16
1Co 6:19
a Ex 29:45
Le 26:11
b Le 26:12
Eze 37:27
Zec 8:8

Second Col.

a Isa 52:11
Jer 51:45
Re 18:4
b Eze 20:41
2Co 7:1
c 2Sa 7:14
d Isa 43:6
Ho 1:10
Joh 1:12
e Re 1:8

CHAP. 7

f 2Co 6:16
2Pe 1:4
g 1Ti 3:9
1Jo 3:3
h Zec 13:2
Ro 12:1
1Ti 1:5
i 2Co 1:12
Re 14:7
j Ro 12:10
2Co 6:12
k Ac 20:33
2Co 12:17
l 2Co 6:12
m 1Co 1:4
2Co 1:14
n 2Co 1:4
o Php 2:17
Phm 7

separate yourselves,' says Jehovah, 'and quit touching the unclean thing';^a "and I will take you in."^b **18** "And I shall be a father to you,^c and you will be sons and daughters to me,"^d says Jehovah the Almighty."^e

7 Therefore, since we have these promises,^f beloved ones, let us cleanse^g ourselves of every defilement of flesh and spirit,^h perfecting holiness in God's fear.ⁱ

2 ALLOW room for us.^j We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one.^k **3** I do not say this to condemn you. For I have said before that you are in our hearts to die and to live with us.^l **4** I have great freeness of speech toward you. I have great boasting in regard to you.^m I am filled with comfort,ⁿ I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction.^o

5 In fact, when we arrived in Mac-e-do'ni-a,^p our flesh got no relief,^q but we continued to be afflicted^r in every manner—there were fights without, fears within. **6** Nevertheless God, who comforts^s those laid low, comforted us by the presence of Titus; **7** yet not alone by his presence, but also by the comfort with which he had been comforted over you, as he brought us word^t again of YOUR longing, YOUR mourning, YOUR zeal for me; so that I rejoiced yet more.

8 Hence even if I saddened you by my letter,^u I do not regret it. Even if I did at first regret it, (I see that that letter saddened you, though but for a little while,) **9** now I rejoice, not because you were just saddened, but because you were saddened into repenting;^v for you were saddened in a godly way,^w that you might suf-

p Ac 20:1; q 2Co 2:13; r 2Co 4:8; s 2Co 1:3; t Pr 25:25; u 2Co 2:4; 2Co 10:10; v Jer 31:19; Ac 26:20; w Ac 8:22.

2 CORINTHIANS 7:10-8:15

Sadness of world. An equalizing 1446

fer no damage in anything due to us. **10** For sadness in a godly way makes for repentance to salvation that is not to be regretted;^a but the sadness of the world produces death.^b **11** For, look! this very thing, YOUR being saddened in a godly way,^c what a great earnestness it produced in YOU, yes, clearing of yourselves, yes, indignation, yes, fear, yes, longing, yes, zeal, yes, righting of the wrong!^d In every respect YOU demonstrated yourselves to be chaste in this matter. **12** Certainly, although I wrote YOU, I did it, neither for the one who did the wrong,^e nor for the one who was wronged, but that YOUR earnestness for us might be made manifest among YOU in the sight of God. **13** That is why we have been comforted.

However, in addition to our comfort we rejoiced still more abundantly due to the joy of Titus, because his spirit^f has been refreshed by all of YOU. **14** For if I have made any boast to him about YOU, I have not been put to shame; but as we have spoken all things to YOU in truth, so also our boasting^g before Titus has proved to be true. **15** Also, his tender affections are more abundant toward YOU, while he calls to mind the obedience^h of all of YOU, how YOU received him with fear and trembling. **16** I rejoice that in every way I may have good courage by reason of YOU.ⁱ

8 Now we let YOU know, brothers, about the undeserved kindness of God that has been bestowed upon the congregations of Mac-e-do'ni-a,^j **2** that during a great test under affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty made the riches of their generosity abound.^k **3** For according to their actual ability,^l yes, I testify, beyond their actual ability this was, **4** while they

CHAP. 7

a Ps 32:5
Mt 26:75
1Jo 1:9

b Ge 4:13
Mt 27:5
Heb 12:17

c Jer 3:25
Jer 50:4
Ac 2:37

d Mt 3:8
Ac 26:20

e 1Co 5:5
1Co 5:13

f Ge 45:27
1Co 16:18

g 2Co 8:24

h 2Co 2:9
Heb 13:17

i 2Th 3:4

CHAP. 8

j Ro 15:26

k Ro 12:8

l Mr 12:44
Ac 11:29
2Co 9:7

Second Col.

a Ro 15:25
1Co 16:1
2Co 9:1

b Ro 6:13

c 2Co 12:18

d 2Co 9:8

e 1Co 1:5

f 1Co 7:6

g Mt 8:20
Lu 9:58
Php 2:7

h 2Co 6:10

i 1Co 7:25

j Mt 10:42

k 2Co 9:2
1Ti 6:18

l Le 27:8
De 16:10
De 16:17
Pr 3:27
Mr 12:43
Lu 21:3

m Mr 12:44

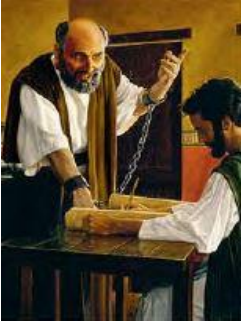
n 2Co 9:12

of their own accord kept begging us with much entreaty for the privilege of kindly giving and for a share in the ministry destined for the holy ones.^a **5** And not merely as we had hoped, but first they gave themselves to the Lord^b and to us through God's will. **6** This led us to encourage Titus^c that, just as he had been the one to initiate it among YOU, so too he should complete this same kind giving on YOUR part. **7** Nevertheless, just as YOU are abounding in everything,^d in faith and word and knowledge^e and all earnestness and in this love of ours to you, may you also abound in this kind giving.

8 It is not in the way of commanding YOU,^f but in view of the earnestness of others and to make a test of the genuineness of YOUR love, that I am speaking. **9** For YOU know the undeserved kindness of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich he became poor for YOUR sakes,^g that YOU might become rich^h through his poverty.

10 And in this I render an opinion:ⁱ for this matter is of benefit to you,^j seeing that already a year ago YOU initiated not only the doing but also the wanting to do;^k **11** now, then, finish up also the doing of it, in order that, just as there was a readiness to want to do, so also there should be a finishing up of it out of what YOU have. **12** For if the readiness is there first, it is especially acceptable according to what a person has,^l not according to what a person does not have. **13** For I do not mean for it to be easy for others,^m but hard on YOU; **14** but that by means of an equalizing YOUR surplus just now might offset their deficiency, in order that their surplus might also come to offset YOUR deficiency, that an equalizing might take place.ⁿ **15** Just as it is written:

END



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

Paul tells the Corinthians that they should “kindly forgive and comfort” a repentant wrongdoer who has been rebuked. Although his first letter had saddened them, Paul expresses joy because they were “saddened into repenting.”—2 Cor. 2:6, 7; 7:8, 9.

Scriptural Questions Answered:

2:15, 16—How are we “a sweet odor of Christ”? This is the case because we adhere to the Bible and share in dispensing its message. While such “fragrance” might be disgusting to unrighteous individuals, it is sweet-smelling to Jehovah and honesthearted ones.

5:16—How is it that anointed Christians “know no man according to the flesh”? They do not look upon people in a fleshly way, that is, showing favoritism on the basis of wealth, race, or ethnic or national origin. What is important to them is their spiritual relationship with fellow believers.

Lessons for Us:

3:5. In principle, this verse tells us that Jehovah adequately qualifies Christians for the ministry by his Word, his holy spirit, and the earthly part of his organization. (John 16:7; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17) We do well to study the Bible and Bible-based publications diligently, persistently pray for holy spirit, and regularly attend and participate in Christian meetings.—Ps. 1:1-3; Luke 11:10-13; Heb. 10:24, 25.

4:16. Since Jehovah renews ‘the man we are inside from day to day,’ we should regularly avail ourselves of Jehovah’s provisions, not allowing a day to go by without giving consideration to spiritual matters.

4:17, 18. Remembering that “the tribulation is momentary and light” can help us to remain faithful to Jehovah during hardship.

5:1-5. How beautifully Paul expresses the sentiments of anointed Christians toward their hope of heavenly life!



4. How should Paul’s words recorded at 2 Corinthians 1:24 affect elders today? [Sept. 16, w13 1/15 p. 27 pars. 2-3]

TMS REVIEW: *w13 1/15 p. 27 pars. 2-3*****

2 Shortly thereafter, Paul wrote the Corinthians a second letter. He told them: “Not that we are the masters over your faith, but we are fellow workers for your joy, for it is by your faith that you are standing.” (2 Cor. 1:24) What did Paul mean by that? And how should those words affect Christian elders today?

OUR FAITH AND OUR JOY

3 Paul mentioned two vital aspects of our worship—faith and joy. Recall that regarding faith, he wrote: “Not that we are the masters over your faith . . . for it is by your faith that you are standing.” With these words, Paul acknowledged that the brothers in Corinth stood firm, not because of him or any other human, but because of their own faith in God. Hence, Paul saw no need to control the faith of his brothers, and he had no desire to do so. He was confident that they were faithful Christians who wanted to do what was right. (2 Cor. 2:3) Today, elders follow Paul’s example by expressing confidence in their brothers’ faith and motives for serving God. (2 Thess. 3:4) Rather than making rigid rules for the congregation, elders rely on Scriptural principles and direction from Jehovah’s organization. After all, present-day elders are not the masters over their brothers’ faith.—1 Pet. 5:2, 3.

***** w12 1/15 p. 12 par. 16 Learn Watchfulness From Jesus' Apostles *****

¹⁶ Is it not faith-strengthening to contemplate Jehovah's power to rescue his servants? Of course, we do not expect Jehovah to deliver us miraculously at this time. However, we have full faith that he uses his power in behalf of his people today. (2 Chron. 16:9) By means of his powerful holy spirit, he can make us equal to any trial we may face. (2 Cor. 4:7; 2 Pet. 2:9) And Jehovah will soon empower his Son to free countless millions from that most unyielding of prisons, death. (John 5:28, 29) Our faith in God's promises can give us tremendous courage when we face trials today.

***** w12 1/15 p. 22 par. 5 Making Whole-Souled Sacrifices for Jehovah *****

⁵ A Christian's day-to-day activities are not part of his sacred service. Yet, the fact that Paul urges us to work "whole-souled as to Jehovah" makes us think about our entire course of life. So how might we apply this to ourselves? Do we act and dress with proper decorum at all times? Or while engaging in day-to-day activities, might we be embarrassed to identify ourselves as Jehovah's Witnesses, either because of the way we behave or because of the way we dress? Never may that be! Jehovah's people would not want to do anything that might reflect badly on God's name.—Isa. 43:10; 2 Cor. 6:3, 4, 9.

***** w12 3/1 p. 17 How Should We Remember Jesus' Death? *******4. How does the Memorial benefit us?**

The annual Memorial of Jesus' death deepens our appreciation for Jehovah's extraordinary love. He sent his Son to die for our sins. So when we attend the Memorial, we should contemplate what Jesus' death means for us. We should consider how we can show appreciation for what Jehovah and Jesus have done for us.—Read John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15.

***** w12 5/1 p. 16 What Is the Good News About Religion? *******1. Is all religion good?**

Many religious groups include sincere people who want to please God. He sees those people and cares about them. Sadly, though, some people have used religion for evil purposes. In the past, religious leaders have even tortured their opponents. (2 Corinthians 4:3, 4; 11:13-15) Today, according to news reports, some religious leaders have encouraged terrorism or supported war, or they have been involved in child abuse.—Read Matthew 24:3-5, 11, 12.

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

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 8/1 p. 15 Does It Really Matter to God Whether I Use Tobacco? *****

God requires that we avoid unclean habits. The Bible instructs Christians to cleanse themselves of "every defilement of flesh and spirit." (2 Corinthians 7:1) Tobacco use obviously defiles a person. Those who want to quit smoking to please God face a difficult challenge. But with God's help, they can break free from this defiling addiction.



*** w12 5/15 pp. 23-24 par. 3 Are You Reflecting the Glory of Jehovah? ***

³ Anointed Christians reflect Jehovah's glory. The spirit-begotten apostle Paul therefore wrote: "All of us, while we with unveiled faces reflect like mirrors the glory of Jehovah, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory." (2 Cor. 3:18) When the prophet Moses descended from Mount Sinai with the tablets bearing the Ten Commandments, his face emitted rays because Jehovah had spoken with him. (Ex. 34:29, 30) Though Christians have not had such an experience and their faces do not emit rays, they beam with joy as they tell others about Jehovah, his qualities, and his wonderful purpose for mankind. Like burnished metal mirrors of ancient times, anointed ones and their earthly companions thus reflect Jehovah's glory in their life and ministry.

(2 Cor. 4:1) Are you reflecting Jehovah's glory by your godly conduct and by your activity as a regular Kingdom proclaimer?

*** w12 8/15 p. 24 par. 18 Beware of the Devil's Snares! ***

¹⁸ Satan does not care which trap ensnares us, as long as we are caught by him. Since we are not ignorant of Satan's designs, we can avoid being overreached by the Devil. (2 Cor. 2:10, 11) We will not be caught in his snares, or traps, if we pray for wisdom to deal with our trials.

*** km 5/12 p. 3 Jehovah's Witnesses—Faith in Action, Part 2: Let the Light Shine ***

Each day that passes adds a new chapter to the history of Jehovah's Witnesses. What will the record say about *our* efforts in the ministry? As our brothers have done in the past, may we zealously continue to "let the light shine"!—2 Cor. 4:6.

*** km 10/12 p. 6 par. 2 How to Benefit From Your Field Service Group ***

² **Take the Initiative:** Field service groups are generally the same size that book study groups were. By working in the ministry "side by side" with others, a close bond can result. (Phil. 1:27) How many in your group have you worked with? Could you "widen out" in this regard? (2 Cor. 6:13) Additionally, we might occasionally invite someone from our group to join us for our Family Worship evening or for a meal. In some congregations, field service groups take turns providing hospitality to the visiting speaker. On their assigned week, the group gathers for a meal and mutual encouragement regardless of whether the speaker can attend.

*** km 12/12 p. 1 par. 2 "Be Peaceable With All Men" ***

² **Have Insight:** Although some react angrily because they oppose the truth, others may display irritation for reasons unrelated to our message. Perhaps we called at an inopportune time. The householder may be upset over personal problems. Even if it is the good news that has made him angry, we should remember that his response is likely because he has been misled. (2 Cor. 4:4) Having insight will help us to remain calm and not take his reaction personally.—Prov. 19:11.



*** km 9/11 p. 1 par. 3 Treasure Your Privilege of Service ***

³ Preaching the good news is a great honor that relatively few enjoy. The angels would gladly care for such an assignment and would no doubt do it extremely well. (1 Pet. 1:12) However, Jehovah has chosen us imperfect humans, "earthen vessels," for this awesome privilege!—2 Cor. 4:7.

41

Worship Jehovah During Youth

(Ecclesiastes 12:1)

- 1. Precious to God are you daughters and sons;
Great his affection for you, our dear ones.
Loving attention to you he extends
Through us, your parents, your fam'ly, and friends.**
- 2. Honor your parents who care for your life,
Giving no cause for contention or strife.
If you gain favor with God and with men,
Days of your youth will be happiest then.**
- 3. Always remember your God in your youth;
Grow ever stronger in love of the truth.
By your devotion to God you will bring
Joy to the heart of Jehovah, our King.**

(See also Ps. 71:17; Lam. 3:27; Eph. 6:1-3.)



Youths

***—What Will You Do
With Your Life?***

(Matthew 6:33) Dedication and baptism thus open up many opportunities to do so. Let's consider some of them.

Opportunities to Serve God Full-Time

10 ● **Pioneering** is one such opportunity. A pioneer publisher is an exemplary baptized Christian who has arranged to spend a minimum of 70 hours each month preaching the good news. Spending an increased amount of time in the field will help you to develop your preaching and teaching skills. Many pioneers have experienced the joy of helping their Bible students become baptized Witnesses. What secular job could possibly be as exciting and satisfying?

11 To cover their living expenses, most pioneers have part-time secular jobs. Many plan ahead for this responsibility by learning a trade in school or from their parents. If you and your parents feel that it would be advantageous for you to obtain some supplemental training after secondary school, make sure your motive is, not to make a lot of money, but to support your ministry and perhaps serve as a full-time minister.

12 However, the focus of a pioneer's life is, not his secular job, but his ministry—helping others to gain life! Why not set pioneering as a personal goal? Pioneering often leads to other privileges. For example, some pioneers move to areas where there is a greater need for Kingdom publishers. Others learn a foreign language and serve either with a local foreign-language congregation or even in a foreign land. Yes, pioneering is a rewarding way of life!



13 ● ***Bible School for Christian Couples*** is another door of opportunity. This school gives married couples specialized training so that they can be used more fully by Jehovah and his organization. Many graduates are assigned to serve where there is a greater need in their home country. Others may receive an assignment in foreign lands if their circumstances permit. Graduates may serve as temporary special pioneers to open up and expand the work in remote and isolated areas.

14 ● ***Bible School for Single Brothers*** was established to train qualified single elders and ministerial servants. The intensive eight-week course covers such subjects as the responsibilities of elders and ministerial servants, organization, and public speaking. Some are assigned to serve within their own countries. Others are asked to take foreign service assignments.

15 ● ***Bethel service*** involves serving as a volunteer at one of the branch facilities of Jehovah's Witnesses. Some Bethel family members serve directly in the production of Bible literature. Others are given support assignments, such as the maintenance of buildings and equipment or the physical care of the Bethel family. All assignments are sacred privileges of service to Jehovah. In addition, those at Bethel have the joy of knowing that whatever they do, it benefits large numbers of their brothers around the world.



16 Sometimes brothers with special skills are invited to serve at Bethel. Most, however, receive their training after they arrive. Those at Bethel do not serve for material gain but are satisfied with the provisions made for food, lodging, and a modest reimbursement for personal expenses. One young Bethel family member describes his service in this way: “It’s fantastic! The routine is challenging, but I’ve received a lot of blessings serving here.”



17 ● *International service* allows one to share in the construction of branch facilities and Kingdom Halls. International servants, as they are called, travel to foreign lands to aid in such construction work. This is a form of sacred service, similar to the work of those who constructed Solomon’s temple. (1 Kings 8:13-18) The arrangements for the care of international servants are similar to those for the Bethel family. What a privilege these brothers and sisters have serving in this sphere of activity to Jehovah’s praise!

Serve Jehovah Whole - Souled

18 Serving Jehovah is the very best way to use your life. Why not consider setting a personal goal of serving God full-time? Discuss full-time service with your parents, your local elders, and your circuit overseer. If you are interested in Bethel, the Bible School for Single Brothers, or the Bible School for Christian Couples, attend the meetings for potential applicants that are held at circuit assemblies and district conventions.

19 Granted, not all may qualify or be able to serve full-time. Sometimes health problems, financial situations, and family obligations limit how much one can do. Even so, all dedicated Christians must heed the Bible’s command: “You must love Jehovah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind.” (Matthew 22:37) Jehovah requires that you do the very best that your circumstances allow you to do. So whatever your situation, make serving Jehovah the focus of your life. Set realistic theocratic goals. Yes, “remember your Creator while you are still young” —and you will be blessed eternally for having done so!

Unless otherwise indicated, all Bible quotations are from the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*. © 2002 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania.

How to Use *Who Are Doing Jehovah's Will Today?*

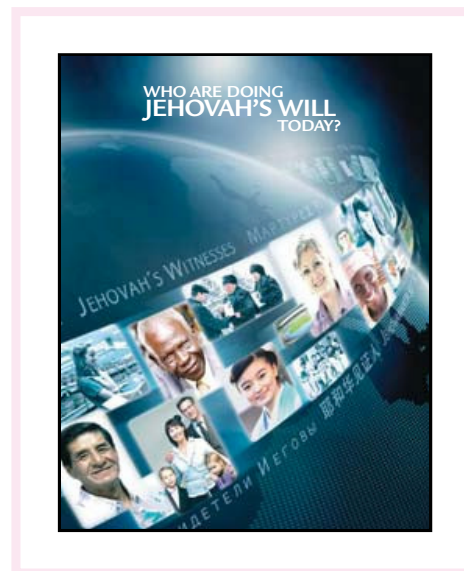
New Brochure Designed to Direct Bible Students to the Organization

¹ Have you started using the new brochure *Who Are Doing Jehovah's Will Today?* Its purpose is (1) to familiarize Bible students with us as a people, (2) to help them learn about our activities, and (3) to show them our organization in action. The *Jehovah's Will* brochure contains one-page lessons that can easily be covered in just five to ten minutes at the end of each study.

² **How It Is Designed:** The brochure is divided into three sections, each of which discusses a different aspect of Jehovah's organization, as noted above. The title of each of the 28 lessons is written as a question, and the bold subheadings that follow answer that question. Photographs from over 50 countries are labeled throughout to show the international scope of our work. A number of lessons have "Find Out More" boxes, which contain suggestions that you can encourage your student to pursue.

³ **How You Can Use It:** Start by calling attention to the question that is the title of the lesson. Then, as you read the lesson together, highlight the bold subheadings. Finally, consider the review questions at the bottom

1. What is the threefold purpose of the *Jehovah's Will* brochure?
2. Describe the design and features of this brochure.
3. How can we use the *Jehovah's Will* brochure?



of the page. You can read the lesson straight through or read and discuss it in sections. Use your judgment in deciding which cited scriptures to read. Do not forget to consider the pictures and the "Find Out More" boxes. In most cases, the lessons should be discussed in order. However, feel free to jump ahead to a lesson that deals with something of immediate interest. For example, if an assembly or a convention is coming up, you could skip to lesson 11.

⁴ When we study the Bible with someone, we help him to get acquainted with our heavenly Father. However, we also need to teach him about Jehovah's organization. (Prov. 6:20) How happy we are to have this new tool that makes it easy to do so!

4. Why are you happy to have this new tool?

Come to Jehovah's Mountain**(Isaiah 2:2-4)**

1. Raise your eyes and behold,
Far above the highest hill.
There stands Jehovah's mountain
Lifted up in this day.
People come from afar,
Ev'rywhere from sea to sea,
Calling to one another,
'Come serve God and obey.'
Now the time has arrived
For the small, a great nation to be.
As we grow and we thrive,
God's direction and blessing we see.
Millions now come to God
And accept his sov'reignty.
Loyal they vow to be
And from his side never stray.

2. Jesus gave the command
To go forth and preach the word.
Good news about the Kingdom
Reaches all men today.
Christ now rules from on high,
Urging all to take his side.
Meek ones who hear his voice
Let God's Word show them the way.
What a joy to behold
How a great crowd continues to grow!
Yes, we all have a share,
Helping others Jehovah to know.
Let us lift up the voice,
Calling out for all to hear,
'Come to Jehovah's mountain,
Here forever to stay.'

(See also Ps. 43:3; 99:9; Isa. 60:22; Acts 16:5.)