



MID-WEEK MEETING FILE

SEPT 30- OCT 4, 2013

(Revelation 4:11) "You are worthy, Jehovah, even our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, because you created all things, and because of your will they existed and were created."

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 23

Song 109 and Prayer

□ Congregation Bible Study:

jr chap. 14 ¶14-19 (30 min.)

□ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: 2 Corinthians 8-13 (10 min.)

No. 1: 2 Corinthians 10:1-18 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: If Someone Says, 'I Believe in Reincarnation'—*rs* p. 321 ¶1-3 (5 min.)

No. 3: How Are We to Understand 1 Corinthians 10:13? (5 min.)

□ Service Meeting:

Song 43

5 min: "I'll Take Your Literature if You Take Mine." Discussion. Invite audience to comment on how they have successfully replied to this suggestion.

10 min: How Did We Do Last Year? Talk by the service overseer. Review the congregation's activity during the past service year. Focus on the good things that were accomplished, and give appropriate commendation. Mention one or two aspects of the ministry that the congregation can work on during the coming service year, and offer practical suggestions.

15 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Acts 16:19-40 read. Consider how this account can help us in our ministry.

Song 44 and Prayer

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 30

Song 99 and Prayer [Praising Earth's New King](#)

□ Congregation Bible Study:

jr chap. 14 ¶20-25 (30 min.)

□ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Galatians 1-6 (10 min.)

No. 1: Galatians 1:18–2:10 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Why Are There So Many Religions?—*rs* p. 322 ¶1–p. 323 ¶2 (5 min.)

No. 3: Why Jehovah Is Worthy to Receive Worship—Rev. 4:11 (5 min.)

□ Service Meeting:

Song 108 [Praise Jehovah for His Kingdom](#)

10 min: "Could You Extend an Invitation?" Discussion. Afterward, demonstrate how a study may be started on the first Saturday in October.

10 min: Methods of Preaching the Good News—Witnessing to People of All Languages. Discussion based on the *Organized* book, page 104, paragraph 2, to page 105, paragraph 3. Include a demonstration.

10 min: Never Be Anxious. (Matt. 6:31-33) Discussion based on the *2013 Yearbook*, page 138, paragraph 3, to page 139, paragraph 3. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

Song 40 and Prayer [Keep On Seeking First the Kingdom](#)

"I'll Take Your Literature if You Take Mine"

That is the proposition of some householders. Since we do not exchange our Bible study aids for religious literature that disseminates error, how might we answer tactfully? (Rom. 1:25) We could say: "Thank you for your offer. What does this say about the solution to mankind's problems? [Allow for response. If he invites you to read his literature to find the answer, you can remind him that you did not offer literature without telling him what it contains. Then read or quote Matthew 6:9, 10.] Jesus indicated that God's Kingdom will cause God's will to be done on earth. Therefore, the only religious literature that I read highlights God's Kingdom. May I show you from the Bible some specific things that God's Kingdom will accomplish?"

Could You Extend an Invitation?

In many congregations there are publishers whose share in the ministry is limited because of chronic health problems or advancing age. (2 Cor. 4:16) Could you invite one in such circumstances to accompany you on a Bible study? If the publisher is housebound, perhaps you could even conduct the study at his or her home. Could you occasionally make arrangements to take an infirm publisher with you to a few doors in the house-to-house ministry or on a return visit or two? Many elderly publishers have much experience in the ministry. Therefore, your efforts will not result only in encouragement to them. You too will benefit. (Rom. 1:12) In addition, your efforts to demonstrate love in this way will be rewarded by Jehovah.—Prov. 19:17; 1 John 3:17, 18.

Praising Earth's New King (Revelation 7:9)

1. A multitude is gathering
from ev'ry tribe and nation,
Collected by the Christ and his
anointed congregation.
God's Kingdom has been brought to birth;
His will shall soon be done on earth.
This hope is a gift of priceless worth,
giving joy and consolation.

(CHORUS)

*Praise our God, Jehovah;
Praise his Son, Christ Jesus,
Who through the ransom have set us free.
Now we have the hope to live on the earth
And serve God eternally.*

2. We hail the Christ, our reigning King,
with sounds of jubilation.
This Prince of Peace shall do God's will
and bring about salvation.
We see the joys that lie ahead:
An earth released from fear and dread,
The grand resurrection of the dead.
What a time for exultation!

(Chorus)

¹⁹ We can apply this lesson related to the new covenant even as respects someone who was disfellowshipped but repented and was reinstated. What if that person had caused you loss or had defamed you in some way? Now he is accepted back into the congregation. How will what we read at Jeremiah 31:34 influence our personal thinking and response? Will we forgive the transgressor and not keep bringing up the wrong again? (2 Cor. 2:6-8) Truly, that is something that all who appreciate the new covenant should try to apply in real life.

How can you apply a lesson about forgiveness illustrated in the new covenant?

PRESENT AND FUTURE BLESSINGS OF THE NEW COVENANT

²⁰ In Jeremiah's day, many Jews were saying, in effect: "Jehovah will not do good, and he will not do bad." (Zeph. 1:12) Although they had some knowledge of who Jehovah is and what he is like, they felt that he would not take action; nor would he expect them to live up to any standards. You, though, know that nothing escapes divine attention. You have a respectful fear of God and definitely want to refrain from doing bad. (Jer. 16:17) At the same time, you know Jehovah to be a benevolent Father. He takes note of our good deeds, whether others see them or not.—2 Chron. 16:9.

²¹ A significant aspect of the new covenant is this: "I will put my law within them, and in their heart I shall

20. How is your attitude different from that of many in Jeremiah's day?

21, 22. Why do you no longer need to be told: "Know Jehovah"?



*Those who have served God faithfully will enjoy
his future blessings*

write it. And I will become their God, . . . 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." (Jer. 31:33, 34) The anointed on earth today have shown that they have God's law within them. They love the truths found in it, rather than relying on the teachings of any human. And they have

happily shared Bible knowledge with those forming the great crowd. Thus, these with an earthly hope have also come to know and love Jehovah. They willingly submit to his direction and trust in his promises. You probably fit that description. You know him as a Person and have a personal relationship with him. What a benefit that is!

²² How have you been able to strengthen your relationship with Jehovah? You no doubt remember occasions when you felt that he answered your prayers. Through such experiences, you deepened your appreciation for the kind of God he is. You may have sensed his assistance as you recalled a scripture that helped you to cope with adversity. Cherish such experiences. As you keep on studying his Word, your knowledge of him will continue to increase—an ongoing benefit.

²³ But linked to the new covenant is another blessing that we can experience now. Knowing Jehovah as the one who provides forgiveness in line with that covenant can help free us of persistent feelings of guilt. For example, some who had an abortion before they knew God's standard may sense guilt and sadness because they deliberately ended the life of a developing human. Others feel that way because they took lives when they engaged in warfare. Jesus' ransom sacrifice—fundamental to the new covenant—provides for forgiveness of truly repentant ones. That being so, should we not be convinced that if Jehovah has forgiven our sins, he views the matter as closed? We need not dwell on the sins that Jehovah has bountifully forgiven.

23. How can knowing Jehovah free you from unnecessary troubling feelings?

²⁴ We find graphic evidence of God's forgiveness at Jeremiah 31:20. (*Read.*) Decades before Jeremiah's day, Jehovah punished the ten-tribe northern kingdom of Israel (represented by Ephraim, the prominent tribe) because of their idolatry. They were taken into exile. Yet, God was deeply attached to the people of that nation and showed them tender affection. He still cherished them as "a fondly treated child." When he thought about them, his intestines 'became boisterous,' meaning that his deep feelings were touched. This account, found in the context of the new covenant, shows how largehearted Jehovah is toward those who repent of past misconduct.

²⁵ Jehovah's promise to forgive sins through the new covenant will reach its fullest extent at the end of Christ's Millennial Reign. Jesus Christ, together with the 144,000 underpriests, will have restored to perfection loyal humans. After the final test, mankind will then be full-fledged members of Jehovah's universal family. (*Read Romans 8:19-22.*) For centuries, all have been groaning under the burden of sin. However, Jehovah's human creation will then have "the glorious freedom of the children of God," freedom from sin and death. Consequently, be confident that through the loving arrangement of the new covenant, you can obtain abundant benefits. You can benefit now and forever through the "sprout" for David and enjoy "righteousness in the land."—Jer. 33:15.

24. What encouragement can you draw from the account at Jeremiah 31:20?

25. Why can you be grateful to Jehovah for the new covenant?

How can you benefit from the new covenant now and in the future?

TO THE
GALATIANS

1 Paul,^a an apostle,^b neither from men nor through a man, but through Jesus Christ^c and God the Father,^d who raised him up from the dead,^e **2** and all the brothers with me,^f to the congregations of Ga-la'ti-a:^g

3 May you have undeserved kindness and peace^h from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **4** He gave himself for our sinsⁱ that he might deliver us from the present wicked system of things^j according to the will^k of our God and Father, **5** to whom be the glory forever and ever.^l Amen.

6 I marvel that you are being so quickly removed from the One^m who called you with Christ's undeserved kindnessⁿ over to another sort of good news.^o **7** But it is not another; only there are certain ones who are causing you trouble^p and wanting to pervert the good news about the Christ.^q **8** However, even if we or an angel out of heaven were to declare to you as good news something beyond what we declared to you as good news, let him be accursed.^r **9** As we have said above, I also now say again, Whoever it is that is declaring to you as good news something beyond what you accepted,^s let him be accursed.

10 Is it, in fact, men I am now trying to persuade or God? Or am I seeking to please men?^t If I were yet pleasing men,^u I would not be Christ's slave.^v **11** For I put you on notice, brothers, that the good news which was declared by me as good news is not something human;^w **12** for neither did I receive it from man, nor was I taught it, except through revelation by Jesus Christ.^x

13 You, of course, heard about

CHAP. 1

- a Ac 13:9
- b Ro 1:5
- Tit 1:1
- c Ac 9:15
- Ac 26:16
- Ga 1:12
- d Ac 22:14
- e Ac 2:24
- f Php 4:21
- g 1Co 16:1
- h 1Co 1:3
- Ga 6:16
- 2Jo 3
- i Tit 2:14
- 1Jo 2:2
- j Joh 15:19
- Ro 12:2
- k Eze 33:11
- 1Ti 2:4
- l Ro 16:27
- m Heb 3:6
- n 2Co 1:2
- o 2Co 11:4
- Ga 5:7
- p Ga 5:10
- q Ac 15:1
- 2Co 11:13
- 1Ti 6:3
- r 1Co 16:22
- Ga 5:12
- s De 12:32
- Pr 30:6
- t 1Th 2:4
- u Jas 4:4
- v Ro 1:1
- w 1Th 2:13
- x Ro 16:25
- Ga 2:2
- Eph 3:3

Second Col.

- a Ac 23:6
- Ga 2:14
- b 1Ti 1:13
- c Ac 8:3
- Ac 9:1
- Ac 22:4
- Ac 26:11
- d Ac 22:3
- e Php 3:6
- f Mr 7:5
- g 1Co 1:1
- 1Th 2:12
- h Ro 11:5
- 1Co 15:10
- Eph 3:7
- i 2Co 4:6
- j Ac 9:15
- Ro 11:13
- k Mt 16:17
- l Ac 2:42
- m Ac 9:19
- n Ac 9:26
- o Joh 1:42
- 1Co 15:5
- p Ac 12:17
- q Mt 13:55
- 1Co 9:5
- r Ro 9:1
- s Ac 9:30
- t Joh 17:21
- Ro 16:7
- 1Co 1:30
- 1Th 2:14

my conduct formerly in Ju'da-ism,^a that to the point of excess I kept on persecuting^b the congregation of God and devastating it,^c **14** and I was making greater progress in Ju'da-ism than many of my own age in my race,^d as I was far more zealous^e for the traditions^f of my fathers. **15** But when God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called^g me through his undeserved kindness,^h thought good **16** to reveal his Son in connection with me,ⁱ that I might declare the good news about him to the nations,^j I did not go at once into conference with flesh and blood,^k **17** Neither did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles previous to me,^l but I went off into Arabia, and I came back again to Damascus.^m

18 Then three years later I went up to Jerusalemⁿ to visit Ce'phas,^o and I stayed with him for fifteen days. **19** But I saw no one else of the apostles, only James^p the brother^q of the Lord. **20** Now as to the things I am writing you, look! in the sight of God, I am not lying.^r

21 After that I went^s into the regions of Syria and of Ci-li'cia. **22** But I was unknown by face to the congregations of Ju-de'a that were in union with Christ;^t **23** they only used to hear: "The man that formerly persecuted^u us is now declaring the good news about the faith which he formerly devastated."^v **24** So they began glorifying^w God because of me.

2 Then after fourteen years I again went up to Jerusalem^x with Bar'na-bas,^y taking also Titus along with me. **2** But I

u Ga 1:13; v Ac 8:3; w Ac 21:20; CHAP. 2 x Ac 15:2; y Ac 9:27.

went up as a result of a revelation.^a And I laid before them^b the good news which I am preaching among the nations, privately, however, before those who were outstanding men, for fear that somehow I was running^c or had run in vain.^d **3** Nevertheless, not even Titus,^e who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised,^f although he was a Greek. **4** But because of the false brothers^g brought in quietly,^h who sneaked in to spy upon our freedomⁱ which we have in union with Christ Jesus, that they might completely enslave^j us—**5** to these we did not yield by way of submission,^k no, not for an hour, in order that the truth^l of the good news might continue with you.

6 But on the part of those who seemed to be something^m—whatever sort of men they formerly were makes no difference to meⁿ—God does not go by a man's outward appearance^o—to me, in fact, those outstanding men imparted nothing new. **7** But, on the contrary, when they saw that I had entrusted^p to me the good news for those who are uncircumcised,^q just as Peter had it for those who are circumcised^r—**8** for He who gave Peter powers necessary for an apostleship to those who are circumcised gave powers also to me^s for those who are of the nations; **9** yes, when they came to know the undeserved kindness^t that was given me,^u James^v and Ce'phas and John, the ones who seemed to be pillars,^w gave me and Bar'na-bas^x the right hand of sharing together,^y that we should go to the nations, but they to those who are circumcised. **10** Only we should keep the poor in mind.^z This very thing I have also earnestly endeavored to do.^a

11 However, when Ce'phas^b came to Antioch,^c I resist-

CHAP. 2

- a 1Co 14:6
- b Ac 15:12
- c Ga 5:7
- d Php 2:16
- 1Th 3:5
- e 2Co 2:13
- f Ac 16:3
- g Isa 66:5
- h Ac 15:24
- 2Co 11:26
- Jude 4
- i Joh 8:32
- Joh 8:36
- 2Co 3:17
- Ga 5:1
- 1Pe 2:16
- j 2Co 11:20
- Ga 4:9
- k Ga 2:14
- l Joh 18:37
- Ga 4:16
- m Ga 2:9
- n Ga 2:14
- o De 10:17
- Ac 10:34
- Ro 2:11
- p 1Th 2:4
- q Ac 22:21
- Ro 11:13
- 1Ti 2:7
- r Ac 8:14
- s Ac 9:15
- Ro 1:5
- Col 1:29
- t Ro 1:5
- Eph 3:8
- u 2Pe 3:15
- v Ac 15:13
- w Php 2:20
- x Ac 13:2
- Ac 15:25
- y 1Jo 1:3
- z De 15:8
- 1Co 16:1
- a Ac 11:29
- b Joh 1:42
- c Ac 11:26
- Ac 15:35

Second Col.

- a Le 19:17
- b Ac 12:17
- c Ac 10:28
- Ac 11:3
- Ac 15:28
- d Pr 29:25
- e Ac 21:20
- f Jas 3:17
- g Ac 15:39
- h Ac 10:15
- Ac 10:34
- Ga 3:28
- i 1Ti 5:20
- j Ac 15:10
- Ac 15:28
- Ga 1:13
- k Joh 8:39
- Ro 11:23
- l Eph 2:12
- m Ps 143:2
- Ac 13:39
- Ro 8:33
- n Ro 1:17
- Ro 3:22
- Jas 2:23
- o Ro 5:17
- 1Co 6:11
- Heb 7:19
- p Ro 3:20
- Ga 3:19

ed him face to face, because he stood condemned.^a **12** For before the arrival of certain men from James,^b he used to eat^c with people of the nations; but when they arrived, he went withdrawing and separating himself, in fear^d of those of the circumcised class.^e **13** The rest of the Jews also joined him in putting on this pretense,^f so that even Bar'na-bas^g was led along with them in their pretense. **14** But when I saw they were not walking straight according to the truth of the good news,^h I said to Ce'phas before them all:ⁱ "If you, though you are a Jew, live as the nations do, and not as Jews do, how is it that you are compelling people of the nations to live according to Jewish practice?"^j

15 We who are Jews by nature,^k and not sinners^l from the nations, **16** knowing as we do that a man is declared righteous,^m not due to works of law, but only through faithⁿ toward Christ Jesus, even we have put our faith in Christ Jesus, that we may be declared righteous due to faith toward Christ,^o and not due to works of law, because due to works of law no flesh will be declared righteous.^p **17** Now if we, in seeking to be declared righteous by means of Christ,^q have also ourselves been found sinners,^r is Christ in reality sin's minister?^s May that never happen! **18** For if the very things that I once threw down I build up again,^t I demonstrate myself to be a transgressor.^u **19** As for me, through law I died toward law,^v that I might become alive toward God.^w **20** I am impaled along with Christ.^x It is no longer I that live,^y but it is Christ that is living in union with me.^z Indeed, the life that I now live^a in flesh

q Ro 5:1; r 1Jo 3:9; s Ro 6:1; t Ga 5:2; Col 2:14; u Ga 5:4; v Ro 7:9; w Ro 6:11; Heb 9:14; x Ro 6:6; Ga 5:24; Ga 6:14; y 1Pe 4:2; z Joh 17:23; a 2Co 5:15.

I live by the faith that is toward the Son of God, who loved me and handed himself over for me.^a

21 I do not shove aside the undeserved kindness of God;^b for if righteousness is through law,^c Christ actually died for nothing.^d

3 O senseless Ga-la'tians, who is it that brought you under evil influence,^e you before whose eyes Jesus Christ was openly portrayed impaled?^f **2** This alone I want to learn from you: Did you receive the spirit^g due to works of law^h or due to a hearingⁱ by faith? **3** Are you so senseless? After starting in spirit^j are you now being completed in flesh?^k **4** Did you undergo so many sufferings to no purpose?^l If it really was to no purpose. **5** He, therefore, who supplies you the spirit^m and performs powerful worksⁿ among you, does he do it owing to works of law or owing to a hearing by faith? **6** Just as Abraham "put faith in Jehovah, and it was counted to him as righteousness."^o

7 Surely you know that those who adhere to faith^p are the ones who are sons of Abraham.^q **8** Now the Scripture, seeing in advance that God would declare people of the nations righteous due to faith, declared the good news beforehand to Abraham, namely: "By means of you all the nations will be blessed."^r **9** Consequently those who adhere to faith are being blessed^s together with faithful Abraham.^t

10 For all those who depend upon works of law are under a curse; for it is written: "Cursed is every one that does not continue in all the things written in the scroll of the Law in order to do them."^u **11** Moreover, that by law no one is declared righteous^v with God is evident, because "the righteous one will live by reason of faith."^w **12** Now the Law does not adhere to faith, but

CHAP. 2

- a 1Ti 2:6
- b Joh 1:17
Ro 4:5
- c Ga 3:21
Heb 7:11
- d Tit 3:5

CHAP. 3

- e Ga 5:7
- f 1Co 1:23
- g Eph 1:13
Heb 6:4
- h Ro 3:20
- i Ro 10:17
- j Ga 4:9
- k Heb 7:16
- l Heb 10:36
2Jo 8
- m Ac 10:44
- n 1Co 12:10
- o Ge 15:6
Ro 4:3
Jas 2:23
- p Ro 4:12
- q Joh 8:39
Ro 4:16
- r Ge 12:3
Ge 18:18
Ac 3:25
- s Heb 13:7
- t Ga 3:28
Ga 3:29
Heb 2:16
- u De 27:26
Jer 11:3
Ac 15:10
Jas 2:10
- v Ac 13:39
Ga 2:16
- w Hab 2:4
Heb 10:38

Second Col.

- a Le 18:5
De 30:16
Ne 9:29
Ro 10:5
- b 1Co 7:23
- c Isa 35:10
Mt 26:28
Tit 2:14
Heb 9:15
- d Nu 21:9
Joh 3:14
Joh 19:31
Ac 5:30
- e De 21:23
- f Ro 4:9
Eph 2:15
- g Joe 2:28
- h Ac 19:4
1Pe 2:6
- i Heb 9:17
- j Ge 12:1
Ge 12:7
Ge 13:15
Ge 17:7
- k Ge 24:7
Isa 6:13
Ga 3:29
- l Ge 25:5
Ro 9:7
Ro 9:8
- m Ge 22:18
- n Ge 49:10
Mt 1:17
- o Ro 4:13
- p Ex 12:41

"he that does them shall live by means of them."^a **13** Christ by purchase^b released^c us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse^d instead of us, because it is written: "Accursed is every man hanged upon a stake."^e **14** The purpose was that the blessing of Abraham might come to be by means of Jesus Christ for the nations,^f that we might receive the promised spirit^g through our faith.^h

15 Brothers, I speak with a human illustration: A validated covenant, though it is a man's, no one sets aside or attaches additions to it.ⁱ **16** Now the promises were spoken to Abraham^j and to his seed.^k It says, not: "And to seeds," as in the case of many such, but as in the case of one:^l "And to your seed,"^m who is Christ.ⁿ **17** Further, I say this: As to the covenant previously validated by God,^o the Law that has come into being four hundred and thirty years^p later does not invalidate it, so as to abolish the promise.^q **18** For if the inheritance is due to law, it is no longer due to promise;^r whereas God has kindly given it to Abraham through a promise.^s

19 Why, then, the Law? It was added to make transgressions manifest,^t until the seed should arrive^u to whom the promise had been made; and it was transmitted through angels^v by the hand of a mediator.^w **20** Now there is no mediator where only one person is concerned, but God is only one.^x **21** Is the Law, therefore, against the promises of God?^y May that never happen! For if a law had been given that was able to give life,^z righteousness would actually have been by means of law.^a **22** But the Scripture^b de-

q Ro 4:14; r Ro 11:6; s Ge 22:17; t Ro 3:20; Ro 4:15; Ro 7:12; Ro 7:14; u Joh 1:29; Ro 10:4; v Ac 7:38; Ac 7:53; Heb 2:2; w Ex 20:19; De 5:5; Joh 1:17; Heb 9:15; x De 6:4; y 1Ti 1:8; z Ro 8:3; a Ro 3:10; Ga 2:21; b Mt 11:13.

livered up all things together to the custody of sin,^a that the promise resulting from faith toward Jesus Christ might be given to those exercising faith.^b

23 However, before the faith arrived,^c we were being guarded under law,^d being delivered up together into custody, looking to the faith that was destined to be revealed.^e **24** Consequently the Law has become our tutor leading to Christ,^f that we might be declared righteous^g due to faith. **25** But now that the faith has arrived,^h we are no longer under a tutor.ⁱ

26 You are all, in fact, sons^j of God through your faith in Christ Jesus. **27** For all of you who were baptized into Christ^k have put on Christ.^l **28** There is neither Jew nor Greek,^m there is neither slave nor freeman,ⁿ there is neither male nor female;^o for you are all one person in union with Christ Jesus.^p **29** Moreover, if you belong to Christ, you are really Abraham's seed,^q heirs with reference to a promise.^r

4 Now I say that as long as the heir is a babe he does not differ at all from a slave,^s lord of all things though he is, **2** but he is under men in charge^t and under stewards until the day his father appointed beforehand. **3** Likewise we also, when we were babes, continued enslaved by the elementary^u things belonging to the world. **4** But when the full limit of the time arrived,^v God sent forth his Son,^w who came to be out of a woman^x and who came to be under law,^y **5** that he might release by purchase^z those under law,^a that we, in turn, might receive the adoption as sons.^b

6 Now because you are sons, God has sent forth the spirit^c of his Son into our hearts and it cries out: "Abba, Father!"^d **7** So, then, you are no longer a

CHAP. 3

- a Ro 3:9
- b Ro 4:11
- c Ga 4:4
- d Col 2:14
- e Ro 10:4
- f Mt 5:17
- g Heb 8:5
- h Ac 13:39
- i Ro 5:1
- Ro 8:33
- h Col 2:17
- i Ac 21:21
- Heb 8:6
- Heb 10:1
- j Ho 1:10
- Joh 1:12
- Ro 8:14
- k Ac 19:5
- Ro 6:3
- l Ro 13:14
- Eph 4:24
- m Ro 10:12
- n 1Co 12:13
- Col 3:11
- o Ac 2:17
- 1Pe 3:7
- p Joh 17:21
- q Isa 54:1
- Ro 8:17
- Ro 9:7
- r Ga 4:28

CHAP. 4

- s Lu 2:51
- t Ge 24:3
- u Col 2:8
- v Heb 9:10
- v Ge 3:15
- Ge 49:10
- w Mt 3:17
- Joh 8:42
- x Joh 1:14
- 1Ti 3:16
- Heb 2:14
- y Mt 5:17
- z 1Co 7:23
- Ga 3:13
- a Mt 20:28
- b Joh 1:12
- Ro 8:23
- 2Co 6:18
- c Joh 14:26
- Ro 5:5
- d Mr 14:36
- Ro 8:15

Second Col.

- a Ro 8:17
- Ga 3:29
- Eph 1:14
- b Eph 2:12
- 1Th 4:5
- c Ro 1:25
- 1Co 12:2
- 1Th 1:9
- d 1Co 8:3
- e Ro 8:3
- Heb 7:18
- f Col 2:20
- g 2Co 11:20
- h Ro 14:5
- i Col 2:16
- j Ga 2:2
- Ga 5:4
- 1Th 3:5
- k Ga 6:14
- l Ga 1:14
- m 2Co 2:5
- n Ac 16:6
- o 2Sa 19:27

slave but a son; and if a son, also an heir through God.^a

8 Nevertheless, when you did not know God,^b then it was that you slaved for those who by nature are not gods.^c **9** But now that you have come to know God, or rather now that you have come to be known by God,^d how is it that you are turning back again to the weak^e and beggarly elementary^f things and want to slave for them over again?^g **10** You are scrupulously observing days^h and monthsⁱ and seasons and years. **11** I fear for you, that somehow I have toiled to no purpose^j respecting you.

12 Brothers, I beg you, Become as I am,^k because I used to be also as you are.^l You did me no wrong.^m **13** But you know that it was through a sickness of my flesh I declared the good news to you the first time.ⁿ **14** And what was a trial to you in my flesh, you did not treat with contempt or spit at in disgust; but you received me like an angel^o of God, like Christ Jesus.^p **15** Where, then, is that happiness you had?^q For I bear you witness that, if it had been possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me.^r **16** Well, then, have I become your enemy^s because I tell you the truth?^t **17** They zealously seek you,^u not in a fine way, but they want to shut you off from me, that you may zealously seek them.^v **18** However, it is fine for you to be zealously sought for in a fine cause^w at all times, and not only when I am present^x with you, **19** my little children,^y with whom I am again in childbirth pains until Christ is formed in you.^z **20** But I could wish to be present with you just

as sons.^b

p Mt 10:40; Joh 13:20; q Re 2:4; r Ga 6:11; s Pr 27:6; Isa 63:10; Heb 12:6; t Joh 8:45; Eph 4:15; u Ro 16:18; 2Pe 2:3; 2Pe 2:18; v Ac 20:30; Php 2:21; w 1Co 15:58; Tit 2:14; x Php 2:12; y 1Co 4:15; 1Th 2:11; Phm 10; z Heb 6:1.

now^a and to speak in a different way, because I am perplexed^b over you.

21 Tell me, you who want to be under law,^c Do you not hear the Law?^d **22** For example, it is written that Abraham acquired two sons, one by the servant girl^e and one by the free woman;^f **23** but the one by the servant girl was actually born in the manner of flesh,^g the other by the free woman through a promise.^h **24** These things stand as a symbolic drama;ⁱ for these women mean two covenants,^j the one from Mount Si'nai,^k which brings forth children for slavery, and which is Ha'gar. **25** Now this Ha'gar means Si'nai,^l a mountain in Arabia, and she corresponds with the Jerusalem today, for she is in slavery^m with her children. **26** But the Jerusalemⁿ above is free, and she is our mother.^o

27 For it is written: "Be glad, you barren woman who does not give birth; break out and cry aloud, you woman who does not have childbirth pains; for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous than those of her who has the husband."^p **28** Now we, brothers, are children belonging to the promise the same as Isaac was.^q **29** But just as then the one born in the manner of flesh began persecuting^r the one born in the manner of spirit, so also now.^s **30** Nevertheless, what does the Scripture say? "Drive out the servant girl and her son, for by no means shall the son of the servant girl be an heir with the son of the free woman."^t **31** Wherefore, brothers, we are children, not of a servant girl,^u but of the free woman.^v

5 For such freedom Christ set us free.^w Therefore stand fast,^x and do not let yourselves be confined again in a yoke of slavery.^y

CHAP. 4

a 2Jo 12
b 2Co 4:8
Ga 6:2
c Ro 7:6
Ga 5:1
d Ga 3:24
e Ge 16:15
f Ge 16:1
Ge 21:3
g Ge 16:2
Ro 9:8
h Ge 17:16
i 1Co 10:11
j Heb 8:7
k Ex 19:23
l Ex 19:18
Heb 12:18
m Isa 61:1
Joh 8:35
n Isa 54:5
Ga 4:31
o Ge 3:15
Isa 54:13
Php 3:20
Re 12:1
p Isa 54:1
q Ro 9:8
Ga 3:29
r Ge 21:9
2Ti 3:12
s Ga 5:11
Ga 6:12
t Ge 21:10
u Ro 6:14
v Joh 8:36
Ga 5:13

CHAP. 5

w Joh 8:32
Ro 6:18
x 1Co 16:13
Php 4:1
y Ac 15:10

Second Col.

a Ac 15:1
Ga 6:12
b Ro 2:25
Ga 3:10
c Ro 3:20
Ro 4:4
Ro 9:31
d Ro 11:6
Heb 12:15
e Ro 8:23
f 1Co 7:19
Ga 2:3
Ga 6:15
Col 3:11
g Ro 3:22
Jas 2:18
h 1Th 1:3
1Ti 1:5
i 1Co 9:24
Ga 3:3
j Ro 2:8
Ro 6:17
2Co 10:5
k Ga 1:6
l De 17:7
1Co 5:6
1Co 15:33
2Ti 2:17
2Pe 2:2
m 2Co 2:3
n Joh 17:21
Ga 3:28
o Ga 1:7
p 2Co 11:15
q 1Co 1:23
r Php 3:18
s Joh 15:19

2 See! I, Paul, am telling you that if you become circumcised,^a Christ will be of no benefit to you. **3** Moreover, I bear witness again to every man getting circumcised that he is under obligation to perform the whole Law.^b **4** You are parted from Christ, whoever you are that try to be declared righteous by means of law;^c you have fallen away from his undeserved kindness.^d **5** For our part we by spirit are eagerly waiting for the hoped-for righteousness as a result of faith.^e **6** For as regards Christ Jesus neither circumcision is of any value nor is uncircumcision,^f but faith^g operating through love^h is.

7 You were running well.ⁱ Who hindered you from keeping on obeying the truth?^j **8** This sort of persuasion is not from the One calling you.^k **9** A little leaven ferments the whole lump.^l **10** I am confident^m about you who are in unionⁿ with the Lord that you will not come to think otherwise; but the one who is causing you trouble^o will bear his judgment,^p no matter who he may be. **11** As for me, brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? Then, indeed, the stumbling block^q of the torture stake^r has been abolished.^s **12** I wish the men who are trying to overturn you^t would even get themselves emasculated.^u

13 You were, of course, called for freedom,^v brothers; only do not use this freedom as an inducement for the flesh,^w but through love slave for one another.^x **14** For the entire Law stands fulfilled^y in one saying, namely: "You must love your neighbor as yourself."^z **15** If, though, you keep on biting and devouring one another,^a look out

t Ac 15:1; u De 23:1; v Joh 8:36; Ro 6:22; w 1Co 8:9; 1Pe 2:16; 2Pe 2:19; x 1Co 9:19; y Ro 13:8; z Le 19:18; Mt 7:12; Mt 22:39; Jas 2:8; a Jas 3:14.

that you do not get annihilated by one another.^a

16 But I say, Keep walking by spirit^b and you will carry out no fleshly desire at all.^c **17** For the flesh is against the spirit^d in its desire, and the spirit against the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, so that the very things that you would like to do you do not do.^e **18** Furthermore, if you are being led by spirit,^f you are not under law.^g

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest,^h and they are fornication,ⁱ uncleanness, loose conduct,^j **20** idolatry, practice of spiritism,^k enmities, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, contentions, divisions, sects, **21** envies, drunken^l bouts, revelries, and things like these. As to these things I am forewarning you, the same way as I did forewarn you, that those who practice^m such things will not inherit God's kingdom.ⁿ

22 On the other hand, the fruitage^o of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness,^p faith, **23** mildness, self-control.^q Against such things there is no law.^r **24** Moreover, those who belong to Christ Jesus impaled the flesh together with its passions and desires.^s

25 If we are living by spirit, let us go on walking orderly also by spirit.^t **26** Let us not become egotistical, stirring up competition^u with one another, envying one another.^v

6 Brothers, even though a man takes some false step^w before he is aware of it, you who have spiritual^x qualifications try to readjust such a man in a spirit of mildness,^y as you each keep an eye on yourself,^z for fear you also may be tempted.^a **2** Go on carrying the burdens^b of one another, and thus fulfill the law of the Christ.^c **3** For if anyone thinks

CHAP. 5

- a Pr 24:29
- Jas 4:2
- b Ro 8:5
- Ro 8:13
- c Ro 6:12
- 1Pe 2:11
- d Ro 8:4
- e Ro 7:15
- Ro 7:19
- Ro 7:23
- f Ro 8:14
- g Ro 6:14
- Ro 8:2
- h Pr 20:11
- 1Co 3:3
- i 1Co 5:9
- Eph 5:3
- Col 3:5
- Re 2:20
- j Le 18:17
- Mr 7:22
- Eph 4:19
- 2Pe 2:2
- Jude 4
- k Le 19:26
- Le 19:31
- De 18:11
- l De 21:20
- Isa 5:11
- 1Pe 4:3
- m Ro 8:13
- 2Co 12:21
- n 1Co 6:9
- o Php 1:11
- Col 1:10
- p Eph 5:9
- q Jas 3:17
- r 1Ti 1:9
- s Ro 6:6
- 1Pe 2:11
- t Ro 8:4
- u Ec 4:4
- 1Co 4:7
- Ga 6:4
- v Php 2:3

CHAP. 6

- w Le 4:2
- Mt 18:15
- Ro 11:11
- x 1Co 2:15
- y Pr 15:1
- 1Co 4:21
- Col 3:12
- 1Ti 6:11
- Ti 3:2
- z 1Co 10:12
- a 1Co 7:5
- Jas 3:2
- b Ro 15:1
- 2Co 11:29
- 1Th 5:14
- c Joh 13:34
- Joh 15:12
- 1Jo 4:21

Second Col.

- a Ro 12:3
- 1Co 8:2
- 2Co 3:5
- 2Co 12:11
- b 1Co 11:28
- 2Co 13:5
- c Ga 5:26
- d Ro 14:4
- 2Co 5:10
- e Lu 1:4
- Ac 18:25

he is something when he is nothing,^a he is deceiving his own mind. **4** But let each one prove what his own work is,^b and then he will have cause for exultation in regard to himself alone, and not in comparison^c with the other person. **5** For each one will carry his own load.^d

6 Moreover, let anyone who is being orally^e taught the word share^f in all good things with the one who gives such oral teaching.^g

7 Do not be misled:^h God is not one to be mocked.ⁱ For whatever a man is sowing, this he will also reap;^j **8** because he who is sowing with a view to his flesh will reap corruption from his flesh,^k but he who is sowing with a view to the spirit^l will reap everlasting life from the spirit.^m **9** So let us not give up in doing what is fine,ⁿ for in due season we shall reap if we do not tire out.^o **10** Really, then, as long as we have time favorable for it,^p let us work what is good toward all, but especially toward those related to us in the faith.^q

11 SEE with what large letters I have written you with my own hand.^r

12 All those who want to make a pleasing appearance in the flesh are the ones that try to compel you to get circumcised,^s only that they may not be persecuted for the torture stake of the Christ,^t Jesus. **13** For not even do those who are getting circumcised keep the Law themselves,^u but they want you to be circumcised that they may have cause for boasting in your flesh. **14** Never may it occur that I should boast, except in the torture stake^v of our Lord Jesus

f Le 8:31; Lu 10:7; Ro 15:27; 1Co 9:11; Heb 13:16; g Nu 18:31; Mt 10:10; 1Co 9:14; h Jas 1:16; i Job 13:9; j Lu 16:25; Ro 2:6; k Ro 8:6; l Joh 6:63; Ro 8:13; m Isa 3:10; n 2Th 3:13; o Heb 3:14; Heb 12:3; Re 2:10; p Joh 9:4; Col 4:5; q Eph 2:19; r 1Co 16:21; s Ga 2:3; t Ga 5:11; Php 3:18; u Jas 2:10; v Lu 14:27; 1Co 2:2.

Christ, through whom the world has been impaled to me^a and I to the world. **15** For neither is circumcision anything nor is uncircumcision,^b but a new creation^c is something. **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.^d

CHAP. 6

- a Ro 6:6
b Ga 5:6
c 2Co 5:17
Eph 2:10
d Ps 125:5
Ps 128:6
Ro 9:6

Second Col.

- a Isa 3:24
b 2Co 4:10
Php 3:10

17 Henceforth let no one be making trouble for me, for I am carrying on my body the brand marks^a of a slave of Jesus.^b

18 The undeserved kindness of our Lord Jesus Christ be with the spirit^c YOU show, brothers. Amen.

e 2Ti 4:22; Phm 25.

TO THE

EPHESIANS

1 Paul, an apostle^a of Christ Jesus through God's will,^b to the holy ones who are in Eph'e-sus and faithful ones^c in union^d with Christ Jesus:

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

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,^g for he has blessed us^h with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly placesⁱ in union with Christ, **4** just as he chose^j us in union with him before the founding^k of the world, that we should be holy and without blemish^l before him in love.^m **5** For he foreordainedⁿ us to the adoption^o through Jesus Christ as sons^p to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,^q **6** in praise^r of his glorious undeserved kindness^s which he kindly conferred upon us by means of his loved one.^t **7** By means of him we have the release by ransom through the blood^u of that one, yes, the forgiveness^v of our trespasses, according to the riches of his undeserved kindness.^w

8 This he caused to abound toward us in all wisdom^x and good sense, **9** in that he made

CHAP. 1

- a 1Co 1:1
b 2Co 1:1
c Re 2:3
d Joh 15:4
Joh 15:5
e Joh 1:17
Ro 3:24
1Co 1:4
f Joh 14:27
g 2Co 1:3
h Ga 3:14
i Eph 2:6
j Isa 43:10
Joh 17:24
Jude 1
k 1Pe 1:20
l Eph 5:27
Col 1:22
m Jas 2:5
n 2Th 2:13
1Pe 1:2
o Ro 8:15
Ro 8:29
Ga 4:5
p Ro 8:23
q Ro 8:28
r Isa 43:21
s Ro 3:24
t Joh 3:35
u Ac 20:28
Ro 3:25
Re 5:9
v Ac 13:38
Col 1:14
Col 2:13
w Joh 1:16
x Col 1:9

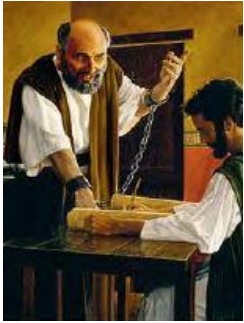
Second Col.

- a Ro 16:25
1Co 4:1
b 2Ti 1:9
c Isa 32:1
Eph 3:9
Heb 3:6
Re 20:6
d Lu 21:24
Ac 1:7
e Ps 50:5
f 1Co 15:28
Col 1:20
g 1Pe 1:4

known to us the sacred secret^a of his will. It is according to his good pleasure which he purposed in himself^b **10** for an administration^c at the full limit of the appointed times,^d namely, to gather^e all things together again in the Christ,^f the things in the heavens^g and the things on the earth.^h Yes, in him, **11** in union with whom we were also assigned as heirs,ⁱ in that we were foreordained according to the purpose of him who operates all things according to the way his will counsels,^j **12** that we should serve for the praise of his glory,^k we who have been first to hope in the Christ.^l **13** But you also hoped in him after you heard the word of truth,^m the good news about your salvation.ⁿ By means of him also, after you believed, you were sealed^o with the promised holy spirit,^p **14** which is a token^q in advance of our inheritance,^r for the purpose of releasing by a ransom^s God's own possession,^t to his glorious praise.

15 That is why I also, since I have heard of the faith you

h Joh 10:16; Php 2:10; i Ro 8:17; Eph 3:6; 1Pe 3:7; j Isa 46:10; Ro 8:28; k Eph 3:21; l Jas 1:18; m Col 1:5; n 1Ti 2:4; o 2Co 1:22; Eph 4:30; Re 7:4; p Ga 3:2; q 2Co 5:5; r 1Pe 1:4; s Ro 8:23; Col 1:14; 1Ti 2:6; t 1Pe 2:9.



*** w08 8/15 p. 26 par. 1 Highlights From the Letters to the Galatians, the Ephesians, the Philippians, and the Colossians ***

UPON hearing that some Christians were being deflected from pure worship by Judaizers, the apostle Paul writes a powerful letter “to the congregations of Galatia.” (Gal. 1:2) Written sometime during 50-52 C.E., the letter contains direct counsel and strong exhortation.

“DECLARED RIGHTEOUS”—HOW? (Gal. 1:1–6:18)

Since Judaizers craftily seek to discredit Paul, he defends his apostleship by providing certain autobiographical details. (Gal. 1:11–2:14) Counteracting their false teachings, Paul makes the point: “A man is declared righteous, not due to works of law, but only through faith toward Christ Jesus.”—Gal. 2:16.

Christ ‘released by purchase those under law’ and set them free to enjoy Christian freedom, says Paul. He strongly admonishes the Galatians: “Stand fast, and do not let yourselves be confined again in a yoke of slavery.”—Gal. 4:4, 5; 5:1.

Scriptural Questions Answered:



3:16-18, 28, 29—Is the Abrahamic covenant still valid? Yes, it is. The Law covenant was an addition to and not a replacement of God’s covenant with Abraham. Therefore, the Abrahamic covenant remained in effect after the Law was “abolished.” (Eph. 2:15) Its promises are passed on to Abraham’s true “seed”—Christ Jesus, who is the primary one, and those who “belong to Christ.”

6:2—What is “the law of the Christ”? This law consists of all that Jesus taught and commanded. It especially includes the commandment to “love one another.”—John 13:34.

6:8—How do we ‘sow with a view to the spirit’? We do this by living in a way that allows God’s spirit to operate freely on us. Sowing with a view to the spirit involves wholeheartedly participating in activities that promote the flow of the spirit.

Lessons for Us:

1:6-9. Christian elders need to act without delay when problems arise in the congregation. Using sound reasoning along with the Scriptures, they can quickly refute false reasoning.

2:20. The ransom is a personal gift from God to us. We should learn to view it that way.—John 3:16.

5:7-9. Bad associations can ‘hinder us from keeping on obeying the truth.’ We are wise to shun them.

6:1, 2, 5. Those with “spiritual qualifications” may help us to carry a burden, such as something troublesome or heavy resulting from our unknowingly taking a false step. When it comes to carrying the load of our spiritual responsibilities, though, we must do it ourselves.

*** w12 1/15 p. 20 par. 16 Learn From ‘the Framework of Truth’ ***

¹⁶ Jehovah took no pleasure in sacrifices offered by unrepentant sinners. However, the prayers and offerings of those sincerely striving to live in harmony with God’s commands were acceptable to him. The framework of the Law taught such individuals that they were sinful and in need of forgiveness. (Gal. 3:19) That realization appropriately produced a contrite heart. Similarly today, we need to recognize our need for Christ’s sacrifice, which is truly capable of atoning for sins. If we understand and appreciate this, then Jehovah will be “delighted” with all that we offer him in our dedicated service.—Read Psalm 51:17, 19.

TMS REVIEW: * w12 12/15 p. 13 par. 18 You Are a Trusted Steward! *****

6. How may we benefit from heeding Paul's counsel found at Galatians 6:4? [Sept. 30, w12 12/15 p. 13 par. 18]

¹⁸ Each of us can ask, 'How do I view my stewardship?' Problems may arise when we compare ourselves with others. The Bible counsels us: "Let each one prove what his own work is, and then he will have cause for

exultation in regard to himself alone, and not in comparison with the other person." (Gal. 6:4) Rather than compare what we do with what others do, we should focus on what we personally are able to do. This will protect us not only from being puffed up with pride but also from being discouraged. In evaluating ourselves, we should recognize that circumstances change. Perhaps because of poor health, age, or various responsibilities, we cannot do all we used to. On the other hand, we might be able to do more than we are now doing. If so, why not try to step up our activities?

***** w12 2/15 p. 15 A Trait That Can Poison Our Minds—Envy *****

While imperfect humans have "a tendency to envy," various factors can feed and strengthen this inclination. (Jas. 4:5) Identifying one of them, the apostle Paul wrote: "Let us not become egotistical, stirring up competition with one another, envying one another." (Gal. 5:26) The spirit of competition can make our imperfect leanings toward envy even worse.

***** w12 2/15 p. 22 par. 14 Preserve the Positive Spirit of the Congregation *****

¹⁴ What if we become aware that someone is involved in a secret sin, perhaps abusing alcohol, viewing pornography, or living an immoral life? (Eph. 5:11, 12) Our turning a blind eye to gross wrongdoing can hinder the free flow of Jehovah's holy spirit and threaten the peace of the entire congregation. (Gal. 5:19-23) Just as the early Christians in Corinth had to clear out badness, so today any corrupting influence must be kept out of the congregation in order to preserve its healthy, positive spirit.

***** w12 3/15 p. 9 How Do You Give Advice? *******5 Avoid Trying to Make Decisions for Others.**

"Each one will carry his own load."—GAL. 6:5.

In the end, each person needs to choose for himself which counsel and advice to follow. Jehovah allows all of us the freedom to decide whether we will be governed by his principles or not. (Deut. 30:19, 20) Some situations involve *several* Bible principles, and ultimately, the person seeking advice has to make his own decision. Based on the issue or the age of the one seeking our advice, we may also need to ask ourselves, 'Do I really have the authority to address this question?' Some matters are best referred to congregation elders or if the inquirer is a young person, to his parents.

***** w12 3/15 p. 31 Questions From Readers *****

Paul also mentioned "uncleanness" at Galatians 5:19. A British scholar noted that it "may here [signify] more especially all unnatural lusts." What Christian would deny that the above-mentioned abhorrent, sexually degrading forms of pornography are "unnatural lusts" and are sordid? Paul concluded at Galatians 5:19-21 that "those who practice" such uncleanness "will not inherit God's kingdom." Consequently, if someone developed an entrenched practice of viewing abhorrent, sexually degrading pornography, perhaps over a considerable period of time, and would not repent and turn around, he could not remain in the Christian congregation. He would have to be disfellowshipped in order to preserve the cleanness and spirit of the congregation.—1 Cor. 5:5, 11.

***** km 7/07 p. 3 Question Box *****

It is easy for a person whom we meet over the Internet to be deceptive about his identity, his spirituality, or his motives. (Ps. 26:4) An individual claiming to be one of Jehovah's Witnesses may actually be an unbeliever, a disfellowshipped person, or even an active apostate. (Gal. 2:4) Reportedly, many pedophiles use such Web sites to find their victims.

***** w12 5/15 pp. 3-4 par. 3 Do You Really Appreciate God's Gift of Marriage? *****

³ Faithful Abraham had a high regard for marriage. Therefore, he sent his eldest servant to Mesopotamia to obtain a wife for Isaac. Prayer by that servant brought good results. God-fearing Rebekah became Isaac's beloved wife and played a part in Jehovah's arrangement for preserving Abraham's seed. (Gen. 22:18; 24:12-14, 67) We should not conclude from this that a person—well-meaning though he or she may be—should become an unsolicited matchmaker. In present-day society, many make their own choice of marriage mate. Of course, marriages are not made in heaven, but God will guide Christians in this and other aspects of life if they pray for direction and are led by his spirit.—Gal. 5:18, 25.

***** w12 5/15 p. 29 "Watch Out for the Leaven of the Pharisees" *****

A true Christian should serve fellow believers. (Gal. 5:13) Especially is this so in the case of those who want to qualify as overseers in the congregation. It is proper to be "reaching out for an office of overseer," but this goal should spring from a desire to help others. This "office" is not a position of prominence or power. Those serving as overseers need to be "lowly in heart," as Jesus was.—1 Tim. 3:1, 6; Matt. 11:29.

***** w12 7/15 pp. 14-15 par. 9 Serve the God of Freedom *****

⁹ How sad that many young ones in the truth—and even a number of older ones—have had to learn the hard way that sinful pleasures often come at great cost! (Gal. 6:7, 8) So ask yourself: 'Do I recognize Satan's schemes for what they really are—cruel deceptions? Do I view Jehovah as my closest Friend, the one who always tells the truth and wants what is best for me? Am I fully convinced that he would *never* withhold from me something that is truly good and will result in my greatest happiness?' (**Read Isaiah 48:17, 18.**) In order to say a heartfelt yes, you need to have more than a superficial knowledge of Jehovah. You need to know him intimately and recognize that Bible laws and principles reflect his love for you, not a desire to hem you in.—Ps. 25:14.

***** w12 9/15 p. 20 par. 8 Learn From the Patience of Jehovah and Jesus *****

⁸ Jesus is doing the will of God and has eagerly done so for untold millenniums. When Satan rebelled, Jehovah decided that his only-begotten Son would come to earth as the Messiah. Think of what that meant for Jesus—patiently waiting thousands of years till the time had come. (**Read Galatians 4:4.**) He was not passively waiting all that time; rather, he was occupied with the work that his Father assigned him. When he eventually came to earth, he knew that he would have to die at the hands of Satan, as prophesied. (Gen. 3:15; Matt. 16:21) He patiently submitted to God's will, though this meant suffering agonizing pain. His was loyalty of the highest kind. He was not focusing on himself and his position, and we can benefit from that.—Heb. 5:8, 9.

***** km 7/12 p. 1 par. 3 What Is Your "Cause for Exultation"? *****

³ **"Not in Comparison With the Other Person"**: It is unwise to compare ourselves with others or with ourselves when we had greater vitality. Circumstances change. Abilities vary. Comparisons often lead to competition or feelings of worthlessness. (Gal. 5:26; 6:4) Jesus did not make comparisons. Rather, he gave commendation in accord with what a person was able to do.—Mark 14:6-9.

***** km 12/12 p. 1 par. 5 "Be Peaceable With All Men" *****

⁵ If we are peaceable, the householder may well remember our reaction and listen the next time someone tries to give him a witness. (Rom. 12:20, 21) Even if he seems firm in his opposition, one day he may become our brother. (Gal. 1:13, 14) Regardless of whether he ever takes an interest in the truth, we will honor Jehovah and adorn our teaching if we maintain our self-control and demonstrate peaceableness.—2 Cor. 6:3.

***** km 8/09 p. 4 par. 8 Meet the Challenge of Witnessing to Men *****

⁸ On the other hand, some husbands show little spiritual interest initially but may eventually be willing to discuss the Bible with a brother they feel comfortable with. Brothers in one congregation made a point when occasionally visiting a religiously divided family to chat with the unbelieving husband about things they knew he was interested in. This eventually led to spiritual discussions, and now he is baptized. In another case, a brother helped a friendly unbelieving husband to build a fence around his house. By demonstrating personal interest in this way, a Bible study was started. (Gal. 6:10; Phil. 2:4) If you are a Christian brother, why not reach out to one or more of these unbelieving husbands?

Religion

Definition: A form of worship. It includes a system of religious attitudes, beliefs, and practices; these may be personal, or they may be advocated by an organization. Usually religion involves belief in God or in a number of gods; or it treats humans, objects, desires, or forces as objects of worship. Much religion is based on human study of nature; there is also revealed religion. There is true religion and false.

Why are there so many religions?

A recent tabulation concluded that there are 10 main religions and some 10,000 sects. Of these, some 6,000 exist in Africa, 1,200 in the United States, and hundreds in other lands.

Many factors have contributed to the development of new religious groups. Some have said that the various religions all represent different ways of presenting religious truth. But a comparison of their teachings and practices with the Bible indicates, rather, that the diversity of religions is because people have become followers of men instead of listening to God. It is noteworthy that, to a large extent, teachings they hold in common, but that differ from the Bible, originated in ancient Babylon. (See pages 50, 51, under the heading “Babylon the Great.”)

Who is the instigator of such religious confusion? The Bible identifies Satan the Devil as “the god of this system of things.” (2 Cor. 4:4) It warns us that “the things which the nations sacrifice they sacrifice to demons, and not to God.” (1 Cor. 10:20) How vitally important, then, to make sure that we really are worshiping the true God, the Creator of heaven and earth, and that our worship is pleasing to him!

Are all religions acceptable to God?

Judg. 10:6, 7: “The sons of Israel again proceeded to do what was bad in the eyes of Jehovah, and they began to serve the Baals and the Ashtoreth images and the gods of Syria and the gods of Sidon and the gods of Moab and the gods of the sons of Ammon and the gods of the

Philistines. So they left Jehovah and did not serve him. At this Jehovah's anger blazed against Israel." (If a person worships any thing or any person other than the true God, the Creator of heaven and earth, it is evident that his form of worship is not acceptable to Jehovah.)

Mark 7:6, 7: "He [Jesus] said to them [the Jewish Pharisees and scribes]: 'Isaiah aptly prophesied about you hypocrites, as it is written, "This people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far removed from me. It is in vain that they keep worshiping me, because they teach as doctrines commands of men."' (Regardless of whom a group *profess* to worship, if they hold to doctrines of men instead of the inspired Word of God, their worship is in vain.)

Rom. 10:2, 3: "I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God; but not according to accurate knowledge; for, because of not knowing the righteousness of God but seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God." (People may have God's written Word but lack accurate knowledge of what it contains, because they have not been taught properly. They may feel that they are zealous for God, but they may not be doing what he requires. Their worship is not going to please God, is it?)

Is it true that there is good in all religions?

Most religions do teach that a person should not lie or steal, and so forth. But is that sufficient? Would you be happy to drink a glass of poisoned water because someone assured you that *most* of what you were getting was water?

2 Cor. 11:14, 15: "Satan himself keeps transforming himself into an angel of light. It is therefore nothing great if his ministers also keep transforming themselves into ministers of righteousness." (Here we are cautioned that not everything that originates with Satan may appear hideous. One of his chief methods of deceiving mankind has been false religion of all kinds, to some of which he gives a righteous appearance.)

2 Tim. 3:2, 5: "Men will be . . . having a form of godly devotion but proving false to its power; and from these turn away." (Regardless

108 Praise Jehovah for His Kingdom **(Revelation 21:2)**

1. Jehovah anointed his Son

To rule over ev'ryone.

His throne is established on justice,

That God's will on earth may be done.

(CHORUS)

Praise Jah for his holy Anointed.

Hail Jesus, O you faithful sheep,

Who loyally follow day after day

and all his commandments keep.

Praise Jah for his holy Anointed,

the Ruler of heavenly fame,

Anointed with exultation and might

to honor God's holy name.

2. Christ's brothers are chosen and called.

God gives them their own new birth.

This bride class will share in the Kingdom

And bring Paradise to this earth.

(Chorus)

calling back where no one was at home and rendering spiritual assistance to those who show interest in the good news of the Kingdom. From time to time, *Our Kingdom Ministry* makes specific suggestions as to how territory can be worked thoroughly with the use of Bibles, books, magazines, brochures, tracts, handbills, and other provisions of "the faithful and discreet slave." It may be that some of the people in your territory, such as those living in gated communities or high-security buildings, will have to be reached by letter, by telephone, or by other means, such as street witnessing. The service overseer and your Congregation Book Study overseer can offer appropriate suggestions in accord with local conditions and individual circumstances.

When all those associated with the congregation cooperate, the territory can be worked in a thorough and effective manner. We can also avoid simultaneous coverage of the same area by two or more Witnesses, something that could confuse or irritate the householders. Thus we show consideration both for our brothers and for the people in the territory.

Sept. 30, 2013 **WITNESSING TO PEOPLE OF ALL LANGUAGES**

² All mankind needs to learn about Jehovah God, his Son, and the Kingdom. (Rev. 14:6, 7) We are interested in helping those in our territory who speak another language to call on the name of Jehovah for salvation and to put on the Christian personality. (Rom. 10:12, 13; Col. 3:10, 11) Yet, how can the various situations and challenges that arise in presenting the good news to such ones be handled in a loving and effective manner?

³ Christians should treat others as they themselves would like to be treated. (Matt. 7:12) Extending a

warm welcome to those of another land or language reflects genuine personal interest. (Rom. 15:7) This mental disposition is vital as we preach the good news in immigrant communities, since it helps us to view others as Cod views them.—Acts 10:34, 35; 17:26.

¹ When you meet a person in the territory who speaks a tongue that you do not understand, endeavor to find out which language he reads. Share with him the message found in the booklet *Good News for People of All Nations*. If a congregation or a group in that language is nearby, perhaps you can help the person get in touch with those brothers. It may be that a local publisher who knows the language would be able to follow up on the interest. Otherwise, let the householder know that you will try to obtain one of our publications in that language. Then check with the literature servant to see what publications are available in that particular language.

² Some publishers have learned enough of a language to give a simple presentation. Others have accepted the challenge of studying with a person, using one of our publications printed in his language. If we use the pictures and have the person read the cited Scriptures, he will get some basic Bible understanding. There may even be a member of his family who knows enough of his language and the local language to serve as an interpreter.

³ Keeping in mind that our purpose is to make disciples, encourage the interested person to attend the meetings of the local congregation if none are held in the language that he understands. The Christian association itself can be upbuilding and will help him make further spiritual progress.

tens of thousands of people took to the streets to protest against the government. Their protest, however, was swiftly suppressed, and most of the country was placed under martial law.

“The authorities enforced a strict curfew, and gatherings of more than five people were banned,” recalls Bethelite Kyaw Win. “We wondered if we should cancel our upcoming district conventions. But with faith in Jehovah, we approached the military commander of Yangon Division and asked for permission to hold a 1,000-person convention. Two days later, we received our permit! When we showed the permit to authorities in other areas, it prompted them to allow conventions in their areas too. With Jehovah’s help, the whole convention series was a resounding success!”

Not Forsaking Christian Gatherings

² After the 1988 uprising, the economic situation in Burma steadily worsened. Even so, the brothers and sisters showed deep faith in God by continuing to put Kingdom interests first in their lives.—Matt. 6:33.

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³ Consider, for example, Cin Khan Dal, who lived with his family in a remote village in Sagaing. “We wanted to attend the district convention in Tahan, a two-day journey away by boat and truck,” he explains. “But no one would watch over our chickens while we were away. Still, we put our trust in Jehovah and attended the convention. Returning home, we found that we had lost 19 chickens—a serious economic blow. Yet, one year later, our small flock had increased to more than 60 chickens. And while many villagers lost their chickens to disease that

year, none of our chickens died.”

¹ Another couple who remained spiritually focused was Aung Tin Nyunt and his wife,

Nyein Mya, who lived with their nine children in Kyonsha, a small village 40 miles northwest of Yangon. Aung Tin Nyunt relates: “Mostly, our family ate just rice gruel and vegetables. We had no money and nothing to sell. Still, we weren’t depressed. I told my family: ‘Jesus had no place to put his head. So even if I have to live under a tree or die of starvation, I will faithfully keep worshipping God.’

² “One day, though, we had no food left in our house. My wife and children looked at me with concerned faces. ‘Don’t worry,’ I assured them. ‘God will help us.’ After spending the morning in field service, I took my sons fishing. But we caught only enough fish for one meal. Leaving our fishing baskets at the river, near a clump of water lilies, I told the boys: ‘We can come back later, after the meeting.’ That afternoon was very windy. When we returned, we found that many fish were under the water lilies, seeking shelter from the wind. So we lowered our baskets and caught lots of fish, which we sold to buy food for an entire week.”

³ Time and again, Jehovah’s servants in Myanmar have experienced the fulfillment of God’s heartwarming promise: “I will by no means leave you nor by any means forsake you.” Thus, they readily say: “Jehovah is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”—Heb. 13:5, 6.

**“Jehovah is my helper;
I will not be afraid.
What can man do to
me?”—Heb. 13:6**

40 *Keep On Seeking First the Kingdom* (Matthew 6:33)

1. Something precious to Jehovah,
Bringing him such keen delight,
Is his Kingdom by Christ Jesus,
Which will set all matters right.

(CHORUS)

*Keep on seeking first the Kingdom
And Jehovah's righteousness.
Sing his praise among the nations,
Serving him in faithfulness.*

2. Why be anxious for tomorrow
Lest we hunger, lest we thirst?
For our God will make provision
If we seek his Kingdom first.

(Chorus)

3. So proclaim the Kingdom good news;
Help deserving ones to see
That their hope is in Jehovah
And in his Theocracy.

(Chorus)