

MID-WEEK MEETING FILE



OCTOBER 7-11, 2013

(2 Timothy 3:16, 17) All Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproving, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be fully competent, completely equipped for every good work.

“Preach the Word”

(2 Timothy 4:2)

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

(CHORUS)

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

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

(Chorus)

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

(Chorus)

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 7

Song 92 and Prayer "Preach the Word"

❑ Congregation Bible Study:

Jr chap. 15 ¶1-6, box on p. 184 (30 min.)

❑ Theocratic Ministry School:

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

No. 1: Ephesians 4:1-16 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: What It Means to Seek First God's Righteousness—Matt. 6:33 (5 min.)

No. 3: Is It True That There Is Good in All Religions?—*rs* p. 323 ¶3-5 (5 min.)

❑ Service Meeting:

Song 59 [To God We Are Dedicated!](#)

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

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: Those Who Are Working Hard. (1 Thess. 5:12, 13) Interview two elders. What are their congregation and other theocratic assignments? How are they able to care for these in addition to secular and family responsibilities? How do they make the ministry a priority? How have family members given them support?

Song 123 and Prayer [Shepherds-Gifts in Men](#)

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **September and October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. **November:** Special campaign distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 38, "Can the Dead Really Live Again?" If the congregation works all of its territory or places its entire supply of *Kingdom News*, publishers should offer *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* **December:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?*

■ The special public talk for the 2014 Memorial season will be given during the week of April 21. The subject of the talk will be announced later. Those congregations having the visit of the circuit overseer or an assembly that weekend will have the special talk the following week. No congregation should have the special talk before April 21.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in October

"We're making just a brief visit on our neighbors today. Many whom we have talked to say that one of the most difficult situations they have had to face is the death of a loved one. Is that how you feel too? [Allow for response.] I found this to be encouraging." Show the back of the October 1 *Watchtower*, and consider together the material under the first question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® October 1 ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"We're visiting briefly to encourage Bible reading. We know that some people have an interest in the Bible; others do not. What about you? [Allow for response.] The Bible makes this bold claim. [Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13.] I'm sure you will agree that if it is true that the Bible is a book from God, then it is worth reading. This magazine briefly outlines what the Bible is all about and why it should interest us."

Awake!® October

"I would like to hear your opinion on this question: Is contentment possible if we do not have a lot materially? [Allow for response.] Notice what the Bible says. [Read 1 Timothy 6:8.] This magazine presents a balanced view of material possessions and discusses three valuable things that money cannot buy."

Field Service Highlights

On March 26, 2013, the Memorial of Christ's death was attended by 2,504,114 in the United States, 4,227 in the Bahamas, 1,088 in Bermuda, and 1,242 in the Turks and Caicos Islands in obedience to Jesus' command. (Luke 22:19) In addition, a total of 356,673 reported as auxiliary pioneers in these locations for the month of March.



km1309-E US
130607

“I CANNOT KEEP SILENT”

“HEAR the word of Jehovah.” Those words rang in the streets and squares of Jerusalem starting in 647 B.C.E. And God’s prophet did not let up. Even when the city was destroyed 40 years later, he repeated that exhortation. (Jer. 2:4; 42:15) Almighty God sent prophets to make sure that the Jews could hear His counsel and repent. As shown earlier in this volume, Jeremiah was outstanding among those divine spokesmen. When commissioning him, God told Jeremiah: “You must rise up and speak to them everything that I myself command you. Do not be struck with any terror.” (Jer. 1:17) The work was demanding. Jeremiah suffered physical and emotional pain, but despite such trials, he was impelled to fulfill his assignment. He said: “My heart is boisterous within me. I cannot keep silent.”—Jer. 4:19.

² The way Jeremiah carried out his prophetic assignment set an example for future servants of Jehovah. (Jas. 5:10) Shortly after Pentecost 33 C.E., the Jewish authorities arrested the apostles Peter and John, ordering them to stop preaching. You have read their response. “We cannot stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:19, 20) After threatening to do worse to

-
1. Why did Jeremiah and other prophets of Jehovah not keep silent?
 - 2, 3. (a) How did Jesus’ disciples imitate Jeremiah? (b) Why should you follow Jeremiah’s example?

them the next time, the rulers let Peter and John go. You know the result. Those faithful men would not and did not stop preaching.

³ Can you see how the words of Peter and John recorded at Acts 4:20 echo Jeremiah's fervor? As a minister of Jehovah God in these decisive last days, are you not just as determined in thinking, 'I cannot remain silent!' Let us see how we can maintain strength like that of Jeremiah to continue preaching the good news despite worsening conditions around us.

CONTINUE DESPITE APATHY

⁴ Are you not confident that God's promise of a wonderful future under his Son's rule is the best news that people can hear? Yet, many today express themselves as some Jews once did by saying to Jeremiah: "As regards the word that you have spoken to us in the name of Jehovah, we are not listening to you." (Jer. 29:19; 44:16) Jeremiah often heard such sentiments. So do Jehovah's servants today, for many people say, "I am not interested." Widespread apathy could sap the zeal of Kingdom publishers. If that has been true in your territory, among some in your congregation, or even in your case, what can be done?

⁵ Consider the thinking that Jeremiah developed in the face of the largely apathetic people of Judah. Early in Jeremiah's career, Jehovah gave him a foreview of the coming divine judgment. (*Read Jeremiah 4:23-26.*) The prophet could then see that the lives of thousands

4. What attitude was common in ancient Jerusalem?

5. (a) How did Jeremiah react to the people's apathy? (b) Why are those who are apathetic toward the good news in grave danger?

APATHY CAN TURN INTO INTEREST

A householder in New Zealand said that she had never listened to the Witnesses before, but now she was interested. That week she had attended the funeral of a Witness because her husband worked secularly with the deceased sister's husband. The woman noted that many present gave personal comfort to the grieving widower. Also, she said that the clear Biblical explanation of our resurrection hope made sense.

The woman explained that she trained hospice nurses, who care for the terminally ill. As a result of the funeral, she had encouraged her students to attend a funeral conducted by Jehovah's Witnesses. Why? She remarked to the Witnesses at her door that she told her students that the Witnesses explain the true condition of the dead and offer a beautiful hope for the future. She felt that the nurses could use both points to encourage their patients.

Clearly, the fact that people have long been apathetic does not mean that Jehovah cannot 'give them a heart to know him.' (Jer. 24:7) Those who have been apathetic in your territory may yet respond.



depended on their hearing the words he would speak and acting on them. Today, people are in a similar situation, including those in your territory. Regarding "that day" of God's judgment against today's wicked world, Jesus said: "It will come in upon all those dwelling upon the face of all the earth. Keep awake, then, all the time making supplication that you may succeed in escaping all these things that are destined to occur, and in standing before the Son of man." (Luke 21:34-36) You can conclude from Jesus' words that those who reject the good news are in grave danger.

⁶ However, those who shake off indifference and who listen and respond to Jehovah's word that we present will receive priceless benefits. God is opening the way for us to escape destruction and enter into his new world. In some respects, it was similar in Jeremiah's ministry. The inhabitants of Judah could escape. (*Read Jeremiah 26:2, 3.*) To help them, Jeremiah spent decades urging the people to "listen and return," to heed the word of the true God. We do not know how many repented and changed their lives as a result of the prophet's witnessing. But some did, and so have many in our time. As we continue to preach the good news, we often hear about how hearts of once unresponsive people soften. (See the box "Apathy Can Turn Into Interest," on page 184.) Is that not an added reason to stay active in our lifesaving ministry of the good news?

6. Why should you keep preaching, even to those who show little interest in your message?

Why are you determined to preach the good news despite any apathy you face?

12 All those who want to make a good impression in the flesh* are the ones who try to compel you to get circumcised, doing so only to avoid being persecuted for the torture stake# of the Christ. **13** For even those who are getting circumcised do not keep the Law themselves,^a but they want you to be circumcised so that they may have cause for boasting about your flesh. **14** But may I never boast, except in the torture stake# of our Lord Jesus Christ,^b through whom the world has been put

6:12 *Or "who want to look good outwardly." **6:12, 14** #See Glossary.

CHAP. 6

a Jas 2:10

b 1Co 2:2

Second Col.

a 1Co 7:19

Ga 5:6

Col 3:10, 11

b 2Co 5:17

Eph 2:10

c Ro 9:6

d 2Co 4:10

Php 3:10

to death* with regard to me and I with regard to the world. **15** For neither is circumcision anything nor is uncircumcision,^a but a new creation is.^b **16** As for all those who walk orderly by this rule of conduct, peace and mercy be upon them, yes, upon the Israel of God.^c

17 From now on let no one make trouble for me, for I am bearing on my body the brand marks of a slave of Jesus.^d

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

6:14 *Or "executed on the stake."

TO THE EPHESIANS

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Greetings (1, 2)
Spiritual blessings (3-7)
Gathering all things in the Christ (8-14)
 "An administration" at the appointed times (10)
 Sealed with the spirit as "a token in advance" (13, 14)
Paul thanks God for the Ephesians' faith and prays for them (15-23)</p> <p>2 Made alive with the Christ (1-10)
Wall of separation destroyed (11-22)</p> <p>3 Sacred secret to include Gentiles (1-13)
Gentiles joint heirs with Christ (6)
God's eternal purpose (11)</p> | <p>Prayer for the Ephesians to gain insight (14-21)</p> <p>4 Unity in the body of Christ (1-16)
 Gifts in men (8)
 The old and the new personality (17-32)</p> <p>5 Clean speech and conduct (1-5)
Walk as children of light (6-14)
Be filled with spirit (15-20)
 Make the best use of your time (16)
 Advice to husbands and wives (21-33)</p> <p>6 Advice to children and parents (1-4)
Advice to slaves and masters (5-9)
Complete suit of armor from God (10-20)
Final greetings (21-24)</p> |
|--|--|

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

CHAP. 1

a Re 2:1, 3

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

3 Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

for he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in union with Christ,^a **4** as he chose us to be in union with him* before the founding of the world, that we should be holy and unblemished^b before him in love. **5** For he foreordained us^c to be adopted as his own sons^d through Jesus Christ, according to his good pleasure and will,^e **6** in praise of his glorious undeserved kindness^f that he kindly bestowed on us by means of his beloved one.^g **7** By means of him we have the release by ransom through the blood of that one,^h yes, the forgiveness of our trespasses,ⁱ according to the riches of his undeserved kindness.

8 This undeserved kindness he caused to abound toward us in all wisdom and understanding* **9** by making known to us the sacred secret^j of his will. It is according to his good pleasure that he himself purposed **10** for an administration* at the full limit of the appointed times, to gather all things together in the Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth.^k Yes, in him **11** with whom we are in union and were assigned as heirs,^l having been foreordained according to the purpose of the one who accomplishes all things as he decides according to his will, **12** so that we who have been first to hope in the Christ should serve for the praise of his glory. **13** But you also hoped in him after you heard the word of truth, the good news about your salvation. After you believed, you were sealed^m by means of him with the promised holy spirit, **14** which is a token

1:4 *That is, with Christ. 1:8 *Or "good sense." 1:10 *Or "to administer things."

CHAP. 1

- a Eph 2:6
b Eph 5:25-27
c 2Th 2:13
1Pe 1:2
d Ro 8:15, 29
Ro 8:23
e Ro 8:28
f Ro 3:24
g Joh 3:35
h Ac 20:28
Ro 3:25
Re 5:9
i Ac 13:38
Col 1:14
Col 2:13
j Ro 16:25, 26
k Php 2:9, 10
Col 1:19, 20
l Ro 8:17
Eph 3:5, 6
m 2Co 1:22
Eph 4:30
Re 7:4

Second Col.

- a 2Co 5:5
1Pe 1:3, 4
b 1Pe 2:9
c Ro 8:23
1Ti 2:5, 6
d Col 1:9
1Ti 2:3, 4
e 1Pe 1:3, 4
f 2Co 13:4
g Ps 110:1
Ac 7:55
h Ac 4:12
Php 2:9-11
i Ps 8:6
1Co 15:27
Heb 2:8
j Mt 28:18
Eph 5:23
Col 1:18
k Ro 12:5
Eph 4:16

CHAP. 2

- l Col 2:13
m Ro 12:2
Eph 4:17

in advance* of our inheritance,^a for the purpose of releasing God's own possession^b by a ransom,^c to his glorious praise.

15 That is why I also, since I have heard of the faith that you have in the Lord Jesus and the love that you demonstrate toward all the holy ones, **16** never stop giving thanks for you. I continue mentioning you in my prayers, **17** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the accurate knowledge of him.^d **18** He has enlightened the eyes of your heart, so that you may know to what hope he called you, what glorious riches he holds as an inheritance for the holy ones,^e **19** and how surpassing the greatness of his power is toward us believers.^f It is according to the operation of the mightiness of his strength, **20** which he exercised toward Christ when he raised him up from the dead and seated him at his right hand^g in the heavenly places, **21** far above every government and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named,^h not only in this system of things* but also in that to come. **22** He also subjected all things under his feetⁱ and made him head over all things with regard to the congregation,^j **23** which is his body,^k the fullness of him who fills up all things in all.

2 Furthermore, God made you alive, though you were dead in your trespasses and sins,^l **2** in which you at one time walked according to the system of things* of this world,^m according to the ruler of the authori-

1:14 *Or "a down payment (earnest money); a guarantee (pledge) of what is to come." 1:21 *Or "this age." See Glossary. 2:2 *Or "the course."

ty of the air,^a the spirit^b that is now at work in the sons of disobedience. **3** Yes, among them we all at one time conducted ourselves in harmony with the desires of our flesh,^c carrying out the will of the flesh and of our thoughts,^d and we were naturally children of wrath^e just as the rest. **4** But God, being rich in mercy,^f because of his great love with which he loved us,^g **5** made us alive together with the Christ, even when we were dead in trespasses^h—by undeserved kindness you have been saved. **6** Moreover, he raised us up together and seated us together in the heavenly places in union with Christ Jesus,ⁱ **7** so that in the coming systems of things* he might demonstrate the surpassing riches of his undeserved kindness in his graciousness^j toward us in union with Christ Jesus.

8 By this undeserved kindness you have been saved through faith,^k and this is not of your own doing; rather, it is God's gift. **9** No, it is not a result of works,^l so that no one should have grounds for boasting. **10** We are God's handiwork* and were created^m in union with Christ Jesusⁿ for good works, which God determined in advance for us to walk in them.

11 Therefore, remember that at one time you, people of the nations by fleshly descent, were the ones called "uncircumcision" by those called "circumcision," which is made in the flesh by human hands. **12** At that time you were without Christ, alienated from the state of Israel, strangers to the covenants of

CHAP. 2

a Joh 12:31

b 1Co 2:12

c 1Co 6:9-11

d 1Pe 4:3

e Joh 3:36

f Ps 145:9

g Ro 5:8

1Jo 4:9,19

h Col 2:12,13

i Eph 1:3

j Ro 4:16

k Ro 3:20

l Ga 6:15

m Eph 1:3, 4

Second Col.

a Ro 9:4

b Isa 65:1

c Col 1:19, 20

d Col 3:11

e Le 20:26

Col 2:13,14

f 1Co 12:12

Ga 3:28

g Heb 12:2

h Ac 10:28

i Eph 2:12

j Php 3:20

k 1Ti 3:15

Heb 3:6

l 1Co 12:28

m Isa 28:16

n Col 2:19

o 1Co 3:16

1Co 6:19

p 1Pe 2:5

CHAP. 3

q Eph 4:1

r 1Co 9:16,17

Col 1:25, 26

the promise;^a you had no hope and were without God in the world.^b **13** But now in union with Christ Jesus, you who were once far off have come to be near by the blood of the Christ. **14** For he is our peace,^c the one who made the two groups one^d and destroyed the wall in between that fenced them off.^e **15** By means of his flesh he abolished the enmity, the Law of commandments consisting in decrees, in order to make the two groups in union with himself into one new man^f and to make peace, **16** and to reconcile fully both peoples in one body to God through the torture stake,^g because he had killed off the enmity^h by means of himself. **17** And he came and declared the good news of peace to you who were far off, and peace to those near, **18** because through him we, both peoples, have free access to the Father by one spirit.

19 So you are no longer strangers and foreigners,ⁱ but you are fellow citizens^j of the holy ones and are members of the household of God,^k **20** and you have been built up on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,^l while Christ Jesus himself is the foundation cornerstone.^m **21** In union with him the whole building, being harmoniously joined together,ⁿ is growing into a holy temple for Jehovah.^o **22** In union with him you too are being built up together into a place for God to inhabit by spirit.^p

3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner^q of Christ Jesus in behalf of you, the people of the nations— **2** if, really, you have heard about the stewardship^r of God's undeserved kindness that

2:7 *Or "the coming ages." See Glossary. *Or "favor." 2:10 *Or "are a product of His work."

2:16 *See Glossary. 2:21 *See App. A5.

was given to me for your sakes, **3** that by way of a revelation the sacred secret was made known to me, just as I wrote previously in brief. **4** So when you read this, you can realize my comprehension of the sacred secret^a of the Christ. **5** In other generations this secret was not made known to the sons of men as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by spirit,^b **6** namely, that people of the nations should, in union with Christ Jesus and through the good news, be joint heirs and fellow members of the body^c and partakers with us of the promise. **7** I became a minister of this according to the free gift of God's undeserved kindness that was given me through the operation of his power.^d

8 To me, a man less than the least of all holy ones,^e this undeserved kindness was given,^f so that I should declare to the nations the good news about the unfathomable riches of the Christ **9** and should make everyone see the administration of the sacred secret^g that has been hidden through the ages in God, who created all things. **10** This was so that now, through the congregation,^h there might be made known to the governments and the authorities in the heavenly places the greatly diversified wisdom of God.ⁱ **11** This is according to the eternal purpose that he formed in connection with the Christ,^j Jesus our Lord, **12** by means of whom we have this freeness of speech and free access^k with confidence through our faith in him. **13** So I ask you not to give up on account of my tribulations in your behalf, for these mean glory for you.^l

14 For this reason I bend my knees to the Father, **15** to whom every family in heav-

CHAP. 3

- a 1Co 4:1
Eph 6:19
- b Ro 11:25
Ro 16:25, 26
- c Eph 2:15, 16
- d Col 1:25-27
- e 1Co 15:9
- f 1Ti 1:13, 14
- g Eph 1:9, 10
- h 1Pe 1:10, 12
- i 1Pe 2:9
- j Eph 1:11
- k Joh 14:6
Heb 4:15, 16
- l 2Ti 2:10

Second Col.

- a 2Co 4:16
- b Joh 14:23
- c Col 2:6, 7
- d Col 1:23
- e Ro 8:35
- f Col 1:29
- g Mr 11:24

CHAP. 4

- h Phm 9
- i Php 1:27
- j Mt 11:29
Ro 12:3
Php 2:3
1Pe 5:5
- k 1Th 5:14
- l 1Co 13:4
- m 1Co 1:10
Col 3:15
- n Ro 12:5
- o 1Co 12:4
- p 1Pe 1:3, 4
- q 1Co 8:6
1Co 12:5, 6
- r 1Co 12:11

en and on earth owes its name.

16 I pray that he may grant you through the abundance of his glory to be made mighty in the man you are inside,^a with power through his spirit, **17** and that through your faith you may have the Christ dwell in your hearts with love.^b May you be rooted^c and established on the foundation,^d **18** in order that with all the holy ones you may be thoroughly able to comprehend fully what is the breadth and length and height and depth, **19** and to know the love of the Christ,^e which surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness that God gives.

20 Now to the one who can, according to his power that is operating in us,^f do more than superabundantly beyond all the things we ask or conceive,^g **21** to him be the glory by means of the congregation and by means of Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

4 Therefore I, the prisoner^h in the Lord, appeal to you to walk worthilyⁱ of the calling with which you were called, **2** with all humility^{*j} and mildness, with patience,^k putting up with one another in love,^l **3** earnestly endeavoring to maintain the oneness of the spirit in the uniting bond of peace.^m **4** One body there is,ⁿ and one spirit,^o just as you were called to the one hope^p of your calling; **5** one Lord,^q one faith, one baptism; **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

7 Now undeserved kindness was given to each one of us according to how the Christ measured out the free gift.^r **8** For it says: "When he ascended on high he carried away captives;

4:2 *Or "lowliness of mind."

he gave gifts in men.^a **9** Now what does the expression "he ascended" mean but that he also descended into the lower regions, that is, the earth? **10** The very one who descended is also the one who ascended^b far above all the heavens,^c so that he might give fullness to all things.

11 And he gave some as apostles,^d some as prophets,^e some as evangelizers,^f some as shepherds and teachers,^g **12** with a view to the readjustment* of the holy ones, for ministerial work, to build up the body of the Christ,^h **13** until we all attain to the oneness* of the faith and of the accurate knowledge of the Son of God, to being a full-grownⁱ man,^j attaining the measure of stature that belongs to the fullness of the Christ. **14** So we should no longer be children, tossed about as by waves and carried here and there by every wind of teaching^k by means of the trickery of men, by means of cunning in deceptive schemes. **15** But speaking the truth, let us by love grow up in all things into him who is the head, Christ.^k **16** From him all the body^l is harmoniously joined together and made to cooperate through every joint that gives what is needed. When each respective member functions properly, this contributes to the growth of the body as it builds itself up in love.^m

17 So this is what I say and bear witness to in the Lord, that you should no longer go on walking just as the nations also walk,ⁿ in the futility* of their minds.^o **18** They are

4:11 *Or "proclaimers of the good news." 4:12 *Or "training." 4:13 *Or "unity." #Or "mature." 4:17 *Or "emptiness; vanity."

CHAP. 4

a Ps 68:18
1Co 12:28
Eph 4:11

b Ac 1:9
1Ti 3:16

c Heb 9:24

d Mt 10:2-4
e 1Co 12:28

f Ac 21:8

g Ac 13:1
Jas 3:1

h 1Co 14:26

i 1Co 14:20

j Heb 13:9

k 1Co 11:3
Col 1:18

l 1Co 12:27

m Col 2:19

n 1Pe 4:3

o Ro 1:21

Second Col.

a Ga 5:19

b Ro 6:6
Col 3:9

c Ro 7:23

d Ps 51:10
Ro 12:2

e Col 3:10

f Zec 8:16
Col 3:8,9
Re 21:8

g Ro 12:5

h Ps 4:4

i Le 19:17
Col 3:13

j Jas 4:7

k 2Th 3:10

l Ac 20:35
1Th 4:11,12

m Mt 15:11
Jas 3:10

n Col 4:6

in darkness mentally and alienated from the life that belongs to God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the insensitivity* of their hearts. **19** Having gone past all moral sense, they gave themselves over to brazen conduct^a to practice every sort of uncleanness with greediness.

20 But you did not learn the Christ to be like this, **21** if, indeed, you heard him and were taught by means of him, just as truth is in Jesus. **22** You were taught to put away the old personality^b that conforms to your former course of conduct and that is being corrupted according to its deceptive desires.^c **23** And you should continue to be made new in your dominant mental attitude,^d **24** and should put on the new personality^e that was created according to God's will in true righteousness and loyalty.

25 Therefore, now that you have put away deceit, each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,^f because we are members belonging to one another.^g **26** Be wrathful, but do not sin;^h do not let the sun set while you are still angry;ⁱ **27** do not give the Devil an opportunity.^j **28** Let the one who steals steal no more; rather, let him do hard work, doing good work with his hands,^k so that he may have something to share with someone in need.^l **29** Let a rotten word not come out of your mouth,^m but only what is good for building up as the need may be, to impart what is beneficial to the hearers.ⁿ **30** Also,

4:18 *Lit., "dulling." 4:19 *Or "shameless conduct." Greek, *a-sel'gei-a*. See Glossary. 4:23 *Or "in the force actuating your mind." Lit., "to the spirit of your mind." 4:27 *Or "neither allow place for the Devil."

do not be grieving* God's holy spirit,^a with which you have been sealed^b for a day of releasing by ransom.^c

31 Put away from yourselves every kind of malicious bitterness,^d anger, wrath, screaming, and abusive speech,^e as well as everything injurious.^f **32** But become kind to one another, tenderly compassionate,^g freely forgiving one another just as God also by Christ freely forgave you.^h

5 Therefore, become imitators of God,ⁱ as beloved children, **2** and go on walking in love,^j just as the Christ also loved us*^k and gave himself for us* as an offering and a sacrifice, a sweet fragrance to God.^l

3 Let sexual immorality* and every sort of uncleanness or greediness not even be mentioned among you,^m just as is proper for holy people;ⁿ **4** neither shameful conduct nor foolish talking nor obscene jesting^o—things that are not befitting—but rather the giving of thanks.^p **5** For you know this, recognizing it for yourselves, that no sexually immoral person*^q or unclean person or greedy person,^r which means being an idolater, has any inheritance in the Kingdom of the Christ and of God.^s

6 Let no man deceive you with empty words, for because of such things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. **7** Therefore, do not be sharers with them; **8** for you were once darkness, but you are now light^t in connection with the Lord.^u Go on walking as children of light, **9** for the fruitage of the light consists of every

4:30 *Or "cause sorrow to." **5:2** *Or possibly, "you." **5:3** *Greek, *por-nei'a*. See Glossary. **5:5** *See Glossary, "Sexual immorality."

CHAP. 4

a Isa 63:10
b Eph 1:13
c Ro 8:23
d Jas 3:14
e Col 3:8
f Tit 3:2
g Col 3:12
h IPe 3:8
i Mt 6:14
j Mt 18:35
k Mr 11:25

CHAP. 5

i Mt 5:48
Lu 6:36
j 1Co 16:14
k Joh 13:34
l Jo 3:23
m Ex 29:18
n 1Co 5:11
Col 3:5
o 1Th 4:3
p Col 3:8
q 1Th 5:18
r Ac 15:28, 29
s 1Ti 3:8
Tit 1:7
t 1Co 6:9, 10
Ga 5:19, 21
u Mt 5:16
Joh 12:36
v IPe 2:9

Second Col.

a Ga 5:22, 23
b Ro 12:2
c Ro 13:12, 13
2Co 6:14
d Eph 2:1
Col 2:13
e Joh 8:12
f Col 4:5
g Ro 12:2
1Th 4:3
1Pe 4:2
h Isa 5:11
i Jas 5:13
j Ps 33:2, 3
k Ac 16:25
Col 3:16
l 1Th 5:18
m Col 3:17
n Php 2:3
1Pe 5:5
o Col 3:18
Tit 2:4, 5
1Pe 3:1
p Ro 7:2
q 1Co 11:3

sort of goodness and righteousness and truth.^a **10** Keep on making sure of what is acceptable^b to the Lord; **11** and stop sharing in the unfruitful works that belong to the darkness;^c rather, expose them for what they are. **12** For the things they do in secret are shameful even to mention. **13** Now all the things that are being exposed* are made evident by the light, for everything that is being made evident is light. **14** Therefore, it is said: "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,^d and the Christ will shine upon you."^e

15 So keep strict watch that how you walk is not as unwise but as wise persons, **16** making the best use of your time,^f because the days are wicked. **17** On this account stop being unreasonable, but keep perceiving what the will of Jehovah* is.^g **18** Also, do not get drunk with wine,^h in which there is debauchery,* but keep getting filled with spirit. **19** Speak to one anotherⁱ with psalms, praises to God, and spiritual songs, singing^j and accompanying yourselves with music^k in your hearts to Jehovah,*^k **20** always giving thanks^l to our God and Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.^m

21 Be in subjection to one anotherⁿ in fear of Christ. **22** Let wives be in subjection to their husbands^o as to the Lord, **23** because a husband is head of his wife^p just as the Christ is head of the congregation,^q he being a savior of this body. **24** In fact, as the congregation is in subjection to the Christ, wives should also

5:13 *Or "reproved." **5:16** *Lit., "buying out the appointed time." **5:17, 19** *See App. A5. **5:18** *Or "unruliness." **5:19** *Or possibly, "to yourselves."

be to their husbands in everything. **25** Husbands, continue loving your wives,^a just as the Christ also loved the congregation and gave himself up for it,^b **26** in order that he might sanctify it, cleansing it with the bath of water by means of the word,^c **27** so that he might present the congregation to himself in its splendor, without a spot or a wrinkle or any of such things,^d but holy and without blemish.^e

28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. A man who loves his wife loves himself, **29** for no man ever hated his own body,* but he feeds and cherishes it, just as the Christ does the congregation, **30** because we are members of his body.^f **31** "For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and he will stick to^g his wife, and the two will be one flesh."^g **32** This sacred secret^h is great. Now I am speaking about Christ and the congregation.ⁱ **33** Nevertheless, each one of you must love his wife^j as he does himself; on the other hand, the wife should have deep respect for her husband.^k

6 Children, be obedient to your parents^l in union with the Lord, for this is righteous. **2** "Honor your father and your mother"^m is the first command with a promise: **3** "That it may go well with you* and you may remain a long time on the earth." **4** And fathers, do not be irritating your children,ⁿ but go on bringing them up in the discipline^o and admonition* of Jehovah.^p

5:29 *Lit., "flesh." 5:31 *Or "remain with." 6:3 *Or "That you may prosper." 6:4 *Or "instruction; guidance." Lit., "putting mind in." 6:4, 7, 8 #See App. A5.

CHAP. 5

- a 1Pe 3:7
- b Ac 20:28
- c Joh 17:17
- d Tit 2:13, 14
- e Eph 1:4
Col 1:21, 22
- f Ro 12:5
Eph 1:22, 23
- g Ge 2:24
Mt 19:5
- h Eph 1:9, 10
Col 1:26, 27
- i Eph 3:5, 6
- j Col 3:19
- k 1Pe 3:5, 6

CHAP. 6

- l Pr 1:8
Pr 6:20
Col 3:20
- m Ex 20:12
De 5:16
Pr 20:20
Pr 23:22
Mt 15:4
- n Col 3:21
- o Pr 13:24
- p De 6:6, 7
Pr 3:11
Pr 19:18
Pr 22:6

Second Col.

- a 1Ti 6:1
1Pe 2:18
- b Col 3:22
- c Lu 10:27
- d 1Co 10:31
- e Col 3:23, 24
- f 1Co 7:22
- g Eph 3:16
- h Ro 13:12
- i 2Ti 4:7
- j 2Pe 2:4
- k 2Co 6:4, 7
- l Isa 11:5
- m Pr 4:23
Isa 59:17
- n Isa 52:7
Ro 10:15

5 Slaves, be obedient to your human* masters,^a with fear and trembling in the sincerity of your hearts, as to the Christ, **6** not only when being watched, just to please men,^b but as Christ's slaves doing the will of God whole-souled.^c **7** Slave with a good attitude, as to Jehovah^d and not to men, **8** for you know that whatever good each one does, he will receive this back from Jehovah,^e whether he is a slave or a freeman. **9** Also, you masters, keep treating them in the same way, not threatening, for you know that both their Master and yours is in the heavens,^f and there is no partiality with him.

10 Finally, go on acquiring power^g in the Lord and in the mightiness of his strength. **11** Put on the complete suit of armor^h from God so that you may be able to stand firm against the crafty acts* of the Devil; **12** because we have a struggle,ⁱ not against blood and flesh, but against the governments, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the wicked spirit forces^j in the heavenly places. **13** For this reason take up the complete suit of armor from God,^k so that you may be able to resist in the wicked day and, after you have accomplished everything, to stand firm.

14 Stand firm, therefore, with the belt of truth fastened around your waist,^l wearing the breastplate of righteousness,^m **15** and having your feet shod in readiness to declare the good news of peace.ⁿ **16** Besides all of this, take up the large shield

6:5 *Lit., "fleshly." 6:6 *Lit., "not with eye-service as men pleasers." #See Glossary, "Soul." 6:11 *Or "the schemes." 6:12 *Lit., "wrestling."

of faith,^a with which you will be able to extinguish all the wicked one's burning arrows.^{*b} **17** Also, accept the helmet of salvation,^c and the sword of the spirit, that is, God's word,^d **18** while with every form of prayer^e and supplication you carry on prayer on every occasion in spirit.^f And to that end stay awake, constantly making supplication in behalf of all the holy ones. **19** Pray also for me, that the words may be given to me when I open my mouth, so that I may be able to speak boldly in making known the sacred secret of the good news,^g **20** for which I am acting as an

6:16 *Or "missiles; darts."

CHAP. 6

a 1Jo 5:4

b 1Pe 5:8, 9

c Isa 59:17
1Th 5:8

d Heb 4:12

e Col 4:2

f Jude 20

g Col 4:3

Second Col.

a 2Co 5:20

b 2Ti 4:12
Tit 3:12

c Col 4:7, 8

ambassador^a in chains, and that I may speak about it with boldness, as I ought to speak.

21 Now so that you may also know about me and how I am doing, Tych'i-cus,^b a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you.^c **22** I am sending him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know how we are and that he may comfort your hearts.

23 May the brothers have peace and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **24** May the undeserved kindness be with all those loving our Lord Jesus Christ in incorruptness.

TO THE

PHILIPPIANS

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Greetings (1, 2)
Thanks to God; Paul's prayer (3-11)
Good news advances despite trouble (12-20)
To live is Christ, to die is gain (21-26)
Behave in manner worthy of the good news (27-30)</p> <p>2 Christian humility (1-4)
Christ's humility and exaltation (5-11)
Work out your own salvation (12-18)
Shining as illuminators (15)
Sending Timothy and Epaphroditus (19-30)</p> | <p>3 Not basing confidence in the flesh (1-11)
All things loss on account of Christ (7-9)
Stretching forward to the goal (12-21)
Citizenship in the heavens (20)</p> <p>4 Unity, rejoicing, proper thoughts (1-9)
Do not be anxious over anything (6, 7)
Appreciation for Philippians' gifts (10-20)
Final greetings (21-23)</p> |
|---|--|

1 Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus, to all the holy ones in union with Christ Jesus who are in Phi-lip'pi,^a along with overseers and ministerial servants:^b

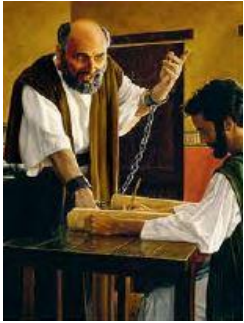
CHAP. 1

a Ac 16:12

b 1Ti 3:1, 8

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

3 I thank my God always when I remember you **4** in every sup-



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

‘GATHERING OF ALL THINGS IN THE CHRIST’ (Eph. 1:1–6:24)

Highlighting the theme of Christian unity in his letter to the Ephesians, Paul speaks of “an administration at the full limit of the appointed times . . . to gather all things together again in the Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth.” Christ has given “gifts in men” to help all to “attain to the oneness in the faith.”—Eph. 1:10; 4:8, 13.

To honor God and promote unity, Christians should “put on the new personality” and “be in subjection to one another in fear of Christ.” They also need “to stand firm against the machinations of the Devil” by putting on the complete suit of spiritual armor.—Eph. 4:24; 5:21; 6:11.

Scriptural Questions Answered:

1:4-7—How were anointed Christians foreordained long before they were born? They were foreordained as a group, or a class, not as individuals. This took place before the sinful world of mankind came into existence. The prophecy recorded at Genesis 3:15, declared before any sinful human was conceived, includes God’s purpose to have certain followers of Christ rule with him in heaven.—Gal. 3:16, 29.

2:2—How is the spirit of the world like the air, and where does its authority lie? “The spirit of the world”—the spirit of independence and disobedience—is as pervasive as the air we breathe. (1 Cor. 2:12) Its authority, or power, lies in its persuasiveness, persistence, and relentlessness.

2:6—How can anointed Christians be “in the heavenly places” while still on earth? The expression “heavenly places” here does not refer to their promised heavenly inheritance. Rather, it denotes their exalted spiritual position resulting from their being “sealed with the promised holy spirit.”—Eph. 1:13, 14.

Lessons for Us:

4:8, 11-15. Jesus Christ “carried away captives,” that is, took men away from Satan’s control to use them as gifts for the building up of the Christian congregation. We can “by love grow up in all things into . . . Christ” by being obedient and submissive to those taking the lead among us and by cooperating with congregation arrangements.—Heb. 13:7, 17.

5:22-24, 33. Besides being in subjection to her husband, a wife is to respect him. She does this by manifesting a “quiet and mild spirit” and by endeavoring to bring him honor as she speaks well of him and works to make his decisions succeed.—1 Pet. 3:3, 4; Titus 2:3-5.

5:25, 28, 29. Just as he “feeds” himself, a husband ought to be a good provider for his wife—physically, emotionally, and spiritually. He should also cherish her by spending adequate time with her and by treating her tenderly in speech and action.

6:10-13. To resist demonic forces, we need to be wholehearted in putting on the suit of spiritual armor from God.

*** w12 1/15 pp. 11-12 par. 14 Learn Watchfulness From Jesus’ Apostles ***

¹⁴ What can we learn from the response of Peter’s fellow Christians? Keeping on the watch involves praying not just for ourselves but for our brothers and sisters as well. (Eph. 6:18) Do you know of fellow believers who are beset by trials? Some may be enduring persecution, governmental bans, or natural disasters. Why not make them the subject of your heartfelt prayers? You may know of others who are undergoing less noticeable hardships. They may be struggling to cope with family troubles, discouragement, or ill health. Why not think of specific individuals whom you can mention by name as you speak to Jehovah, the “Hearer of prayer”?—Ps. 65:2.



*** w11 2/15 p. 25 Love Righteousness With All Your Heart *** Check Your Spiritual Armor

⁶ At all times, we need to have on “the breastplate of righteousness,” for it is an essential part of the spiritual armor from God. (Eph. 6:11, 14) Whether we have recently dedicated ourselves to Jehovah or we already have decades of sacred service behind us, it is crucial that we check our spiritual armor every day. Why? Because the Devil and his demons have been cast down to the vicinity of the earth. (Rev. 12:7-12) Satan is angry, and he knows that his time is limited. Thus, he has intensified his attacks on God’s people. Do we appreciate the importance of having on “the breastplate of righteousness”?

⁷ A breastplate protects the physical heart. Because of our imperfect nature, our figurative heart tends to be treacherous and desperate. (Jer. 17:9) Since our heart is inclined to do what is wrong, it is vital that it be trained and disciplined. (Gen. 8:21) If we appreciate our need for “the breastplate of righteousness,” we will not temporarily remove it by choosing to be entertained by what God hates; nor will we allow ourselves to fantasize about engaging in wrongdoing. We will not squander large amounts of valuable time viewing television. Instead, we will keep struggling to do what is pleasing to Jehovah. Even if we were to stumble by momentarily giving in to unrighteous fleshly thinking, we would get up again with Jehovah’s help.—

Read Proverbs 24:16.

⁸ Among the parts of our spiritual armor is “the large shield of faith.” It enables us to “quench all the wicked one’s burning missiles.” (Eph. 6:16) In turn, faith and wholehearted love for Jehovah help us to practice righteousness and remain on the road to everlasting life. The more we learn to love Jehovah, the more we will value his righteousness. But what about our conscience? How does it help us in our efforts to love righteousness?

TMS REVIEW: *** w12 7/15 p. 28 par. 7 “One Jehovah” Gathers His Family ***

7. What does it mean “to observe the oneness of the spirit”? (Eph. 4:3) [Oct. 7, w12 7/15 p. 28 par. 7]

⁷ Although Jehovah has declared his anointed ones righteous as sons and the other sheep righteous as friends on the basis of Christ’s ransom sacrifice, personal differences will arise as long as any of us are alive on earth in

this system of things. (Rom. 5:9; Jas. 2:23) Otherwise there would have been no need for the inspired advice for us to continue “putting up with one another.” How is unity with fellow believers achieved? We need to develop “complete lowliness of mind and mildness.” Moreover, Paul urges that we earnestly endeavor “to observe the oneness of the spirit in the uniting bond of peace.” (Read Ephesians 4:1-3.) Applying this counsel involves yielding to the influence of God’s spirit and allowing it to produce its fruitage in us. That fruitage mends rifts between individuals, in contrast with the works of the flesh, which are always divisive.

*** w11 2/15 p. 24 par. 4 Love Righteousness With All Your Heart ***

⁴ **Read Matthew 6:33.** Seeking God’s righteousness involves more than our spending time preaching the good news of the Kingdom. For our sacred service to be acceptable to Jehovah, our everyday conduct must harmonize with his high standards. What has to be done by all who are seeking Jehovah’s righteousness? They must “put on the new personality which was created according to God’s will in true righteousness and loyalty.”—Eph. 4:24.

*** w12 3/15 p. 14 par. 20 Help People to “Awake From Sleep” ***

²⁰ We should avoid being insensitive to our relatives’ feelings. (Rom. 2:4) Should we not speak as kindly to them as we do to those we meet in the preaching work? Speak with mildness and respect. Without being preachy, give evidence of how the truth has affected you for the good. (Eph. 4:23, 24) Make plain how Jehovah has enriched your life, “teaching you to benefit yourself.” (Isa. 48:17) Let your relatives see in you an example of Christian living.

*** w12 3/15 p. 17 par. 13 **Maintain Your Sense of Urgency** ***

¹³ Given that most in the world around us are unwisely sleeping in a spiritual sense, what can help us avoid losing our sense of urgency? We can reflect on the fact that we at one time were sleeping in darkness, as it were. But we were awakened, and Christ has shone on us, as Paul pointed out. We now have the privilege of being light bearers. (Read **Ephesians 5:14.**) After mentioning that, Paul wrote: “Keep strict watch that how *you* walk is not as unwise but as wise persons, buying out the opportune time for yourselves, because the days are wicked.” (Eph. 5:15, 16) Amid such wickedness, let us ‘buy out the time’ for activities that can keep us spiritually awake.

*** w12 4/15 p. 30 par. 13 **Jehovah Safeguards Us for Salvation** ***

¹³ Excessive time spent on entertainment can rob us of time needed for personal study. One brother observes: “It is so easy to let personal study slip. Entertainment is more available now than ever before, and it is less expensive than ever before. It is available on TV, on the computer, and on the phone. We are surrounded by it.” Unless we are careful, time needed for in-depth personal study can gradually diminish until it all but disappears. (Eph. 5:15-17) Each of us does well to ask: ‘How often do I take time to dig deeper in my study of God’s Word? Is it only when I have a talk or a meeting part to prepare?’ If so, perhaps we could make better use of the evening set aside for family worship or personal study to treasure up the spiritual wisdom that Jehovah provides to safeguard us for salvation.—Prov. 2:1-5.

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

¹⁵ Husbands and wives who base their union on Jesus’ example in dealing with his congregation show gratitude for God’s gift of marriage. (Read **Ephesians 5:22-25.**) What blessings spouses enjoy when they truly love each other and never let pride, the childish silent treatment, or other unchristian traits mar their marriage!

*** km 5/11 p. 1 par. 3 **“Let Your Light Shine”** ***

³ God’s people take seriously the responsibility to “go on walking as children of light,” and they preach wherever people can be found. (Eph. 5:8) Simply reading the Bible or other Christian publications in public view during a work or school break can open the way for a Scriptural discussion. In this way, one young sister started a Bible study and placed books with 12 of her classmates!

*** km 7/09 p. 3 par. 2 **Praise Jehovah Each Day** ***

² **In Our Home:** We have upbuilding printed material for meaningful spiritual discussions when considering the daily text, when enjoying Family Worship, and when preparing for congregation meetings. Many families make a practice of being together for at least one meal each day. That allows for unhurried, relaxed conversation and offers opportunities to praise Jehovah. Such informal discussions initiated by parents can be an important aid in bringing up their children in “the discipline and mental-regulating of Jehovah.”—Eph. 6:4; Deut. 6:5-7.

*** km 3/08 p. 1 par. 2 **We Can Give to Jehovah** ***

² **Time:** How commendable it is to ‘buy out’ time from less important things to share more fully in the ministry! (Eph. 5:15, 16) Perhaps we could adjust our schedule in order to auxiliary pioneer one or more months a year. Maybe we could lengthen the time we usually spend in the ministry. Staying out an extra 30 minutes each week would increase our ministry by at least two hours a month!

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

of their outward professions of love for God, if those with whom you worship do not sincerely apply his Word in their own lives, the Bible urges you to break off such association.)

Is it proper to leave the religion of one's parents?

If what our parents taught us is really from the Bible, we should hold on to it. Even if we learn that their religious practices and beliefs are out of harmony with God's Word, our parents deserve our respect. But what if you learned that a certain habit of your parents was harmful to health and could shorten a person's life? Would you imitate them and encourage your children to do so, or would you respectfully share with them what you learned? Similarly, knowledge of Bible truth brings responsibility. If possible, we should share with family members what we learn. We must make a decision: Do we really love God? Do we really want to obey God's Son? Our doing so may require that we leave the religion of our parents to take up true worship. It certainly would not be fitting to allow our devotion to our parents to be greater than our love for God and Christ, would it? Jesus said: "He that has greater affection for father or mother than for me is not worthy of me; and he that has greater affection for son or daughter than for me is not worthy of me."—Matt. 10:37.

Josh. 24:14: "Now fear Jehovah and serve him in faultlessness and in truth, and remove the gods that your forefathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt, and serve Jehovah." (That meant a change from the religion of their forefathers, did it not? To serve Jehovah acceptably, they had to get rid of any images used in such religion and cleanse their hearts of any desire for those things.)

1 Pet. 1:18, 19: "You know that it was not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, that you were delivered from your fruitless form of conduct received by tradition from your forefathers. But it was with precious blood, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb, even Christ's." (So, early Christians turned away from those traditions of their forefathers, which traditions could never give them eternal life.)

59 *To God We Are Dedicated!*

(Matthew 16:24)

1. To Christ, by our God, Jehovah, we have been drawn
 To be his disciples from now on.
From Jehovah's lofty throne,
 Light of truth has brightly shone.
In our hearts, our faith has grown;
 Ourselves we agree to disown.

(CHORUS)

*To God we are dedicated; This is our choice.
In him and in Jesus we now rejoice.*

2. In prayer we have come before Jehovah to say
 We'll serve him forever and obey.
It's a joy beyond compare,
 One that we most gladly share,
As Jehovah's name we bear,
 And news of his Kingdom declare.

(Chorus)

Some Contrasts in Ephesians Chapters 4 and 5



“We should no longer be . . . carried hither and thither . . . by means of the trickery of men, by means of cunning in contriving error.”—4:14.

“**But** speaking the truth, let us by love grow up in all things into him who is the head, Christ.”—4:15.



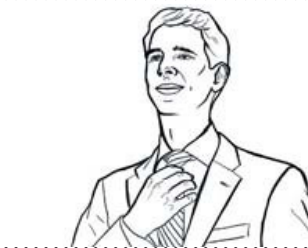
“[The nations] are in darkness mentally, . . . because of the insensibility of their hearts.”—4:18, 19.

“**But** you did not learn the Christ to be so, provided, indeed, that you heard him and were taught by means of him.”—4:20, 21.



“You should put away the old personality which conforms to your former course of conduct.”—4:22.

“**But** . . . you should be made new in the force actuating your mind, and should put on the new personality.”—4:23, 24.



“Let the stealer steal no more.”—4:28.

“**But** rather let him do hard work, doing with his hands what is good work.”—4:28.



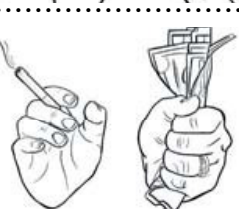
“Let a rotten saying not proceed out of your mouth.”—4:29.

“**But** whatever saying is good for building up.”—4:29.



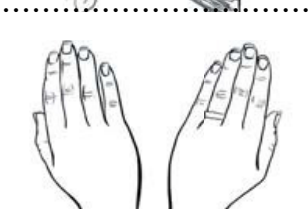
“Let all malicious bitterness and anger and wrath and screaming and abusive speech be taken away from you along with all badness.”—4:31.

“**But** become kind to one another, tenderly compassionate, freely forgiving one another.”—4:32.



“Let fornication and uncleanness of every sort or greediness not even be mentioned among you.”—5:3.

“**But** rather the giving of thanks.”—5:4.

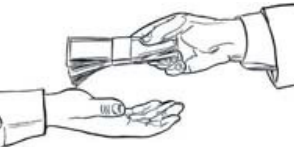


Try using this chart in your family worship!



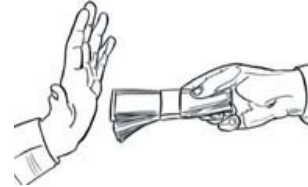
“You were once darkness.”—5:8.

“**But** you are now light in connection with the Lord.”—5:8.



“Quit sharing with them in the unfruitful works that belong to the darkness.”—5:11.

“**But**, rather, even be reproving them.”—5:11.



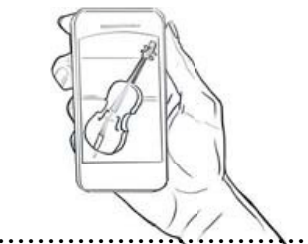
“So keep strict watch that how you walk is not as unwise [persons].” —5:15.

“**But** as wise persons, buying out the opportune time for yourselves.” —5:15, 16.



“On this account cease becoming unreasonable.”—5:17.

“**But** go on perceiving what the will of Jehovah is.”—5:17.



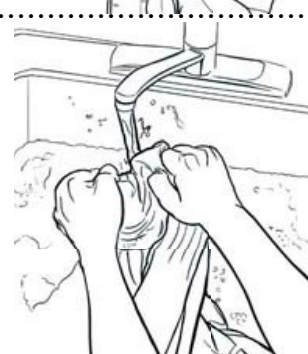
“Do not be getting drunk with wine, in which there is debauchery.”—5:18.

“**But** keep getting filled with spirit.” —5:18.



“That [the Christ] might present the congregation to himself in its splendor, not having a spot or a wrinkle or any of such things.” —5:27.

“**But** that it should be holy and without blemish.”—5:27.



“No man ever hated his own flesh.” —5:29.

“**But** he feeds and cherishes it, as the Christ also does the congregation.”—5:29.



“Ideas for Offering the Magazines in . . .”

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

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



the WATCHTOWER® October 1
ANNOUNCING JERUSALEM'S KINGDOM

“We’re visiting briefly to encourage Bible reading. We know that some people have an interest in the Bible; others do not. What about you? [Allow for response.] The Bible makes this bold claim. [Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13.] I’m sure you will agree that if it is true that the Bible is a book from God, then it is worth reading. This magazine briefly outlines what the Bible is all about and why it should interest us.”

Awake!® October

“I would like to hear your opinion on this question: Is contentment possible if we do not have a lot materially? [Allow for response.] Notice what the Bible says. [Read 1 Timothy 6:8.] This magazine presents a balanced view of material possessions and discusses three valuable things that money cannot buy.”



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

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

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

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

123 *Shepherds—Gifts in Men* (Ephesians 4:8)

1. Help in our lives, Jehovah provides,
 Shepherds to tend his flock.
 By their example they serve as guides,
 Showing us how to walk.

(CHORUS)

*God gives us men who have earned our trust,
Men who are loyal and true.
They show concern for his precious flock;
Love them for all that they do.*

2. Shepherds who love us care how we feel;
 Gently they guide the way.
 When we are hurt, they help us to heal,
 Kind in the words they say.

(Chorus)

3. Godly advice and counsel they give,
 That we may never stray.
 Thus they assist us, God's way to live,
 Serving him ev'ry day.

(Chorus)