

MID-WEEK MEETING FILE

An illustration of a man and a woman embracing from behind in a gallery. The man is wearing a red and white plaid shirt, and the woman is wearing a brown patterned sweater. They are looking at a large framed picture on the wall. The background is a soft purple and pink gradient.

OCTOBER 14-18, 2013

(Acts 24:15) and I have hope toward God, which hope these [men] themselves also entertain, that there is going to be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

OCTOBER 2013

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 14

Song 32 and Prayer [Be Steadfast, Unmovable!](#)

□ Congregation Bible Study:

jr chap. 15 ¶7-12 (30 min.)

□ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Philippians 1–Colossians 4 (10 min.)

No. 1: Philippians 3:17–4:9 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: [Is It Proper to Leave the Religion of One's Parents?](#)—*rs* p. 324 ¶1-3 (5 min.)

No. 3: [How Can Prayer Help Us to Fight Temptations?](#)—Luke 11:9-13; Jas. 1:5 (5 min.) [w11 11/15 pp. 9, 10](#)

□ Service Meeting:

Song 68 [A Prayer of the Lowly One](#)

15 min: [Our International Unity Honors Jehovah.](#) Talk based on the *Organized* book, page 165, paragraph 2, to the subheading on page 168. Have some in the audience relate published experiences that show how the unity and love of Jehovah's Witnesses resulted in a witness.

15 min: ["Kingdom News No. 38 to Be Distributed in November!"](#) Questions and answers. Distribute a copy of *Kingdom News* No. 38 to each one in attendance. Invite the service overseer to outline local arrangements for covering the territory. Using the brief sample presentation on page 4, demonstrate how the *Kingdom News* may be offered.

Song 53 and Prayer [Working Together in Unity](#)

Kingdom News No. 38 to Be Distributed in November!

¹ Death is an enemy of all people, regardless of their beliefs. (1 Cor. 15:26) Many wonder where the dead are and whether they will see them again. Therefore, congregations

1. What questions do people have about the dead, and how will these concerns be addressed in November?

around the earth will participate in a month-long distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 38, entitled "Can the Dead Really Live Again?" This special campaign will begin on November 1. After the special distribution, *Kingdom News* No. 38 will be used in the ministry as a tract.

² **How It Is Designed:** *Kingdom News* No. 38 is designed to be folded lengthwise so that the front shows the intriguing title along with the words "Would you say . . . yes? no? maybe?" When the reader opens the *Kingdom News*, he will see what the Bible says in answer to the title question and what the Bible's promise can mean for him. He will also see reasons why he can believe the Bible. The back of the *Kingdom News* poses an interesting question for him to think about and invites him to learn more.

³ **How It Will Be Distributed:** This campaign will be similar to campaigns for distributing Memorial and district convention invitations. The elders will provide direction on how the local territory will be covered, in harmony with the letter they received dated April 1, 2013. Congregations with limited territory can offer to help nearby congregations that have more territory. When obtaining your supply of *Kingdom News* No. 38, remember to take only the amount that you will need for one week. During the campaign, copies may be distributed in public witnessing after all the house-to-house territories have been worked. If all copies are placed before the end of the month, the literature offer should be featured. On the first Saturday, we will focus on participating in the special campaign rather than on starting Bible studies. On weekends, we should also offer the magazines when appropriate. Are you making arrangements to have a full share in this special campaign?

2. How is *Kingdom News* No. 38 designed?

3. How will *Kingdom News* No. 38 be distributed?

Be Steadfast, Unmovable!

(1 Corinthians 15:58)

1. Nations are troubled as never before.

People are fearful of what lies in store.
Firm and unmovable we need to be,
Serving our God faithfully.

(CHORUS)

*Steadfast we all need to be;
Far from this world we keep free,
As we feed on God's truth
and keep integrity.*

2. Snares of this world and temptations abound.

We can resist if our thinking is sound.
If we hold fast to what God says is true,
Safely he'll carry us through.

(Chorus)

3. Give to God worship that comes from the heart.

In the Lord's service may we have a part.
Preach the good news, always holding it fast.
Soon the last days will have passed.

(Chorus)

OPPOSERS CAN DO NO LASTING HARM

⁷ One remarkable aspect of Jeremiah's ministry is how frequently opposers tried to destroy him and his work. False prophets contradicted him in public. (Jer. 14:13-16) As Jeremiah walked the streets of Jerusalem, bystanders shouted abuse, deriding him. (Jer. 15:10) Some of his enemies plotted additional ways to discredit him. (Jer. 18:18) Others carried out an intense whispering campaign to turn honesthearted ones away from the divine truths Jeremiah was preaching. (Lam. 3:61, 62) Did Jeremiah give up? On the contrary, he kept on preaching. How did he do it?

⁸ Jeremiah's main weapon in battling all the opposition was trust in Jehovah. At the beginning of Jeremiah's ministry, God told him that He would sustain and protect him. (*Read Jeremiah 1:18, 19.*) Jeremiah put faith in that promise, and Jehovah did not let him down. As opposers applied pressure and tried more drastic measures, he grew in boldness, valor, and endurance. Notice how those qualities served him well.

⁹ On one occasion, rebellious priests and prophets hauled Jeremiah before the princes of Judah to have him put to death. Did their threats frighten Jeremiah into inaction? No. His response disproved the charges of those apostates so effectively that his life was spared.—*Read Jeremiah 26:11-16; Luke 21:12-15.*

¹⁰ Recall that after listening to the prophet's powerful message, a temple official named Pashhur put him

7. How did enemies attempt to destroy Jeremiah's prophetic work?

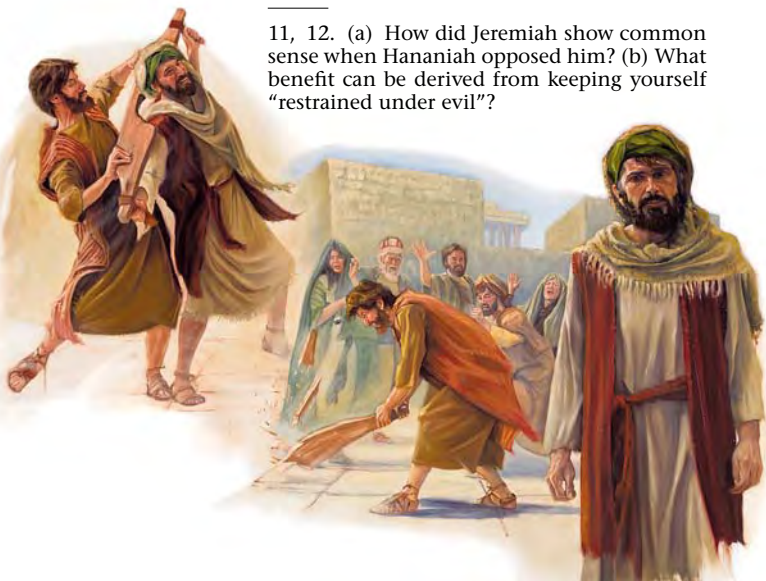
8. As opposers increased their efforts against him, how did Jeremiah respond?

9, 10. What incidents in Jeremiah's life should encourage you to be bold?

in stocks. Pashhur must have concluded that this would teach Jeremiah a lesson and that he would now keep quiet. So the next day, Pashhur let him go. But Jeremiah, certainly very sore because of the torment he had experienced, spoke directly to Pashhur, declaring Jehovah's judgment against him. No, even torture did not silence Jeremiah! (Jer. 20:1-6) Why not? Jeremiah himself tells us: "Jehovah was with me like a terrible mighty one. That is why the very ones persecuting me will stumble and not prevail." (Jer. 20:11) Even when confronted by fierce opposers, Jeremiah did not cower. His trust in Jehovah was well-founded, and yours can be too.

¹¹ It is good to bear in mind that Jeremiah was not a fanatic. He used common sense when facing opposers. He knew when to withdraw. For instance, consider his experience with Hananiah. After that false prophet contradicted Jehovah's prophetic word in public, Jeremiah corrected him and explained how to recognize a true

11, 12. (a) How did Jeremiah show common sense when Hananiah opposed him? (b) What benefit can be derived from keeping yourself "restrained under evil"?



prophet. Jeremiah had been carrying a wooden yoke to signify coming under the yoke of Babylon; Hananiah got violent and broke the yoke. Who could know what Hananiah would do next? So, what did Jeremiah do? We read: "The prophet proceeded to go his way." Yes, Jeremiah left the scene. Later, at Jehovah's direction, he returned and told Hananiah what God would bring about—bondage to the king of Babylon for the Jews and death for Hananiah.—Jer. 28:1-17.

¹² It is clear from this inspired account that in preaching, we do well to couple our boldness with sound judgment. If at one home someone refuses to accept Scriptural reasoning and becomes angry, even threatening violence, we can excuse ourselves courteously and move on to another house. There is no need to have a heated argument with anyone regarding the good news of the Kingdom. By keeping ourselves "restrained under evil," we leave the way open to help the householder at a more favorable time.—*Read 2 Timothy 2:23-25; Prov. 17:14.*

Why is trust in Jehovah so important as we preach the good news? Why should we balance boldness with good judgment?

"DO NOT BE AFRAID"

¹³ True worshippers were affected by the appalling conditions that prevailed before Jerusalem's destruction in 607 B.C.E. You can thus understand why God told Jeremiah: "Do not be afraid." (Jer. 1:8; Lam. 3:57) And Jehovah had him tell others of his people the same encouraging words. (*Read Jeremiah 46:27.*) What insight can we gain

13. Why did Jehovah tell Jeremiah: "Do not be afraid," and why should we consider this?

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

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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-

plication of mine for all of you. I offer each supplication with joy,^a **5** because of the contribution you have made to* the good news from the first day until this moment. **6** For I am confident of this very thing, that the one who started a good work in you will bring it to completion^b until the day of Christ Jesus.^c **7** It is only right for me to think this regarding all of you, since I have you in my heart, you who are sharers with me in the undeserved kindness both in my prison bonds^d and in the defending and legally establishing of the good news.^e

8 For God is my witness of how I am longing for all of you with such tender affection as Christ Jesus has. **9** And this is what I continue praying, that your love may abound still more and more^f with accurate knowledge^g and full discernment;^h **10** that you may make sure of the more important things,ⁱ so that you may be flawless and not stumbling others^j up to the day of Christ; **11** and that you may be filled with righteous fruit, which is through Jesus Christ,^k to God's glory and praise.

12 Now I want you to know, brothers, that my situation has actually turned out for the advancement of the good news, **13** so that my prison bonds^l for the sake of Christ have become public knowledge^m among all the Prae-to'ri-an Guard and all the rest. **14** Now most of the brothers in the Lord have gained confidence because of my prison bonds, and they are showing all the more courage to speak the word of God fearlessly.

15 True, some are preaching the Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.

1:5 *Or "because of your participation in furthering."

CHAP. 1

a 1Th 1:2

b Php 2:13

c 1Co 1:8

d Eph 3:1
Php 1:13
Col 4:18
2Ti 1:8
Phm 13

e Ac 24:10, 14
Ac 25:10-12

f 1Th 3:12

g Joh 17:3

h Heb 5:14

i Ro 12:2

j Ro 14:13, 21

k Joh 15:5

l Eph 3:1

m Ac 28:30, 31

Second Col.

a Php 1:7

b 2Co 1:11

c Joh 15:26

d Ro 14:8
1Pe 4:16

e Ga 2:20

f 1Th 4:14
2Ti 4:8
Re 14:13

g 2Ti 4:6

h 2Co 5:6, 8

i Eph 4:1, 3
Col 1:10

16 The latter are proclaiming the Christ out of love, for they know that I have been appointed to defend the good news;^a **17** but the former do it out of contentiousness, not with a pure motive, for they are intending to create trouble for me in my prison bonds. **18** With what result? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is being proclaimed, and I rejoice over this. In fact, I will also keep on rejoicing, **19** for I know that this will result in my salvation through your supplication^b and with the support of the spirit of Jesus Christ.^c **20** This is in harmony with my eager expectation and hope that I will not be ashamed in any respect, but that with all freeness of speech Christ will now, as always before, be magnified by means of my body, whether through life or through death.^d

21 For in my case, to live is Christ^e and to die is gain.^f **22** Now if I am to live on in the flesh, this is a fruitage of my work; yet what I would choose, I do not make known. **23** I am torn between these two things, for I do desire the releasing and the being with Christ,^g which is, to be sure, far better.^h **24** However, it is more necessary for me to remain in the flesh for your sakes. **25** So, being confident of this, I know I will remain and continue with all of you for your advancement and your joy in the faith, **26** so that your exultation may overflow in Christ Jesus because of me when I am again present with you.

27 Only behave* in a manner worthy of the good news about the Christ,ⁱ so that whether I come and see you or I am absent, I may hear about you and learn that you are standing firm

1:27 *Or "carry on as citizens."

in one spirit, with one soul,*^a striving side by side for the faith of the good news, **28** and in no way being frightened by your opponents. This very thing is a proof of destruction^b for them, but of salvation for you;^c and this is from God. **29** For you have been given the privilege in behalf of Christ, not only to put your faith in him but also to suffer in his behalf.^d **30** For you are facing the same struggle that you saw me face,^e which you now hear that I am still facing.

2 If, then, there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any spiritual fellowship,* if any tender affection and compassion, **2** make my joy full by being of the same mind and having the same love, being completely united,* having the one thought in mind.^f **3** Do nothing out of contentiousness^g or out of egotism,^h but with humility* consider others superior to you,ⁱ **4** as you look out not only for your own interests,^j but also for the interests of others.^k

5 Keep this mental attitude in you that was also in Christ Jesus,^l **6** who, although he was existing in God's form,^m gave no consideration to a seizure, namely, that he should be equal to God.ⁿ **7** No, but he emptied himself and took a slave's form^o and became human.*^p **8** More than that, when he came as a man,* he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death,^q yes, death on a torture stake.^r **9** For this very reason, God exalted him to a su-

1:27 *Or "with one accord." 2:1 *Lit., "any sharing of spirit." 2:2 *Or "being joined together in soul." 2:3 *Or "lowliness of mind." 2:7 *Lit., "came to be in the likeness of men." 2:8 *Lit., "when he was found in appearance as a man." ^aSee Glossary.

CHAP. 1

- a Ro 15:5, 6
1Co 1:10
b 2Th 1:6
c Lu 21:19
2Th 1:4, 5
d Ac 5:41
e Ac 16:22, 23
1Th 2:2

CHAP. 2

- f 1Co 1:10
2Co 13:11
1Pe 3:8
g Php 1:15, 17
Jas 3:14, 16
h Ga 5:26
i Mt 23:11
Eph 4:1, 2
Eph 5:21
j 1Co 13:4, 5
k 1Co 10:24
1Co 10:32, 33
l Mt 11:29
Joh 13:14, 15
m Col 1:15
Heb 1:3
n Joh 14:28
o Isa 53:2, 3
p Joh 1:14
q Joh 10:17
Heb 2:9
Heb 5:8
r Ga 3:13

Second Col.

- a Isa 52:13
Ac 2:32, 33
b Ac 4:12
Eph 1:20, 21
c Joh 5:22, 23
d Ro 10:9
e 1Co 10:10
1Pe 4:9
f 1Ti 2:8
g Eph 5:1
h De 32:5
i Mt 5:14
Eph 5:8, 9
1Pe 2:9, 12
j Joh 6:68
Heb 4:12
k Nu 28:6, 7
2Co 12:15
2Ti 4:6
l Heb 13:15
1Pe 2:5
m 1Co 4:17
1Co 16:10

perior position^a and kindly gave him the name that is above every other name,^b **10** so that in the name of Jesus every knee should bend—of those in heaven and those on earth and those under the ground^c— **11** and every tongue should openly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord^d to the glory of God the Father.

12 Consequently, my beloved ones, just as you have always obeyed, not only during my presence but now much more readily during my absence, keep working out your own salvation with fear and trembling. **13** For God is the one who for the sake of his good pleasure energizes you, giving you both the desire and the power to act. **14** Keep doing all things free from murmuring^e and arguments,^f **15** so that you may come to be blameless and innocent, children of God^g without a blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation,^h among whom you are shining as illuminators in the world,ⁱ **16** keeping a tight grip on the word of life.^j Then I may have reason for rejoicing in Christ's day, knowing that I did not run in vain or work hard in vain. **17** However, even if I am being poured out like a drink offering^k on the sacrifice^l and the holy service* to which your faith has led you, I am glad and I rejoice with all of you. **18** In the same way, you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

19 Now I am hoping in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy^m to you shortly, so that I may be encouraged when I receive news about you. **20** For I have no one else of a disposition like his who will genuinely care for your concerns. **21** For all the others are seeking their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

2:17 *Or "the public service."

22 But you know the proof he gave of himself, that like a child^a with a father he slaved with me to advance the good news. **23** Therefore, he is the one I am hoping to send just as soon as I see how things turn out for me. **24** Indeed, I am confident in the Lord that I myself will also come soon.^b

25 But for now I consider it necessary to send to you E-paphro-di'tus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your envoy and personal servant for my need,^c **26** since he is longing to see all of you and is depressed because you heard he had fallen sick. **27** Indeed, he did fall sick nearly to the point of death; but God had mercy on him, in fact, not only on him but also on me, so that I should not have one grief after another. **28** Therefore, I am sending him with the greatest urgency, so that when you see him you may again rejoice and I may also be less anxious. **29** So give him the customary welcome in the Lord with all joy, and keep holding men of that sort dear,^d **30** because he nearly died on account of the work of Christ,^e risking his life^f in order to make up for your not being here to render personal service to me.^g

3 Finally, my brothers, continue rejoicing in the Lord.^f It is not troublesome for me to write the same things to you, and it is for your safety.

2 Look out for the dogs; look out for those who cause injury; look out for those who mutilate the flesh.^g **3** For we are those with the real circumcision,^h we who are rendering sacred service by God's spirit and boasting in Christ Jesusⁱ and who do

2:30 *Or possibly, "of the Lord's work."
^aOr "exposing his soul to danger."

CHAP. 2

a 2Ti 1:2

b Phm 22

c Php 4:18

d 1Co 16:18

1Th 5:12, 13

e Phm 10, 13

CHAP. 3

f 2Co 13:11

Php 4:4

1Th 5:16

g Ga 5:2

h Jer 4:4

Ro 2:29

Col 2:11

i Ga 6:14

Heb 9:13, 14

Second Col.

a Ge 17:12

Le 12:3

b 2Co 11:22

c Ac 23:6

Ac 26:4, 5

d Ac 8:3

Ac 9:1, 2

Ga 1:13

e Mt 13:44

f Ro 4:5

g Ga 2:15, 16

h Ro 3:20-22

i 1Co 15:22

2Co 13:4

j Ro 8:17

2Co 4:10

Col 1:24

k Ro 6:5

l 1Th 4:16

Re 20:6

m Lu 13:24

n 1Ti 6:12

not base our confidence in the flesh, **4** though I, if anyone, do have grounds for confidence in the flesh.

If any other man thinks he has grounds for confidence in the flesh, I have more: **5** circumcised the eighth day,^a of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born from Hebrews;^b regarding law, a Pharisee;^c **6** regarding zeal, persecuting the congregation;^d regarding righteousness based on law, one who proved himself blameless. **7** Yet, the things that were gains to me, I have considered loss* on account of the Christ.^e **8** What is more, I do indeed also consider all things to be loss on account of the excelling value of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have taken the loss of all things and I consider them as a lot of refuse,^f that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in union with him, not because of my own righteousness from following the Law, but because of the righteousness that is through faith^g in Christ,^g the righteousness from God based on faith.^h **10** My aim is to know him and the power of his resurrectionⁱ and to share in his sufferings,^j submitting myself to a death like his,^k **11** to see if at all possible I may attain to the earlier resurrection from the dead.^l

12 Not that I have already received it or am already made perfect, but I am pressing on^m to see if I may also lay hold on that for which Christ Jesus selected me.ⁿ **13** Brothers, I do not yet consider myself as having taken hold of it; but one thing is certain: Forgetting the

3:7 *Or possibly, "have willingly abandoned."
3:8 *Or "garbage; rubbish."
3:12 *Lit., "laid hold on me."

things behind^a and stretching forward to the things ahead,^b

14 I am pressing on toward the goal for the prize^c of the upward call^d of God by means of Christ Jesus. **15** Therefore, let those of us who are mature^e be of this mental attitude, and if you are mentally inclined otherwise in any respect, God will reveal the above attitude to you. **16** At any rate, to the extent we have made progress, let us go on walking orderly in this same course.

17 Unitedly become imitators of me,^f brothers, and keep your eye on those who are walking in a way that is in harmony with the example we set for you. **18** For there are many—I used to mention them often but now I mention them also with weeping—who are walking as enemies of the torture stake* of the Christ. **19** Their end is destruction, and their god is their belly, and their glory is really their shame, and they have their minds on earthly things.^g **20** But our citizenship^h exists in the heavens,ⁱ and we are eagerly waiting for a savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,^j **21** who will transform our humble body to be like* his glorious body^k by his great power that enables him to subject all things to himself.^l

4 Consequently, my brothers whom I love and long for, my joy and crown,^m stand firmⁿ in this way in the Lord, my beloved ones.

2 I urge Eu-o'di-a and I urge Syn'ty-che to be of the same mind in the Lord.^o **3** Yes, I request you also, as a true fellow worker,* to keep assisting these women who have striven^p side

3:18 *See Glossary. **3:21** *Lit., "to be conformed to." **4:3** *Lit., "genuine yokefellow." #Or "who have struggled hard."

CHAP. 3

a Lu 9:62

b 1Co 9:24

c 2Ti 4:8
Heb 12:1

d Heb 3:1

e 1Co 14:20
Heb 5:14f 1Co 4:16
2Th 3:9g Ro 8:5
Jas 3:15

h Eph 2:19

i Joh 18:36
Eph 2:6
Col 3:1j 1Co 1:7
1Th 1:10
Tit 2:13
Heb 9:28

k 1Co 15:42, 49

l 1Co 15:27
Heb 2:8

CHAP. 4

m 1Th 2:19

n Php 1:27

o Ro 15:5, 6
1Co 1:10
2Co 13:11
Php 2:2
1Pe 3:8

Second Col.

a Ps 69:28
Lu 10:20b Ps 64:10
1Th 5:16c Tit 3:2
Jas 3:17d Mt 6:25
Lu 12:22e Joh 16:23
Ro 12:12
1Pe 5:6, 7f Joh 16:33
Ro 5:1

g Col 3:15

h Col 3:2

i Php 3:17

j 2Co 11:8, 9

k 1Ti 6:6, 8
Heb 13:5l 1Co 4:11
2Co 6:4, 10
2Co 11:27

by side with me for the good news, along with Clement as well as the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.^a

4 Always rejoice in the Lord. Again I will say, Rejoice!^b **5** Let your reasonableness^c become known to all men. The Lord is near. **6** Do not be anxious over anything,^d but in everything by prayer and supplication along with thanksgiving, let your petitions be made known to God;^e **7** and the peace^f of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts^g and your mental powers* by means of Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are of serious concern, whatever things are righteous, whatever things are chaste,* whatever things are lovable, whatever things are well-spoken-of, whatever things are virtuous, and whatever things are praiseworthy, continue considering[#] these things.^h **9** The things that you learned as well as accepted and heard and saw in connection with me, practice these,ⁱ and the God of peace will be with you.

10 I rejoice greatly in the Lord that now at last you have renewed your concern for me.^j Though you were concerned about me, you lacked opportunity to show it. **11** Not that I am saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be self-sufficient* regardless of my circumstances.^k **12** I know how to be low on provisions^l and how to have an abundance. In everything and in all circumstances I have learned the secret of both how to be full and how to hun-

4:7 *Or "your minds; your thoughts."

4:8 *Or "pure." #Or "thinking about; meditating on." **4:11** *Or "content."

ger, both how to have an abundance and how to do without. **13** For all things I have the strength through the one who gives me power.^a

14 Nevertheless, you did well to share with me in my tribulation. **15** In fact, you Philip'pi-ans also know that after you first learned the good news, when I departed from Mac-e-do'ni-a, not a congregation shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you alone;^b **16** for while I was in Thes-sa-lo-ni'ca, you sent something to me for my need not just once but twice. **17** Not that I am looking for a gift, but I want the fruitage that brings more credit to your account. **18** However, I have everything I need

CHAP. 4
a Isa 40:29
2Co 4:7
2Co 12:9,10

b 2Co 11:8, 9

Second Col.
a Php 2:25

b Ex 29:18

c 2Co 9:8

d Php 1:12,13

and even more. I am fully supplied, now that I have received from E-paph-ro-di'tus^a what you sent, a sweet fragrance,^b an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. **19** In turn my God will fully supply all your need^c according to his riches in glory by means of Christ Jesus. **20** Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

21 Give my greetings to every holy one in union with Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me send you their greetings. **22** All the holy ones, but especially those of the household of Caesar,^d send you their greetings.

23 The undeserved kindness of the Lord Jesus Christ be with the spirit you show.

TO THE COLOSSIANS

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

- | | |
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|--|---|

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through God's will, and Timothy^a our brother, **2** to the holy ones and faithful brothers in union with Christ at Co-los'sae:

CHAP. 1
a 1Co 4:17

May you have undeserved kindness and peace from God our Father.

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, **4** since

we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love you have for all the holy ones **5** because of the hope that is being reserved for you in the heavens.^a You previously heard about this hope through the message of truth of the good news **6** that has come to you. Just as the good news is bearing fruit and increasing in all the world,^b so it is also doing among you from the day you heard and accurately knew the undeserved kindness of God in truth. **7** That is what you have learned from our beloved fellow slave Ep'a-phras,^c who is a faithful minister of the Christ on our behalf. **8** He also made known to us your love in a spiritual way.*

9 That is also why from the day we heard of it, we have never stopped praying for you^d and asking that you may be filled with the accurate knowledge^e of his will in all wisdom and spiritual comprehension,^f **10** so as to walk worthily of Jehovah* in order to please him fully as you go on bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the accurate knowledge of God;^g **11** and may you be strengthened with all power according to his glorious might^h so that you may endure fully with patience and joy, **12** as you thank the Father, who made you qualify to share in the inheritance of the holy onesⁱ in the light.

13 He rescued us from the authority of the darkness^j and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, **14** by means of whom we have our release by ransom, the forgiveness of our sins.^k **15** He is the image of the invisible God,^l the first-born of all creation;^m **16** because by means of him all other

1:8 *Lit., "in spirit." 1:10 *See App. A5.

CHAP. 1

- a 2Ti 4:8
1Pe 1:3, 4
- b Col 1:23
1Ti 3:16
- c Col 4:12, 13
Phm 23
- d Eph 1:15, 16
- e Php 1:9
- f 2Ti 2:7
1Jo 5:20
- g Eph 1:17
2Pe 1:2
- h Eph 3:14, 16
- i Ro 8:17
Eph 1:13, 14
- j Eph 2:1, 2
- k Eph 1:7
- l Joh 4:24
Joh 10:30
Joh 14:9
1Ti 1:17
- m Re 3:14

Second Col.

- a Joh 1:3
- b Joh 1:10
Heb 1:2
- c Joh 17:5
- d Eph 1:22
- e 1Co 15:23
Re 1:5
- f Col 2:3, 9
- g 2Co 5:19
Eph 1:10
- h Le 17:11
- i 1Co 1:8
- j Re 2:10
- k 1Co 3:11
- l 1Co 15:58
Heb 3:14
- m 1Ti 3:16
- n Eph 3:8
- o Eph 3:1
- p Ac 9:16
Php 3:10
- q Eph 1:22, 23
- r 1Co 9:16, 17

things were created in the heavens and on the earth, the things visible and the things invisible,^a whether they are thrones or lordships or governments or authorities. All other things have been created through him^b and for him. **17** Also, he is before all other things,^c and by means of him all other things were made to exist, **18** and he is the head of the body, the congregation.^d He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,^e so that he might become the one who is first in all things; **19** because God was pleased to have all fullness to dwell in him,^f **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all other things^g by making peace through the blood^h he shed on the torture stake,* whether the things on the earth or the things in the heavens.

21 Indeed, you who were once alienated and enemies because your minds were on the works that were wicked, **22** he has now reconciled by means of that one's fleshly body through his death, in order to present you holy and unblemished and open to no accusation before himⁱ— **23** provided, of course, that you continue in the faith,^j established on the foundation^k and steadfast,^l not being shifted away from the hope of that good news that you heard and that was preached in all creation under heaven.^m Of this good news I, Paul, became a minister.ⁿ

24 I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake,^o and I am undergoing the tribulations of the Christ that are yet lacking in my flesh in behalf of his body,^p which is the congregation.^q **25** I became a minister of this congregation in accord with the stewardship^r from God that

1:20 *See Glossary.

was given to me in your behalf to preach the word of God fully, **26** the sacred secret^a that was hidden from the past systems of things^{*b} and from the past generations. But now it has been revealed to his holy ones,^c **27** to whom God has been pleased to make known among the nations the glorious riches of this sacred secret,^d which is Christ in union with you, the hope of his glory.^e **28** He is the one we are proclaiming, admonishing everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present every person complete in union with Christ.^f **29** To this end I am indeed working hard, exerting myself with his strength that is operating powerfully within me.^g

2 For I want you to realize how great a struggle I am having in your behalf and in behalf of those at La-o-di-ce'a^h and in behalf of all those who have not personally seen me.* **2** This is so that their hearts may be comfortedⁱ and that they may be harmoniously joined together in love^j and may have all the riches that result from the full assurance of their understanding, in order to gain an accurate knowledge of the sacred secret of God, namely, Christ.^k **3** Carefully concealed in him are all the treasures of wisdom and of knowledge.^l **4** I am saying this so that no one may delude you with persuasive arguments. **5** Though I am absent in body, I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order^m and the firmness of your faith in Christ.ⁿ

6 Therefore, just as you have accepted Christ Jesus the Lord, go on walking in union with him, **7** being rooted and built up in

1:26 *Or "past ages." See Glossary.
2:1 *Lit., "not seen my face in the flesh."

CHAP. 1

- a Eph 3:5-7
Eph 5:32
b Lu 8:10
1Co 2:7
c Ro 16:25, 26
d Eph 3:8, 9
e Ro 8:18
f Eph 4:13
g Php 4:13

CHAP. 2

- h Col 4:16
i 2Co 1:6
j Col 3:14
k 1Co 2:7
Eph 3:5, 6
l 1Co 1:30
1Co 2:16
m 1Co 14:40
n 1Co 15:58
Heb 3:14

Second Col.

- a Eph 2:20
Eph 3:17
b Mt 7:24, 25
c Eph 5:20
1Th 5:18
d Eph 5:6
Heb 13:9
e Col 1:19
f Eph 1:20, 21
1Pe 3:22
g Ro 6:6
h Ro 2:29
Php 3:3
i Ro 6:4
j Eph 2:6
Col 3:1
k Ac 2:24
Eph 1:19, 20
l Eph 2:1, 5
m Ac 2:38
n Ex 34:27
De 31:24-26
Heb 7:18
o Eph 2:14, 15
p Ro 7:10
Ga 3:10
q Ga 3:13
Heb 9:15
1Pe 2:24
r 1Jo 5:4
Re 3:21
s Ro 14:3, 17

him^a and being stabilized in the faith,^b just as you were taught, and overflowing with thanksgiving.^c

8 Look out that no one takes you captive* by means of the philosophy and empty deception^d according to human tradition, according to the elementary things of the world and not according to Christ; **9** because it is in him that all the fullness of the divine quality dwells bodily.^e **10** So you have acquired a fullness by means of him, the one who is the head of all government and authority.^f **11** By your relationship with him, you were also circumcised with a circumcision performed without hands by stripping off the fleshly body,^g by the circumcision that belongs to the Christ.^h **12** For you were buried with him in his baptism,ⁱ and by your relationship with him you were also raised up^j together through your faith in the powerful work of God, who raised him up from the dead.^k

13 Furthermore, though you were dead in your trespasses and in the uncircumcised state of your flesh, God made you alive together with him.^l He kindly forgave us all our trespasses^m **14** and erased* the handwritten documentⁿ that consisted of decrees^o and was in opposition to us.^p He has taken it out of the way by nailing it to the torture stake.^q **15** He has stripped the governments and the authorities bare and has publicly exhibited them as conquered,^r leading them in a triumphal procession by means of it.*

16 Therefore, do not let anyone judge you about what you eat and drink^s or about the

2:8 *Or "carries you off as his prey."
2:14 *Or "blotted out." #See Glossary.
2:15 *Or possibly, "him."

observance of a festival or of the new moon^a or of a sabbath.^b **17** Those things are a shadow of the things to come,^c but the reality belongs to the Christ.^d **18** Let no man deprive you of the prize^e who takes delight in a false humility and a form of worship of the angels, "taking his stand on"^f the things he has seen. He is actually puffed up without proper cause by his fleshly frame of mind, **19** and he is not holding fast to the head,^f to the one through whom the whole body is supplied and harmoniously joined together by means of its joints and ligaments and made to grow with the growth that is from God.^g

20 If you died together with Christ with respect to the elementary things of the world,^h why do you live as if still part of the world by further subjecting yourselves to the decrees:ⁱ **21** "Do not handle, nor taste, nor touch," **22** referring to things that all perish with their use, according to the commands and teachings of men?^j **23** Although those things have an appearance of wisdom in a self-imposed form of worship and a false humility, a harsh treatment of the body,^k they are of no value in combating the satisfying of the flesh.

3 If, however, you were raised up with the Christ,^l go on seeking the things above, where the Christ is seated at the right hand of God.^m **2** Keep your minds fixed on the things above,ⁿ not on the things on the earth.^o **3** For you died, and your life has been hidden with the Christ in union with God. **4** When the Christ, our life,^p is made manifest, then you also will be made manifest with him in glory.^q

2:18 *Quoted from pagan mystery (initiation) rites.

CHAP. 2

- a Ps 81:3
- b Ro 14:6
- c Heb 8:5
- Heb 10:1
- d Joh 14:6
- Heb 9:11, 12
- e Php 3:14
- f Eph 1:22, 23
- g Eph 2:21
- Eph 4:16
- h Ga 4:3
- Col 2:8
- i Eph 2:15
- Col 2:14
- j Mt 15:9
- k 1Ti 4:3

CHAP. 3

- l Eph 2:6
- m Ps 110:1
- 1Pe 3:22
- n Php 3:20
- Php 4:8
- 1Pe 1:13
- o 1Jo 2:15
- p Joh 11:25
- q 1Co 15:42, 43

Second Col.

- a Mr 9:43
- Ga 5:24
- b 1Co 6:18
- Eph 5:3
- c 1Co 6:9-11
- Eph 2:3
- Tit 3:3
- d 1Pe 2:1
- e Eph 4:31
- f Eph 5:3, 4
- g Eph 4:25
- Re 21:8
- h Eph 4:22
- i Ro 12:2
- Eph 4:24
- j Ge 1:26, 27
- 1Pe 1:16
- k Ga 3:28
- l 1Pe 2:9
- m Php 2:1, 2
- n Ro 12:16
- o Tit 3:2
- p Eph 4:1, 2
- 1Th 5:14
- q Pr 19:11
- Eph 4:32
- 1Pe 4:8
- r Mt 18:15
- s Mt 6:14
- Mr 11:25
- t 1Jo 3:23
- u 1Co 13:4-7
- v Joh 14:27
- Php 4:7

5 Deaden, therefore, your body members^a that are on the earth as respects sexual immorality,^{*} uncleanness, uncontrolled sexual passion,^b hurtful desire, and greediness, which is idolatry. **6** On account of those things the wrath of God is coming. **7** That is how you too used to conduct yourselves^{*} in your former way of life.^c **8** But now you must put them all away from you: wrath, anger, badness,^d abusive speech,^e and obscene talk^f out of your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another.^g Strip off the old personality^{*h} with its practices, **10** and clothe yourselves with the new personality,ⁱ which through accurate knowledge is being made new according to the image of the One who created it,^j **11** where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, foreigner, Scythⁱan,^{*} slave, or freeman; but Christ is all things and in all.^k

12 Accordingly, as God's chosen ones,^l holy and loved, clothe yourselves with the tender affections of compassion,^m kindness, humility,^{*n} mildness,^o and patience.^p **13** Continue putting up with one another and forgiving one another freely^q even if anyone has a cause for complaint against another.^r Just as Jehovah^{*} freely forgave you, you must also do the same.^s **14** But besides all these things, clothe yourselves with love,^t for it is a perfect bond of union.^u

15 Also, let the peace of the Christ rule in your hearts,^{*v} for you were called to that peace in one body. And show yourselves

3:5 *Greek, *por-nei'a*. See Glossary. 3:7 *Or "used to walk." #Or "when you lived that way." 3:9 *Lit., "man." 3:11 *"Scythian" implied an uncivilized person. 3:12 *Or "lowliness of mind." 3:13 *See App. A5. 3:15 *Or "control your hearts."

thankful. **16** Let the word of the Christ reside in you richly in all wisdom. Keep on teaching and encouraging* one another with psalms,^a praises to God, spiritual songs sung with gratitude,[#] singing in your hearts to Jehovah.^{Δb} **17** Whatever it is that you do in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, thanking God the Father through him.^c

18 You wives, be in subjection to your husbands,^d as it is becoming in the Lord. **19** You husbands, keep on loving your wives^e and do not be bitterly angry* with them.^f **20** You children, be obedient to your parents in everything,^g for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. **21** You fathers, do not be exasperating* your children,^h so that they do not become downhearted.[#] **22** You slaves, be obedient in everything to those who are your human* masters,ⁱ not only when they are watching, just to please men,[#] but with sincerity of heart, with fear of Jehovah.^Δ **23** Whatever you are doing, work at it whole-souled* as for Jehovah,^{Δj} and not for men, **24** for you know that it is from Jehovah^Δ you will receive the inheritance as a reward.^k Slave for the Master, Christ. **25** Certainly the one who does wrong will be repaid for the wrong he has done,^l and there is no partiality.^m

4 You masters, treat your slaves in a righteous and fair way, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.ⁿ

2 Persevere in prayer,^o remaining awake in it with thanks-

3:16 *Or "admonishing." #Or "graciousness." 3:16, 22-24 ΔSee App. A5. 3:19 *Or "be harsh." 3:21 *Or "provoking; irritating." #Or "discouraged." 3:22 *Lit., "fleshly." #Lit., "not with acts of eye-service, as men pleasers." 3:23 *See Glossary, "Soul."

CHAP. 3

a 1Co 14:26

b Eph 5:19

c 1Co 10:31

d Eph 5:22
1Pe 3:1e Eph 5:25
1Pe 3:7

f Eph 4:31

g Pr 6:20
Lu 2:51
Eph 6:1

h Eph 6:4

i Eph 6:5, 6
Tit 2:9
1Pe 2:18j Lu 10:27
Ro 12:11k Eph 6:8
1Pe 1:3, 4l Ro 2:6
Ga 6:7m Ro 2:11
1Pe 1:17

CHAP. 4

n Eph 6:9

o Lu 18:1
Ro 12:12
Eph 6:18

Second Col.

a Col 3:15
1Th 5:18

b Ro 15:30

c Eph 6:19, 20
Php 1:7

d Eph 5:15, 16

e Mt 5:13
Mr 9:50

f 1Pe 3:15

g Eph 6:21, 22

h Phm 10

i Ac 19:29
Ac 20:4
Ac 27:2j Ac 12:12
Ac 15:37
Phm 23, 24

k Ro 15:7

l Col 1:7, 8

giving.^a **3** At the same time, pray also for us,^b that God may open a door for the word so that we can declare the sacred secret about the Christ, for which I am in prison bonds,^c **4** and that I may proclaim it as clearly as I ought to.

5 Go on walking in wisdom toward those on the outside, making the best use of your time.^{*d}

6 Let your words always be gracious, seasoned with salt,^e so that you will know how you should answer each person.^f

7 Tych'i-cus,^g my beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow slave in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me.

8 I am sending him to you so that you will know how we are and that he may comfort your hearts. **9** He is coming along with O-nes'i-mus,^h my faithful and beloved brother, who is from among you; they will tell you all the things happening here.

10 Ar-is-tar'chus,ⁱ my fellow captive, sends you his greetings, and so does Mark,^j the cousin of Bar'na-bas (concerning whom you received instructions to welcome him^k if he comes to you), **11** and Jesus who is called Justus, who are of those circumcised. Only these are my fellow workers for the Kingdom of God, and they have become a source of great comfort* to me.

12 Ep'a-phras,^l a slave of Christ Jesus who is from among you, sends you his greetings. He is always exerting himself in your behalf in his prayers, so that you may finally stand complete and with firm conviction in all the will of God. **13** For I bear him witness that he makes great efforts in your behalf and in behalf of those in La-o-di-ce'a and Hi-e-rap'o-lis.

4:5 *Lit., "buying out the appointed time." **4:11** *Or "a strengthening aid."

14 Luke,^a the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and so does De'mas.^b **15** Give my greetings to the brothers in La-o-di-ce'a and to Nym'pha and to the congregation at her house.^c **16** And when this letter has been read among you, arrange for it also to be read^d in the congregation of the La-o-di-

CHAP. 4
 a Lu 1:3
 Ac 1:1
 b Phm 23, 24
 c Ro 16:5
 1Co 16:19
 d 1Th 5:27

ce'ans and for you also to read the one from La-o-di-ce'a. **17** Also, tell Ar-chip'pus:^a "Pay attention to the ministry that you accepted in the Lord, in order to fulfill it."

Second Col.
 a Phm 1, 2
 b 2Th 3:17
 c Php 1:7
 Phm 9

18 Here is my greeting, Paul's, in my own hand.^b Keep my prison bonds^c in mind. The undeserved kindness be with you.

THE FIRST TO THE THESSALONIANS

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

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Final greetings (25-28)</p> |
|---|---|

1 Paul, Sil-va'nus,^a and Timothy,^b to the congregation of the Thes-sa-lo'ni-ans in union with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

May you have undeserved kindness and peace.

2 We always thank God when we mention all of you in our prayers,^c **3** for we continually remember your faithful work, your loving labor, and your endurance because of your hope^d in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Fa-

CHAP. 1
 a Ac 15:22
 1Pe 5:12
 b Ac 16:1, 2
 c 2Th 1:11, 12
 d 1Pe 1:3, 4

Second Col.
 a 1Co 11:1
 Php 3:17
 2Th 3:9
 b 1Pe 2:21
 c 1Th 2:14

ther. **4** For we know, brothers loved by God, his choosing of you, **5** because the good news we preach did not come to you with speech alone but also with power and with holy spirit and with strong conviction, just as you know what sort of men we became among you for your sakes. **6** And you became imitators of us^a and of the Lord,^b seeing that you accepted the word under much tribulation^c with joy of holy spirit, **7** so that you became an example to all the believers in Mac-e-do'ni-a and in A-cha'ia.

1:1 * Also called Silas.



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

“GO ON WALKING ORDERLY”
(**Phil. 1:1–4:23**)

Paul’s letter to the Philippians breathes love. “This is what I continue praying,” he says, “that your love may abound yet more and more with accurate knowledge and full discernment.” Helping them to avoid the snare of overconfidence, he exhorts: “Keep working out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”—**Phil. 1:9; 2:12.**

Paul encourages those who are mature to pursue “down toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God.” He states: “To what extent we have made progress, let us go on walking orderly in this same routine.”—**Phil. 3:14-16.**

Scriptural Questions Answered:

1:23 and footnote—From what “two things” was Paul under pressure, and what “releasing” did he desire? Because of the circumstances he was in, Paul was under pressure from the two possibilities open to him: life or death. (**Phil. 1:21**) While not stating what he would choose, he makes known what he desired—“the releasing and the being with Christ.” (**Phil. 3:20, 21**; 1 Thess. 4:16) This “releasing” during Christ’s presence would result in Paul’s receiving the reward that Jehovah had prepared for him.—Matt. 24:3.

2:12, 13—In what way does God cause us “to will and to act”? Jehovah’s holy spirit can work in our heart and mind to increase our desire to do our very best in his service. Hence, we are not without help as we ‘keep working out our own salvation.’

Lessons for Us:

1:3-5. Though they were materially poor, the Philippians set a fine example for us in displaying generosity.—2 Cor. 8:1-6.

2:5-11. As Jesus’ example shows, humility is not a sign of weakness but of moral strength. Moreover, Jehovah exalts humble ones.—Prov. 22:4.

3:13. “The things behind” may be such things as a lucrative career, the security of belonging to a wealthy family, or even serious past sins of which we have repented and “been washed clean.” (1 Cor. 6:11) We should forget these things, that is, cease to be concerned about them, and ‘stretch forward to the things ahead.’

*** w12 2/15 p. 27 par. 4 Happiness Is Possible in a Divided Household ***

⁴ Christians must maintain their inner peace. This calls for heartfelt prayer, which can bring us the incomparable “peace of God.” (**Phil. 4:6, 7**) Happiness and peace result from taking in knowledge of Jehovah and applying Scriptural principles in life. (Isa. 54:13) Participation in congregation meetings and zealous activity in the field ministry are also vital if we are to enjoy peace and happiness. Sharing in Christian activities in some way is generally possible for believers living in divided households. For example, consider Enza, whose husband is violently opposed. She engages in the disciple-making work after taking care of her household duties. Enza says, “Jehovah richly blesses me with good results each time I make the effort to share the good news with others.” Such blessings certainly result in peace, satisfaction, and happiness.

*** cl chap. 7 p. 75 par. 19 Protective Power—“God Is for Us a Refuge” ***

¹⁹ Jehovah is the “Hearer of prayer.” (Psalm 65:2) When life’s pressures seem overwhelming, pouring out our heart to him can bring us much relief. (**Philippians 4:6, 7**) He may not miraculously remove our trials, but in response to our heartfelt prayers, he can grant us the wisdom to deal with them. (James 1:5, 6) More than that, Jehovah gives holy spirit to those asking him. (Luke 11:13) That powerful spirit can make us equal to any trial or problem we may face. It can infuse us with “power beyond what is normal” to endure until Jehovah removes all painful problems in the new world so near at hand.—2 Corinthians 4:7.

TMS REVIEW:

*** w12 3/15 pp. 27-28 pars. 11-14 Do Not Look at “the Things Behind” ***

8. How did Paul feel about the things he had left behind? (Phil. 3:8) [Oct. 14, w12 3/15 p. 27 par. 12]



¹¹ Sad to say, some look back on sacrifices they made in the past and view them as missed opportunities. Perhaps you had opportunities for higher education, for prominence, or for financial security, but you decided not to pursue them. Many of our brothers and sisters have left behind lucrative positions in the fields of business, entertainment, education, or sports. Now time has passed, and the end has not yet arrived. Do you fantasize about what could have happened had you not made those sacrifices?

¹² The apostle Paul gave up much to become a follower of Christ. (Phil. 3:4-6) How did he feel about the things he had left behind? He tells us: “What things were gains to me, these I have considered loss on account of the Christ.” And why? He continues: “I do indeed also consider all things to be loss on account of *the excelling value* of the

knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. On account of him I have taken the loss of all things and I consider them as *a lot of refuse*, that I may gain Christ.” (Phil. 3:7, 8) Just as a person who throws away garbage, or trash, does not later bemoan his loss, Paul did not regret any of the secular opportunities that he had left behind. He no longer felt that they were worthwhile.

¹³ What will help us if we find ourselves starting to speculate about so-called missed opportunities? Follow the example set by Paul. How? Consider the value of what you have now. You have gained a treasured relationship with Jehovah and have established a faithful record with him. (Heb. 6:10) What material advantages can the world offer that would come anywhere near the spiritual blessings that we now enjoy and will enjoy in the future?—**Read Mark 10:28-30.**

¹⁴ Paul next mentions something that will help us to continue to go on faithfully. He says that he was “forgetting the things behind and stretching forward to the things ahead.” (Phil. 3:13) Notice that Paul highlights two steps, both necessary. First, we have to forget the things we left behind, not wasting precious energy and time being overly concerned about them. Second, like a runner at the finish line, we need to stretch forward, keeping focused on what lies ahead.

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

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

*** km 9/11 p. 1 par. 4 Treasure Your Privilege of Service ***

⁴ **A Priority:** Because we truly treasure our privilege, we view the ministry as one of “the more important things” in our life. (Phil. 1:10) Therefore, we schedule time each week to share in it. A musician who treasures his privilege to play in a world-renowned orchestra would prepare for each performance and work at developing his skill. Similarly, we will prepare before going in the ministry so that we can ‘handle the word of truth aright,’ and we will work at improving our “art of teaching.”—2 Tim. 2:15; 4:2.



“BEING STABILIZED IN THE FAITH”

(Col. 1:1–4:18)

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul counteracts the wrong views of false teachers. Salvation depends, he reasons, not on the requirements of the Law, but on ‘continuing in the faith.’ Paul encourages the Colossians to “go on walking in union with [Christ], rooted and being built up in him and being stabilized in the faith.” How should such stabilization affect them?—Col. 1:23; 2:6, 7.

“Besides all these things,” writes Paul, “clothe yourselves with love, for it is a perfect bond of union. Also, let the peace of the Christ control in your hearts.” The apostle tells them: “Whatever you are doing, work at it whole-souled as to Jehovah, and not to men.” Regarding those outside the congregation, he says: “Go on walking in wisdom toward” them.—Col. 3:14, 15, 23; 4:5.

Scriptural Questions Answered:

2:8—What are “the elementary things of the world” against which Paul warned? These are the elements of Satan’s world—basic things or principles that make up, guide, or motivate it. (1 John 2:16) Included among these are the philosophy, materialism, and false religions of this world.

4:16—Why is the letter to the Laodiceans not part of the Bible? This could be because the letter did not contain information necessary for today. Or it may be that it repeated points from other canonical letters.

Lessons for Us:

1:2, 20. The ransom, a provision of God’s undeserved kindness, can clear our conscience of guilt and give us inner peace.

2:18, 23. “Mock humility”—a pretense of humility to impress others perhaps by renouncing material things or by treating the body with severity—is an indication of one’s being ‘puffed up by one’s fleshly frame of mind.’

*** w12 1/15 pp. 21-22 par. 4 Making Whole-Souled Sacrifices for Jehovah ***

⁴ As we go about our everyday lives, it might seem difficult to relate our activities to making sacrifices for Jehovah. Housework, schoolwork, secular work, shopping, and the like might on the surface seem to have little to do with spiritual concerns. However, if you have dedicated your life to Jehovah or hope to do so in the near future, then the spirit with which you approach mundane activities is important. We are Christians 24 hours a day. Scriptural principles need to be applied in every aspect of our lives. Hence, Paul urged us: “Whatever you are doing, work at it whole-souled as to Jehovah, and not to men.”—Read **Colossians 3:18-24**.

*** w12 10/15 pp. 12-13 par. 3 What Kind of Spirit Do You Show? ***

³ Thus, when Paul used expressions such as “the Lord be with the spirit you show,” he was encouraging his brothers to show a spirit in harmony with God’s will and the Christlike personality. (2 Tim. 4:22; read **Colossians 3:9-12**.) Today, we do well to ask ourselves: ‘What kind of spirit do I show? How can I more fully manifest a spirit that pleases God? Can I improve in contributing to the overall positive spirit of the congregation?’ To illustrate, in a field of sunflowers, each flower contributes its glowing face to the overall beauty of the flower patch. Are we one of the “flowers” that adds to the overall beauty of the congregation? Certainly, we should strive to be one.

*** km 7/10 p. 3 par. 4 “Wisdom Is Proved Righteous by Its Works” ***

⁴ **Respond With Graciousness:** When we receive a negative response, we should always reply with graciousness and mildness. (Prov. 15:1; Col. 4:5, 6) If the situation allows, we may be able to explain to a sincere householder that there is much misinformation about Jehovah’s Witnesses or to ask him why he feels the way he does. Our mild response may cause him to question what he has heard about Jehovah’s Witnesses and to listen the next time a Witness visits. However, if the householder is very angry, it may be best to excuse ourselves. We can be certain that regardless of how others view us, Jehovah values our ministry.—Isa. 52:7.

*** km 5/07 p. 1 par. 4 “He Is Giving to the Tired One Power” ***

⁴ Jehovah also uses fellow believers, who can be “a strengthening aid” to us. (Col. 4:10, 11) They strengthen us at congregation meetings by their upbuilding conversation, comments, and talks. (Acts 15:32) Christian elders, especially, provide spiritual help and refreshing encouragement.—Isa. 32:1, 2.

*** km 4/06 p. 1 par. 3 How to Maintain Zeal ***

³ We cannot rely solely on the knowledge that we have gained through previous study to keep our love for God strong and our zeal for his service burning brightly. We must continue to broaden our understanding of the truth and deepen our love for Jehovah. Otherwise, our service to him could gradually become perfunctory. (Rev. 2:4) God’s Word urges us to “go on . . . increasing in the accurate knowledge of God.”—Col. 1:9, 10.

*** km 11/04 p. 3 Question Box ***

Give your best. Christians are exhorted to work whole-souled even in secular matters. (Col. 3:22-24) There is greater reason to do so when working to advance true worship. Even if a task appears to be lowly or insignificant, it is a blessing to the congregation when it is done well.

Each assignment provides us with an opportunity to demonstrate our love for Jehovah and our brothers. (Matt. 22:37-39) May we faithfully care for whatever duties are entrusted to us.

*** cl chap. 23 p. 232 par. 5 “He First Loved Us” ***

⁵ The Bible calls Jesus “the firstborn of all creation.” (Colossians 1:15) Just think—Jehovah’s Son was in existence before the physical universe. How long, then, were Father and Son together? Some scientists estimate that the universe is 13 billion years old. Can you even imagine that much time? To help people grasp the age of the universe as estimated by scientists, one planetarium features a time line 360 feet [110 m] long. As visitors walk along that time line, each step they take represents about 75 million years in the life of the universe. At the end of the time line, all human history is represented by a single mark the thickness of one human hair! Yet, even if this estimate is correct, that *entire* time line would not be long enough to represent the life span of Jehovah’s Son! How was he occupied during all those ages?

*** cl chap. 30 pp. 302-303 par. 8 “Go On Walking in Love” ***

⁸ “*Love is long-suffering.*” Being long-suffering means patiently putting up with others. (Colossians 3:13) Do we not need such patience? Because we are imperfect creatures serving shoulder to shoulder, it is only realistic to expect that from time to time, our Christian brothers may irritate us and we may do the same to them. But patience and forbearance can help us to cope with the minor scrapes and scratches we sustain in our dealings with others—without disrupting the peace of the congregation.

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.)

Gratitude for the sacrifice of Christ made them eager to get rid of anything that caused their lives to be fruitless, lacking real meaning because they did not honor God. Should not we have the same attitude?)

What is the Bible's viewpoint as to interfaith?

How did Jesus view religious leaders who pretended to be righteous but disrespected God? “Jesus said to them: ‘If God were your Father, you would love me, for from God I came forth and am here. Neither have I come of my own initiative at all, but that One sent me forth. . . . You are from your father the Devil, and you wish to do the desires of your father. That one was a manslayer when he began, and he did not stand fast in the truth, because truth is not in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks according to his own disposition, because he is a liar and the father of the lie. Because I, on the other hand, tell the truth, you do not believe me. . . . This is why you do not listen, because you are not from God.’”—John 8:42-47.

Would it demonstrate loyalty to God and to his righteous standards if his servants were to embrace in religious brotherhood those who themselves practice what God condemns or who condone such practices? “Quit mixing in company with anyone called a brother that is a fornicator or a greedy person or an idolater or a reviler or a drunkard or an extortioner, not even eating with such a man. . . . Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men kept for unnatural purposes, nor men who lie with men, nor thieves, nor greedy persons, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit God’s kingdom.” (1 Cor. 5:11; 6:9, 10) “Whoever . . . wants to be a friend of the world is constituting himself an enemy of God.” (Jas. 4:4) “O you lovers of Jehovah, hate what is bad. He is guarding the souls of his loyal ones.”—Ps. 97:10.

2 Cor. 6:14-17: “Do not become unevenly yoked with unbelievers. For what fellowship do righteousness and lawlessness have? Or what sharing does light have with darkness? Further, what harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what portion does a faithful person have with an unbeliever? And what agreement does God’s temple have with

village. Here a woman named Martha^a received him as a guest in her house. **39** She also had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the feet of the Lord and kept listening to what he was saying.*

40 Martha, on the other hand, was distracted with attending to many duties. So she came to him and said: "Lord, does it not matter to you that my sister has left me alone to attend to things? Tell her to come and help me."

41 In answer the Lord said to her: "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and disturbed about many things. **42** A few things, though, are needed, or just one. For her part, Mary chose the good portion,^{*b} and it will not be taken away from her."

11 Now he was in a certain place praying, and when he stopped, one of his disciples said to him: "Lord, teach us how to pray, just as John also taught his disciples."

2 So he said to them: "Whenever you pray, say: 'Father, let your name be sanctified.'^{*c} Let your Kingdom come.^d **3** Give us each day our bread according to our daily needs.^e **4** And forgive us our sins,^f for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is in debt to us;^g and do not bring us into temptation."^h

5 Then he said to them: "Suppose one of you has a friend and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, **6** because one of my friends has just come to me on a journey and I have nothing to offer him.' **7** But that one replies from inside: 'Stop bothering me. The door is already locked, and my young children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything.' **8** I tell you, even if

10:39 *Lit., "his word." **10:42** *Or "best portion." **11:2** *Or "be held sacred; be treated as holy."

CHAP. 10

a Joh 12:2

b Mt 4:4
Mt 6:33

CHAP. 11

c Le 22:32
Isa 5:16
Eze 36:23d Da 2:44
Da 7:13, 14
Mt 6:9-13

e Ps 37:25

f Ps 79:9
Da 9:19g Mr 11:25
Eph 4:32
Col 3:13h Lu 22:46
1Co 10:13
Jas 1:13
Re 3:10

Second Col.

a Lu 18:5

b Ro 12:12

c Mt 7:8

d Mr 11:24
Joh 15:7
Jas 1:6
1Jo 3:22
1Jo 5:14

e Mt 7:9, 10

f Mt 7:11
Jas 1:17

g Mt 12:22

h Mt 9:32-34

i Mt 12:24-30
Mr 3:22-27j Mt 12:38
Mr 8:11

k Joh 2:24, 25

l Ex 8:19

he will not get up and give him anything because of being his friend, certainly because of his bold persistence^a he will get up and give him whatever he needs. **9** So I say to you, keep on asking,^b and it will be given you; keep on seeking, and you will find; keep on knocking, and it will be opened to you.^c **10** For everyone asking receives,^d and everyone seeking finds, and to everyone knocking, it will be opened. **11** Indeed, which father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will hand him a serpent instead of a fish?^e **12** Or if he also asks for an egg, will hand him a scorpion? **13** Therefore, if you, although being wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more so will the Father in heaven give holy spirit to those asking him!^f

14 Later he expelled a speechless demon.^g After the demon came out, the speechless man spoke, and the crowds were amazed.^h **15** But some of them said: "He expels the demons by means of Be-el'ze-bub,^{*} the ruler of the demons."ⁱ **16** And others, to test him, began demanding a sign^j out of heaven from him. **17** Knowing their thinking,^k he said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself comes to ruin, and a house divided against itself falls. **18** In the same way, if Satan is also divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say I expel the demons by means of Be-el'ze-bub. **19** If I expel the demons by means of Be-el'ze-bub, by whom do your sons expel them? This is why they will be your judges. **20** But if it is by means of God's finger^l that I expel the demons, the Kingdom of God has really overtaken

11:15 *A designation applied to Satan.

4 But let endurance complete its work, so that you may be complete and sound in all respects, not lacking in anything.^a

5 So if any one of you is lacking in wisdom, let him keep asking God,^b for he gives generously to all and without reproaching,^{*c} and it will be given him.^d 6 But let him keep asking in faith,^e not doubting at all,^f for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven by the wind and blown about. 7 In fact, that man should not expect to receive anything from Jehovah;^{*g} 8 he is an indecisive man,^g unsteady in all his ways.

9 But let the lowly brother rejoice^{*} over his exaltation,^h 10 and the rich one over his humiliation,ⁱ because like a flower of the field he will pass away. 11 For just as the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the plant, and its flower falls off and its outward beauty perishes, so too the rich man will fade away in the midst of his pursuits.^j

12 Happy is the man who keeps on enduring trial,^k because on becoming approved he will receive the crown of life,^l which Jehovah^{*} promised to those who continue loving Him.^m 13 When under trial, let no one say: "I am being tried by God." For with evil things God cannot be tried, nor does he himself try anyone. 14 But each one is tried by being drawn out and enticed^{*} by his own desire.ⁿ 15 Then the desire, when it has become fertile,^{*} gives birth to sin; in turn sin, when it has been carried out, brings forth death.^o

16 Do not be misled, my beloved brothers. 17 Every good

1:5 *Or "finding fault." 1:7, 12 *See App. A5. 1:9 *Lit., "boast." 1:14 *Or "caught as by bait." 1:15 *Lit., "has conceived."

CHAP. 1

- a 1Co 14:20
- Eph 4:13
- b 1Ki 3:9
- Mr 11:24
- 1Jo 3:22
- c Mt 7:11
- d Pr 2:3-6
- Joh 15:7
- 1Jo 5:14
- e Mt 7:7
- f Mt 21:22
- Heb 11:6
- g Jas 4:8
- h Jas 2:5
- i 1Ti 6:17
- j Isa 40:6,7
- Mt 19:24
- k Mt 5:10
- Jas 1:2
- l 2Ti 4:8
- 1Pe 5:4
- Re 2:10
- m Jas 2:5
- n Ge 3:6
- 1Jo 2:16
- o Ro 5:21

Second Col.

- a Mt 7:11
- b Jer 31:35
- 2Co 4:6
- c Mal 3:6
- d Joh 1:12,13
- Ro 8:28
- Eph 1:13,14
- 2Th 2:13
- 1Pe 1:23
- e Re 14:4
- f Pr 10:19
- Pr 17:27
- g Ec 7:9
- Mt 5:22
- h Jas 3:18
- i Col 3:8
- 1Pe 2:1
- j Le 18:5
- 1Sa 15:22
- Mt 7:21
- 1Jo 3:7
- k Lu 6:46
- Jas 2:14
- l Ps 19:7
- m Mt 7:24
- Lu 11:28
- Joh 13:17
- n Ps 39:1
- Pr 12:18
- Pr 15:2
- 1Pe 3:10

gift and every perfect present is from above,^a coming down from the Father of the celestial lights,^b who does not vary or change like the shifting shadows.^{*c} 18 It was his will to bring us forth by the word of truth,^d so that we would become a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.^e

19 Know this, my beloved brothers: Everyone must be quick to listen, slow to speak,^f slow to anger,^g 20 for man's anger does not bring about God's righteousness.^h 21 Therefore, put away all filthiness and every trace of badness,^{*i} and accept with mildness the implanting of the word that is able to save you.[#]

22 However, become doers of the word^l and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves with false reasoning. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer,^k this one is like a man looking at his own face^{*} in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself, and he goes away and immediately forgets what sort of person he is. 25 But the one who peers into the perfect law^l that belongs to freedom and continues in it has become, not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work; and he will be happy in what he does.^m

26 If any man thinks he is a worshipper of God^{*} but does not keep a tight rein on[#] his tongue,ⁿ he is deceiving his own heart, and his worship is futile. 27 The form of worship^{*} that is clean and undefiled from the standpoint of our God and Father is this: to look after or-

1:17 *Or "with whom there is not a variation of the turning of the shadow." 1:21 *Or possibly, "and the abundance of badness." #Or "your souls." 1:23 *Or "his natural face." 1:26 *Or "is religious." #Or "does not bridle." 1:27 *Or "religion."

68 *A Prayer of the Lowly One* (Psalm 4:1)

1. Jehovah God, I call to you and ask you:
 “Hear my prayer.”
 My wounds are deep and slow to heal;
 my load is hard to bear.
Despondent thoughts and disappointed hopes
 have left me weak.
 O God of comfort, care for me;
 your favor I do seek.

(CHORUS)

*Do raise me up; help me endure.
When I'm in doubt, make my hope sure.
From deep despair, I turn to you.
Jehovah God, my strength renew.*

2. Your Word has been my comfort and
 a refuge when I'm weak,
 Expressing feelings dear to me
 in words I cannot speak.
Please build in me the faith and trust
 that your Word does impart.
And help me always know your love
 is greater than my heart.

(Chorus)

15 min: Our International Unity Honors Jehovah (Talk / Experiences)

cleansed." (Acts 10:15) It took this divine intervention for Peter to condition his mind for the assignment he was about to receive, namely, to go and visit a man of the nations. But when obeying Jehovah's direction, Peter declared to those gathered: "You well know how unlawful it is for a Jew to join himself to or approach a man of another race; and yet God has shown me I should call no man defiled or unclean. Hence I came, really without objection, when I was sent for." (Acts 10:28, 29) Thereafter, Peter witnessed the evidence of Jehovah's approval of Cornelius and his household.

Saul of Tarsus, a highly educated Pharisee, had to humble himself and associate with those who had formerly been socially unacceptable to him. He even had to take direction from them. (Acts 4:13; Gal. 1: 13-20; Phil. 3:4-11) We can only imagine the adjustments that must have taken place in the thinking of such people as Sergius Paulus, Dionysius, Damaris, Philemon, Onesimus, and others as they accepted the good news and became disciples of Jesus Christ. —Acts 13:6-12; 17:22, 33, 34; Philem. 8-20.

Oct. 14, 2013

MAINTAINING OUR INTERNATIONAL UNITY

² No doubt the love of the brothers and sisters in your congregation helped draw you to Jehovah and his organization. You had not experienced such love with other groups. You observed the unmistakable mark of love and unity that characterizes true disciples of Jesus Christ, as he expressed: "I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love among yourselves." (John 13:34, 35) But then how much more you came to appreciate

Jehovah's dealings with mankind today when you realized that the love in your congregation is only a taste of the love that exists in the worldwide association of Jehovah's people! You are a witness to and a part of the fulfillment of Bible prophecy about the gathering of people in the last days to worship Jehovah in peace and unity. Why not read that prophecy? It is found at Micah 4:1-5.

¹ In view of the many divisive factors that exist today, who would ever have thought it possible to unite people "out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues"? (Rev. 7:9) Consider the differences between the people of a high-technology society and those who hold to ancient tribal customs. Look at the religious rivalries among people of the same race and nationality. With nationalism coming to the fore, people have become more divided politically than ever before. And then if you consider the vast economic differences between groups of people everywhere along with countless other divisive factors, the uniting of individuals out of all these nations, factions, groups, and classes in an unbreakable bond of love and peace is a miracle that could be performed only by Almighty God.—Zech. 4:6.

² But such unity is a reality, and when you became a dedicated, baptized Witness of Jehovah, you became part of it. Your faith has brought you into a spiritual paradise. Benefiting from that paradise, you have the responsibility to help maintain it. This is done by heeding the apostle Paul's words found at Galatians 6:10: "As long as we have time favorable for it, let us work what is good toward all, but especially toward those related to us in the faith." Maintaining the spiritual paradise also means "doing nothing out of con-

tentiousness or out of egotism, but with lowliness of mind considering that the others are superior to you, keeping an eye, not in personal interest upon just your own matters, but also in personal interest upon those of the others." (Phil. 2:3, 4) As long as we train ourselves to see our Christian brothers and sisters as Jehovah sees them and not according to what they are in the flesh—not fixing attention on human imperfection that will eventually disappear—we will continue to enjoy peaceful and happy relationships with them.—Eph. 4:23, 24.

CONCERN FOR ONE ANOTHER

¹ As the apostle Paul illustrated so well, members of the congregation belong to one another and care for one another. (1 Cor. 12:14-26) What affects one part, or segment, of the organization affects all of God's people. We may be separated by great distances from some of the members of the worldwide brotherhood, but we are not less concerned about their welfare. If some of our brothers are being persecuted, the rest of us are greatly distressed. If some are suffering want or have become victims of disaster or war or civil strife, the rest are eager to find ways to render spiritual as well as material assistance.—2 Cor. 1:8-11.

² All of us should pray for our brothers every day. There are brothers who are facing temptations to do what is bad. The sufferings of some of our brothers may be publicly known, but the opposition that others face daily from workmates and from within divided households is relatively unknown. (Matt. 10:35, 36; 1 Thess. 2:14) This is a concern of all because we are a worldwide association of brothers. (1 Pet. 5:9) There are also those working hard in Jehovah's service, taking the lead in the preaching work and

in overseeing congregations. And there are those charged with the oversight of the worldwide work. All need our prayers, by which we demonstrate our genuine interest in our brothers and the love we have for them, even when there may not be anything else that we can personally do to be of assistance.—Eph. 1:16; IThess. 1:2, 3; 5:25.

¹ With all the turmoil on earth during these last days and the resulting emergencies as well as frequent disasters, such as earthquakes and floods, Christian Witnesses of Jehovah must be prepared to come to the aid of one another. At times, this may mean conducting extensive relief efforts and arranging for large amounts of material assistance. First-century Christians set a fine example in this regard. Remembering Jesus' counsel, the disciples in other lands gladly sent material gifts to the brothers in Judea during a time of famine. (Acts 11:27-30; 20:35) The apostle Paul organized relief ministrations so that everything was carried out in an orderly manner. (2 Cor. 9:1-15) In modern times, when our brothers become victims of circumstances and need material relief, the organization and individual Christians are quick to respond and supply what is needed. (END)

SET APART TO DO JEHOVAH'S WILL

Our united, worldwide brotherhood is organized to do Jehovah's will. At this particular time, his will is that the good news of the Kingdom be preached in all the earth for a witness to all the nations. (Matt. 24: 14) While we are doing this work, it is Jehovah's will that we always conduct ourselves in accord with his high moral standards. (1 Pet. 1:14-16) In order to get Jehovah's work done, all of us should be willing to subject ourselves to one another and to work for the

Can the dead really live again?



Would you say . . .

- yes?
- no?
- maybe?

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

“There is going to be a resurrection.”

—Acts 24:15, *New World Translation*.



WHAT THAT CAN MEAN FOR YOU

- Comfort when loved ones die.
—2 Corinthians 1:3, 4.
- Freedom from a morbid fear of death.—Hebrews 2:15.
- A real hope of being reunited with your dead loved ones.—John 5:28, 29.

CAN WE REALLY BELIEVE WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS?

Yes, for at least three reasons:

- **God is the Creator of life.**
The Bible calls Jehovah God “the source of life.” (Psalm 36:9; Acts 17:24, 25) The One who gave life to all living creatures is certainly capable of restoring life to someone who has died.
- **God has resurrected humans in the past.** The Bible reports eight instances of humans—young, old, male, and female—who were brought back to life on earth. Some had been dead for a short while, but one had been in a tomb for four days!—John 11:39-44.
- **God is eager to do it again.** Jehovah hates death; he views it as an enemy. (1 Corinthians 15:26) He has “a yearning” to conquer that enemy, to undo death by means of the resurrection. He longs to bring back those who are in his memory and to see them live on earth again.
—Job 14:14, 15.

If you do not have a Bible, you can read it online at www.jw.org/en
(Go to PUBLICATIONS > BIBLE)

TO THINK ABOUT

Why do we grow old and die?

The Bible answers that question at
GENESIS 3:17-19 and ROMANS 5:12.



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(Indicate which language.)

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53 *Working Together in Unity* (Ephesians 4:3)

1. God has brought us into his fold.
 We enjoy the things he foretold.
Unity and peace we possess,
 Bringing such happiness.
Unity we cherish;
 Harmony is sweet.
In God's work there's much to be done.
 He directs us now through his Son.
May we serve obediently,
 Working in harmony.
2. As we pray for oneness of mind
 And we all take care to be kind,
Love will grow and praise will increase,
 Giving us joy and peace.
Peace is so refreshing,
 Bringing such delight.
As we show true brotherly love,
 God will grant us peace from above.
With his help, united we'll be,
 Serving him endlessly.