

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 21

Song 33 and Prayer

☐ **Congregation Bible Study:**

jr chap. 15 ¶13-20 (30 min.)

☐ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 1 Thessalonians 1–2 Thessalonians 3 (10 min.)

No. 1: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-20 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: What Can We Learn From the Good and the Bad Things That Solomon Did? —Rom. 15:4 (5 min.)

No. 3: What Is the Bible’s Viewpoint as to Interfaith?—*rs* p. 325 ¶1–p. 326 ¶1 (5 min.)

☐ **Service Meeting:**

Song 125

15 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Mark 1:40-42, Mark 7:32-35, and Luke 8:43-48 read. Consider how these accounts can help us in our ministry.

15 min: “Use Our Web Site to Teach Your Children.” Questions and answers. When considering paragraph 3, explain where to find the “Parents’ Guide” and give an example of the instructions found there. When considering paragraph 4, invite comments on how families have made good use of our official Web site for their family worship.

Song 88 and Prayer

Use Our Web Site to Teach Your Children

¹ Our Web site, jw.org, is designed to appeal to people of all ages. The section of the Web site entitled “Children” (go to Bible Teachings > Children) helps young children and their parents to draw close to one another and to Jehovah. (Deut. 6:6, 7) How can you use this section to teach your children?

² **Be Adaptable:** Each child has unique

1. What is the objective of the section of our Web site entitled “Children”?
2. How can you select age-appropriate material to study with your children?

needs. (1 Cor. 13:11) How, then, can you select age-appropriate material to study with your children? Ask yourself: ‘What will capture my children’s interest? How much will they understand? How long is their attention span?’ With children who are three years of age or younger, you might discuss the stories found under “My Bible Lessons.” Other families enjoy the Bible stories in the section “Teach Your Children.” Also, consider the following options.

³ **Family Worship Projects:** These projects are tools to help family heads study with their children. To learn how to use the stories and activities, click the download button, and read the “Parents’ Guide” for each project. Use picture activities, such as coloring pages, to teach younger children. Help older children to complete the study activities. All the activities in each project relate to the same Bible story or lesson, so children of all ages can participate in the same family worship project.

⁴ **Become Jehovah’s Friend:** The videos, songs, and activities in this section of our Web site help parents to inculcate God’s Word into their little children. (Deut. 31:12) Each short animated video teaches an important lesson. Activities such as search-and-find games underscore those lessons. Since children often like to sing—and songs help children to remember what they have learned—Kingdom songs and songs written especially for children are posted regularly.

⁵ Parents, Jehovah wants you to be successful mothers and fathers. So ask him to help you teach your children the truth. (Judg. 13:8) With Jehovah’s support, you can train your children to become “wise for salvation through the faith in connection with Christ Jesus.”—2 Tim. 3:15; Prov. 4:1-4.

3. How can parents effectively use the stories and activities found under “Family Worship Projects”?
4. What can be found in the section “Become Jehovah’s Friend”?
5. Why should parents ask Jehovah to help them to teach their children the truth?

Fear Them Not!

(Matthew 10:28)

1. Ever onward, O my people,
Let the Kingdom tidings go.
Tremble not before our foe.
Let all lovers of truth know
That my reigning Son, Christ Jesus,
To the earth has cast the foe,
Soon to bind the Devil, Satan,
Letting all his victims go.

(CHORUS)

*Fear them not, O my beloved,
Though their boasting threats may fly.
I will keep my faithful servant
As the apple of my eye.*

2. Even though your foes are many,
Though they threaten and revile,
Though they flatter and they smile,
To mislead and to beguile.
Fear them not, my faithful warriors,
Nor their persecution's heat,
For I will preserve the faithful
Till the vict'ry is complete.

(Chorus)

3. Never fear you are forgotten;
I am still your strength and shield.
Though you die upon the field,
Even death to me will yield.
Fear them not who kill the body
But cannot destroy the soul.
To the end may you be faithful;
I will bring you to your goal!

(Chorus)

(See also Deut. 32:10; Neh. 4:14; Ps. 59:1; 83:2, 3.)

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?

from this? In this dangerous time of the end, we could occasionally feel fear. At such times, will we listen to Jehovah, who in effect is telling us: "Do not be afraid"? Earlier in this volume, we considered how God sustained Jeremiah during that truly fearful time. Let us briefly review what happened, in order to see a lesson in it for us.

¹⁴ As the Babylonians tightened their grip on Jerusalem, hunger overtook the people. Soon many were without food. (Jer. 37:21) As if the famine were not enough, Jeremiah was trapped in a place that could become his grave. The princes of Judah had pressed weak-willed King Zedekiah to acquiesce. Then they had Jeremiah thrown into a deep cistern. There was no water in it, just a lot of mire. As Jeremiah began sinking into the mud, he could see no human way out. If you had been in that situation, would you not have felt some fear?—Jer. 38:4-6.

¹⁵ Though he was a mortal like us, Jeremiah trusted Jehovah's word that He would never abandon him. (*Read Jeremiah 15:20, 21.*) Did Jehovah reward that trust? We know for a fact that he did. God moved Ebed-melech to defy the princes and rescue Jeremiah. With the king's permission, Ebed-melech pulled the prophet up out of the cistern, rescuing him from death in that muddy deep.—Jer. 38:7-13.

¹⁶ Even when Jeremiah was back standing on solid ground, he was not out of danger. Pleading in Jeremiah's behalf, Ebed-melech had told the king: "He will die where he is because of the famine. For there is no bread anymore in the city." (Jer. 38:9) Food was so scarce in Jerusalem that people were resorting to cannibalism.

14, 15. (a) In what dangerous situation did Jeremiah find himself?
(b) How did Jehovah fulfill his promise to protect Jeremiah?

16. From what dangers did Jehovah rescue his loyal ones?

Yet, Jehovah again intervened to save his prophet. And Jeremiah passed on to Ebed-melech a guarantee of protection from Jehovah. (Jer. 39:16-18) Jeremiah had not forgotten God's assurance: "I am with you to deliver you." (Jer. 1:8) With Almighty God guarding those two loyal men, neither human enemies nor hunger would finish them off. They escaped death in that doomed city. What is the point? Jehovah promised protection and fulfilled his promise.—Jer. 40:1-4.

¹⁷ The fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy about the conclusion of the system of things is moving inexorably toward its climax. In the near future, there will occur "signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth anguish of nations, not knowing the way out . . . while men become faint out of fear and expectation of the things coming upon the inhabited earth." (Luke 21:25, 26) We must wait to see what form those signs will take and what terror they produce among many. No matter what develops, though, you need never doubt Jehovah's ability and desire to save his people. The out-

17. Why should you put faith in Jehovah's promise to protect his servants?



come for those who do not have his favor, however, will be quite different. (*Read Jeremiah 8:20; 14:9.*) Even if it seems that his servants are in a condition as hopeless as the dank, dark bottom of a cistern, he can rescue them! God's words to Ebed-melech will apply to his people: "'I shall without fail furnish you an escape, and by the sword you will not fall; and you will certainly come to have your soul as a spoil, because you have trusted in me,' is the utterance of Jehovah."—Jer. 39:18.

WORDS WRITTEN FOR YOU

¹⁸ "To all those to whom I shall send you, you should go; and everything that I shall command you, you should speak." (Jer. 1:7) Jeremiah's life changed forever when he heard that command from God. From that moment forward, his overwhelming concern was to announce "the word of Jehovah." That phrase appears repeatedly throughout the book of Jeremiah. In the last chapter, Jeremiah relates the capture of Jerusalem and the exiling of its last king, Zedekiah. Yes, Jeremiah continued teaching and exhorting the people of Judah to obey Jehovah until events made it clear that his work was complete.

¹⁹ There are many parallels between Jeremiah's assignment and the public ministry of Jehovah's Witnesses today. Like him, you serve the true God during a time of judgment. Other responsibilities require some of your time and energy; yet the preaching of the good news

18. (a) What words changed Jeremiah's life? (b) What meaning does God's command at Jeremiah 1:7 have for you?

19, 20. (a) Why is Jeremiah's service a pattern for you? (b) What link is there between the preaching work and finding joy and contentment? (c) How has considering the books of Jeremiah and Lamentations affected you?

is by far the most significant work you can do in this system of things. By means of it, you exalt God's great name and accept his absolute right and authority as Universal Sovereign. (*Read Lamentations 5:19.*) You also demonstrate outstanding love for neighbor by helping others to know the true God and his requirements for life.—Jer. 25:3-6.

²⁰ Regarding the work that Jehovah gave him to do, Jeremiah said: "Your word becomes to me the exultation and the rejoicing of my heart; for your name has been called upon me, O Jehovah God of armies." (Jer. 15:16) Such rejoicing and contentment are set before all today whose hearts move them to speak on behalf of the true God. You thus have good reason to keep proclaiming Jehovah's message, as did Jeremiah.

How can the examples of Jeremiah and Ebed-melech help you to be courageous? What quality of Jeremiah do you want to imitate as you preach?

Would you welcome more information?

You may contact Jehovah's Witnesses at **www.jw.org**.

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

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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.

8 The fact is, not only has the word of Jehovah* sounded out from you in Mac-e-do'ni-a and A-cha'ia but your faith in God has spread abroad in every place,^a so that we do not need to say anything. 9 For they themselves keep reporting about our first contact with you and how you turned to God from your idols^b to slave for a living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from the heavens,^c whom he raised up from the dead, namely, Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.^d

2 You yourselves surely know, brothers, that our visit to you has not been without results.^e 2 For although we had first suffered and been insolently treated in Phi-lip'pi,^f as you know, we mustered up boldness* by means of our God to tell you the good news of God^g in the face of much opposition.^h 3 For the exhortation we give does not spring from error or from uncleanness or with deceit, 4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the good news, so we speak to please, not men, but God, who examines our hearts.^h

5 In fact, you know that we never used flattering speech or put on any false front with greedy motives;ⁱ God is witness! 6 Nor have we been seeking glory from men, either from you or from others, though we could be an expensive burden as apostles of Christ.^j 7 On the contrary, we became gentle in your midst, as when a nursing mother tenderly cares for* her own children. 8 So having tender affection for you, we were determined* to impart to you, not

1:8 *See App. A5. 2:2 *Or "courage." ^aOr possibly, "amid much struggling." 2:7 *Or "cherishes." 2:8 *Lit., "well-pleased."

CHAP. 1

a 2Th 1:4

b 1Co 10:14
1Co 12:2
Ga 4:8
1Jo 5:21c Ac 1:10, 11
Tit 2:13d 1Th 5:2
2Pe 3:12

CHAP. 2

e Ac 17:1, 4

f Ac 16:12
Ac 16:22-24

g Ac 17:1, 2

h Pr 17:3
Jer 11:20

i Ac 20:33

j 2Co 11:9
2Th 3:8, 10

Second Col.

a Joh 15:13

b Joh 13:35

c Ac 18:3
Ac 20:34
2Co 11:9
2Th 3:8, 10

d Ac 20:31

e 1Co 4:15

f Eph 4:1
Col 1:10
1Pe 1:15

g Lu 22:28-30

h 1Pe 5:10

i 1Th 1:2, 3

j Ac 17:5

k Ac 2:22, 23
Ac 7:52

l Mt 23:34

m Lu 11:52
Ac 13:49, 50

n Ro 1:18

only the good news of God but also our very selves,^a because you became so beloved to us.^b

9 Surely you remember, brothers, our labor and toil. We were working night and day, so that we would not put an expensive burden on any one of you,^c when we preached the good news of God to you. 10 You are witnesses, God is also, of how loyal and righteous and blameless we behaved toward you believers. 11 You well know that we kept exhorting and consoling you and bearing witness to each one of you,^d just as a father^e does his children, 12 so that you would go on walking worthily of God,^f who is calling you to his Kingdom^g and glory.^h

13 Indeed, that is why we also thank God unceasingly,ⁱ because when you received God's word, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but, just as it truthfully is, as the word of God, which is also at work in you believers. 14 For you, brothers, became imitators of the congregations of God in union with Christ Jesus that are in Ju-de'a, because you suffered at the hands of your own countrymen^j the same things that they also are suffering at the hands of the Jews, 15 who even killed the Lord Jesus^k and the prophets and persecuted us.^l Furthermore, they are not pleasing God, but are against the interests of all men, 16 as they try to prevent us from speaking to people of the nations so that these might be saved.^m In this way they always fill up the measure of their sins. But his wrath has at last come upon them.ⁿ

17 But when we were separated from* you, brothers, for just a short time (in person, not

2:8 *Or "souls." 2:17 *Or "bereaved of."

in our hearts), because of our strong desire, we made every effort to see you in person.*

18 For this reason we wanted to come to you, yes I, Paul, tried not just once but twice; yet Satan cut across our path. **19** For what is our hope or joy or crown of exultation before our Lord Jesus at his presence? Is it not in fact you?^a **20** You certainly are our glory and joy.

3 So when we could bear it no longer, we thought it best to stay on alone in Athens;^b **2** and we sent Timothy,^c our brother and God's minister* in the good news about the Christ, to make you firm^d and comfort you regarding your faith, **3** so that no one might be shaken* by these tribulations. For you yourselves know that we cannot avoid suffering such things.^{#d}

4 For when we were with you, we used to tell you in advance that we would suffer tribulation, and that is what has happened, just as you know.^e **5** That is why, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn of your faithfulness,^f in case somehow the Tempter^g might have tempted you, and our labor might have turned out to be in vain.

6 But Timothy has just now come to us from you^h and has given us the good news about your faithfulness and love, that you always continue to remember us fondly and that you long to see us in the same way as we also do you. **7** That is why, brothers, in all our distress* and tribulation, we have been comforted because of you and the faithfulness you demonstrate.ⁱ

2:17 *Lit., "to see your face." 3:2 *Or possibly, "and God's fellow worker." #Or "strengthen you." 3:3 *Lit., "swayed." #Or "we are appointed to this." 3:7 *Lit., "necessity."

CHAP. 2

a 1Th 5:23
2Th 1:4

CHAP. 3

b Ac 17:15

c Ac 16:1, 2
Ro 16:21
1Co 16:10

d Ac 14:22
1Co 4:9
1Pe 2:21

e 1Th 2:14

f 1Th 3:2

g Mt 4:3
2Co 11:3

h Ac 18:5

i 2Th 1:4

Second Col.

a 2Th 1:3

b 1Th 4:9
2Th 1:3

c 1Co 1:8

d 1Th 2:19
1Th 5:23
2Th 2:1, 2

CHAP. 4

e Col 1:10
1Pe 2:12

f Joh 17:19
Eph 5:25-27
2Th 2:13
1Pe 1:15, 16

g Eph 5:3

h Col 3:5
2Ti 2:22

i Ro 6:19

j 1Co 6:18
Eph 5:5

k Ps 79:6
Eph 4:17, 19
1Pe 4:3

8 Because we are revitalized* if you are standing firm in the Lord. **9** For how can we show our thanks to God concerning you in return for the great joy we feel before our God on your account? **10** Night and day we make supplications as earnestly as we can to see you in person* and to supply what is lacking in your faith.^a

11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus make a way for us to come to you. **12** Moreover, may the Lord cause you to increase, yes, to abound in love for one another^b and for all, just as we do for you, **13** so that he may make your hearts firm, blameless in holiness before our God^c and Father at the presence of our Lord Jesus^d with all his holy ones.

4 Finally, brothers, just as you received instruction from us on how you should walk in order to please God,^e just as you are in fact walking, we request you and appeal to you by the Lord Jesus to keep doing it more fully. **2** For you know the instructions* we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

3 For this is the will of God, that you should be holy^f and abstain from sexual immorality.*^g **4** Each one of you should know how to control his own body*^h in holinessⁱ and honor, **5** not with greedy, uncontrolled sexual passion^j like the nations have that do not know God.^k **6** No one should go beyond proper limits and take advantage of his brother in this matter, because Jehovah* exacts punishment for all these things, just as we told you previously and also strongly warned you. **7** For God has

3:8 *Lit., "we live." 3:10 *Lit., "your face." 4:2 *Or "orders." 4:3 *Greek, *por-nei'a*. See Glossary. 4:4 *Lit., "vessel." 4:6 *See App. A5.

called us, not for uncleanness, but for holiness.^a **8** So, then, the man who disregards this is disregarding, not man, but God,^b who gives you his holy spirit.^c

9 However, concerning brotherly love,^d you do not need us to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.^e **10** In fact, you are doing so toward all the brothers in all of Mac·e·do·ni·a. But we urge you, brothers, to go on doing so in fuller measure. **11** Make it your aim to live quietly^f and to mind your own business^g and to work with your hands,^h just as we instructed you, **12** so that you may walk decently in the eyes of people outsideⁱ and not need anything.

13 Moreover, brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant* about those who are sleeping in death,^j so that you may not sorrow as the rest do who have no hope.^k **14** For if we have faith that Jesus died and rose again,^l so too God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in death through Jesus.^m **15** For this is what we tell you by Jehovah's* word, that we the living who survive to the presence of the Lord will in no way precede those who have fallen asleep in death; **16** because the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a commanding call, with an archangel'sⁿ voice and with God's trumpet, and those who are dead in union with Christ will rise first.^o **17** Afterward we the living who are surviving will, together with them, be caught away in clouds^p to meet the Lord^q in the air; and thus we will always be with the Lord.^r **18** So keep comforting one another with these words.

4:13 *Or "uninformed." 4:15; 5:2 *See App. A5.

CHAP. 4

- a Heb 12:14
1Pe 1:15, 16
b 1Co 6:18, 19
c 1Jo 3:24
d Ro 12:10
e Joh 13:34, 35
1Pe 1:22
1Jo 4:21
f 2Th 3:11, 12
g 1Pe 4:15
h 1Co 4:11, 12
Eph 4:28
2Th 3:10
1Ti 5:8
i Ro 12:17
j Joh 11:11
k Joh 7:59, 60
1Co 15:6
l 1Co 15:32
m 1Co 15:22, 23
Php 3:20, 21
2Th 2:1
Re 20:4
n Jude 9
o 1Co 15:51, 52
p Ac 1:9
q 2Th 2:1
r Joh 14:3
Joh 17:24
2Co 5:8
Php 1:23
Re 20:6

Second Col.

CHAP. 5

- a Zep 1:14
b Mt 24:36
2Pe 3:10
c Ps 37:10
Jer 8:11
d Joh 12:36
Ro 13:12
Eph 5:8
e Joh 8:12
Col 1:13
1Pe 2:9
f Ro 13:11
g Mt 24:42
h 1Pe 5:8
i Ro 13:13
j Eph 6:14-17
k 2Th 2:13
l Ro 5:8
m 1Th 4:16, 17
n Ro 1:11, 12
Ro 15:2
o Php 2:29, 30
1Ti 5:17
Heb 13:7
p Mr 9:50
2Co 13:11

5 Now as for the times and the seasons, brothers, you need nothing to be written to you. **2** For you yourselves know very well that Jehovah's* day^a is coming exactly as a thief in the night.^b **3** Whenever it is that they are saying, "Peace and security!" then sudden destruction is to be instantly on them,^c just like birth pains on a pregnant woman, and they will by no means escape. **4** But you, brothers, you are not in darkness, so that the day should overtake you as it would thieves, **5** for you are all sons of light and sons of day.^d We belong neither to night nor to darkness.^e

6 So, then, let us not sleep on as the rest do,^f but let us stay awake^g and keep our senses.^h **7** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.ⁱ **8** But as for us who belong to the day, let us keep our senses and put on the breastplate of faith and love and the hope of salvation as a helmet^j **9** because God assigned us, not to wrath, but to the acquiring of salvation^k through our Lord Jesus Christ. **10** He died for us,^l so that whether we stay awake or are asleep,^m we should live together with him.ⁿ **11** Therefore, keep encouraging* one another and building one another up,^o just as you are in fact doing.

12 Now we request you, brothers, to show respect for those who are working hard among you and presiding over you in the Lord and admonishing you; **13** and to give them extraordinary consideration in love because of their work.^o Be peaceable with one another.^p **14** On the other hand, we

5:10 *Or "asleep in death." 5:11 *Or "comforting."

urge you, brothers, to warn* the disorderly,^a speak consolingly to those who are depressed,[#] support the weak, be patient toward all.^b **15** See that no one repays injury for injury to anyone,^c but always pursue what is good toward one another and to all others.^d

16 Always be rejoicing.^e **17** Pray constantly.^f **18** Give thanks for everything.^g This is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. **19** Do not put out the fire of the spirit.^h **20** Do not treat prophecies with contempt.ⁱ **21** Make sure of all things;^j hold fast to what is fine. **22** Abstain from every form of wickedness.^k

5:14 *Or "admonish." #Or "those who are discouraged." Lit., "those of little soul."

CHAP. 5

- a Le 19:17
2Ti 4:2
b 1Co 13:4
Ga 5:22
Eph 4:1, 2
Col 3:13
c Mt 5:39
d Ro 12:17, 19
e 2Co 6:4, 10
Php 4:4
f Lu 18:1
Ro 12:12
g Eph 5:20
Col 3:17
h Eph 4:30
i 1Co 14:1
j 1Jo 4:1
k Job 2:3

Second Col.

- a 1Co 1:8
b Ro 15:30
c Col 4:16

23 May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely. And may the spirit and soul* and body of you brothers, sound in every respect, be preserved blameless at the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ.^a

24 The one who is calling you is faithful, and he will surely do so.

25 Brothers, keep praying for us.^b

26 Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss.

27 I am putting you under the solemn obligation by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers.^c

28 The undeserved kindness of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

5:23 *Or "life." See Glossary.

THE SECOND TO THE

THESSALONIANS

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

2 May you have undeserved kindness and peace from God

1:1 *Also called Silas.

CHAP. 1

- a 2Co 1:19

Second Col.

- a 1Th 3:12
1Th 4:9, 10

the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 We are obligated always to give thanks to God for you, brothers. This is fitting, because your faith is growing exceedingly and the love of each and every one of you is increasing toward one another.^a **4** As

a result we ourselves take pride in you^a among the congregations of God because of your endurance and faith in all your persecutions and the hardships* that you are suffering.^{#b} **5** This is a proof of the righteous judgment of God, leading to your being counted worthy of the Kingdom of God, for which you are indeed suffering.^c

6 This takes into account that it is righteous on God's part to repay tribulation to those who make tribulation for you.^d

7 But you who suffer tribulation will be given relief along with us at the revelation of the Lord Jesus^e from heaven with his powerful angels^f **8** in a flaming fire, as he brings vengeance on those who do not know God and those who do not obey the good news about our Lord Jesus.^g **9** These very ones will undergo the judicial punishment of everlasting destruction^h from before the Lord and from the glory of his strength, **10** at the time when he comes to be glorified in connection with his holy ones and to be regarded in that day with wonder among all those who exercised faith, because the witness we gave met with faith among you.

11 To that very end we always pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his callingⁱ and with his power perform completely all the good that he pleases and every work of faith. **12** This is so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you and you in union with him, according to the undeserved kindness of our God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 However, brothers, concerning the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ^j and our being gathered together to him,^k

1:4 *Or "tribulations." #Or "enduring."

CHAP. 1

a 1Th 2:19

b 1Th 1:6
1Th 2:14
1Pe 2:21

c Ac 14:22
Ro 8:17
2Ti 2:12

d Ro 12:19
Re 6:9, 10

e Lu 17:29, 30
1Pe 1:7

f Mr 8:38

g Ro 2:8

h 2Pe 3:7

i Ro 8:30

CHAP. 2

j Mt 24:3

k 1Th 4:17

Second Col.

a 1Jo 4:1

b Zep 1:14
2Pe 3:10

c 1Ti 4:1
2Ti 2:16-18
2Ti 4:3
2Pe 2:1
1Jo 2:18, 19

d Mt 7:15
Ac 20:29, 30

e 2Pe 2:1, 3

f Ac 20:29, 30
1Co 11:18, 19
1Jo 2:18

g Isa 11:4
Re 19:15

h 1Ti 6:13-15
2Ti 4:1, 8

i 2Co 11:3

j Mt 24:24

k Mt 24:11

l Mt 24:5
1Ti 4:1
2Ti 4:3, 4

we ask you **2** not to be quickly shaken from your reason nor to be alarmed either by an inspired statement^{*a} or by a spoken message or by a letter appearing to be from us, to the effect that the day of Jehovah^{#b} is here.

3 Let no one lead you astray^{*} in any way, because it will not come unless the apostasy^c comes first and the man of lawlessness^d gets revealed, the son of destruction.^e **4** He stands in opposition and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship,^{*} so that he sits down in the temple of God, publicly showing himself to be a god. **5** Do you not remember that when I was still with you, I used to tell you these things?

6 And now you know what is acting as a restraint, so that he will be revealed in his own due time. **7** True, the mystery of this lawlessness is already at work,^f but only until the one who is right now acting as a restraint is out of the way. **8** Then, indeed, the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will do away with by the spirit of his mouth^g and bring to nothing by the manifestation^h of his presence. **9** But the lawless one's presence is by the operation of Satanⁱ with every powerful work and lying signs and wonders^{*j} **10** and every unrighteous deception^k for those who are perishing, as a retribution because they did not accept the love of the truth in order that they might be saved. **11** That is why God lets a deluding influence mislead them so that they may come to believe the lie,^l **12** in order that they all may be judged because they

2:2 *Or "by a spirit." See Glossary, "Spirit." #See App. A5. 2:3 *Or "seduce you." 2:4 *Or "reverence." 2:9 *Or "portents."

did not believe the truth but took pleasure in unrighteousness.

13 However, we are obligated always to thank God for you, brothers loved by Jehovah,* because from the beginning God selected you^a for salvation by sanctifying you^b with his spirit and by your faith in the truth. **14** He called you to this through the good news we declare, so that you may acquire the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.^c **15** So, then, brothers, stand firm^d and maintain your hold on the traditions that you were taught,^e whether it was by a spoken message or by a letter from us. **16** Moreover, may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us^f and gave everlasting comfort and good hope^g by means of undeserved kindness, **17** comfort your hearts and make you firm* in every good deed and word.

3 Finally, brothers, carry on prayer for us,^h that the word of Jehovah* may keep spreading rapidlyⁱ and being glorified, just as it is with you, **2** and that we may be rescued from harmful and wicked men,^j for faith is not a possession of all people.^k **3** But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the wicked one. **4** Moreover, we have confidence in the Lord regarding you, that you are carrying out and will go on carrying out our instructions. **5** May the Lord continue to guide your hearts successfully to the love of God^l and to the endurance^m for the Christ.

6 Now we are giving you instructions, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to withdraw from every brother

2:13; 3:1 *See App. A5. 2:17 *Or "strengthen you."

CHAP. 2

- a Joh 6:44
Ro 8:30
b Joh 17:17
1Co 6:11
1Th 4:7
c 1Pe 5:10
d 1Co 15:58
1Co 16:13
e 1Co 11:2
f 1Jo 4:10
g 1Pe 1:3, 4

CHAP. 3

- h Ro 15:30
1Th 5:25
Heb 13:18
i Ac 19:20
1Th 1:8
j Isa 25:4
k Ac 28:24
Ro 10:16
l 1Jo 5:3
m Lu 21:19
Ro 5:3

Second Col.

- a 1Th 5:14
b 1Co 11:2
2Th 2:15
2Th 3:14
c 1Co 4:16
1Th 1:6
d Ac 20:34
e Ac 18:3
1Co 9:14, 15
2Co 11:9
1Th 2:9
f Mt 10:9, 10
1Co 9:6, 7
g 1Co 11:1
Php 3:17
h 1Th 4:11, 12
1Ti 5:8
i 1Th 5:14
j 1Ti 5:13
1Pe 4:15
k Eph 4:28
l 2Th 3:6
m 1Th 5:14
n Joh 14:27
o 1Co 16:21
Col 4:18

who is walking disorderly^a and not according to the tradition* that you^f received from us.^b

7 For you yourselves know how you should imitate us,^c because we did not behave in a disorderly way among you, **8** nor did we eat anyone's food free.*^d On the contrary, by labor and toil we were working night and day so as not to impose an expensive burden on any one of you.^e **9** Not that we do not have authority,^f but we wanted to offer ourselves as an example for you to imitate.^g **10** In fact, when we were with you, we used to give you this order: "If anyone does not want to work, neither let him eat."^h **11** For we hear that some are walking disorderly among you,ⁱ not working at all, but meddling with what does not concern them.^j **12** To such people we give the order and exhortation in the Lord Jesus Christ that they should work quietly and eat food they themselves earn.^k

13 For your part, brothers, do not give up in doing good. **14** But if anyone is not obedient to our word through this letter, keep this one marked and stop associating with him,^l so that he may become ashamed. **15** And yet do not consider him an enemy, but continue admonishing him^m as a brother.

16 Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace constantly in every way.ⁿ May the Lord be with all of you.

17 Here is my greeting, Paul's, in my own hand,^o which is a sign in every letter; this is the way I write.

18 The undeserved kindness of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you.

3:6 *Or "instruction." ^fOr possibly, "they." 3:8 *Or "without paying."

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

idols? . . . “Therefore get out from among them, and separate yourselves,” says Jehovah, “and quit touching the unclean thing”; “and I will take you in.””

Rev. 18:4, 5: “I heard another voice out of heaven say: ‘Get out of her, my people, if you do not want to share with her in her sins, and if you do not want to receive part of her plagues. For her sins have massed together clear up to heaven, and God has called her acts of injustice to mind.’” (For details, see the main heading “Babylon the Great.”)

Is belonging to an organized religion necessary?

Most religious organizations have produced bad fruitage. It is not the fact that groups are organized that is bad. But many have promoted forms of worship that are based on false teachings and are largely ritualistic instead of providing genuine spiritual guidance; they have been misused to control the lives of people for selfish objectives; they have been overly concerned with money collections and ornate houses of worship instead of spiritual values; their members are often hypocritical. Obviously no one who loves righteousness would want to belong to such an organization. But true religion is a refreshing contrast to all of that. Nevertheless, to fulfill the Bible’s requirements, it must be organized.

Heb. 10:24, 25: “Let us consider one another to incite to love and fine works, not forsaking the gathering of ourselves together, as some have the custom, but encouraging one another, and all the more so as you behold the day drawing near.” (To carry out this Scriptural command, there must be Christian meetings that we can attend on a consistent basis. Such an arrangement encourages us to express love toward others, not only concern about self.)

1 Cor. 1:10: “Now I exhort you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that you should all speak in agreement, and that there should not be divisions among you, but that you may be fitly united in the same mind and in the same line of thought.” (Such

*Loyally Submitting
to Theocratic Order*
(1 Corinthians 14:33)

1. As Jehovah's people sound throughout the earth
Truths about the Kingdom and its priceless worth,
Theocratic order they must all obey
And remain united, loyalty display.

(CHORUS)

*Loyal submission in recognition,
This to our God we owe.
He gives protection, tender affection,
Loyalty to him we show.*

2. God provides his steward and his active force.
These will ever guide us in our Christian course.
So may we be steadfast, seeking God to please,
Loyally proclaiming all his wise decrees!

(Chorus)

with various sicknesses,^a and he expelled many demons, but he would not let the demons speak, for they knew him to be Christ.*

35 Early in the morning, while it was still dark, he got up and went outside and left for an isolated place, and there he began praying.^b **36** However, Simon and those with him hunted him down **37** and found him, and they said to him: "Everyone is looking for you." **38** But he said to them: "Let us go somewhere else, into the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also, for this is why I have come."^c **39** And he went, preaching in their synagogues throughout the whole of Gal'i-lee and expelling the demons.^d

40 There also came to him a leper, pleading with him even on bended knee, saying to him: "If you just want to, you can make me clean."^e **41** At that he was moved with pity, and he stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him: "I want to! Be made clean."^f **42** Immediately the leprosy vanished from him, and he became clean. **43** Then he gave him strict orders and at once sent him away, **44** saying to him: "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing the things Moses directed,^g for a witness to them."^h **45** But after going away, the man started to proclaim it a great deal and to spread the account widely, so that Jesus was no longer able to enter openly into a city, but he stayed outside in isolated places. Yet they kept coming to him from all sides.ⁱ

2 However, after some days he again entered into Ca-per'-na-um, and the word spread that he was at home.^j **2** And so

1:34 *Or possibly, "they knew who he was."

CHAP. 1

a Isa 53:4

b Mt 14:23
Mr 14:32
Lu 4:42
Heb 5:7c Isa 61:1
Lu 4:43
Joh 17:4

d Mt 4:23

e Mt 8:1, 2
Lu 5:12f Mt 8:3
Lu 5:13g Le 14:3, 4
Le 14:10, 11
De 24:8h Mt 8:4
Lu 5:14

i Lu 5:15

CHAP. 2

j Mt 4:13
Mt 9:1

Second Col.

a Isa 61:1
Eph 2:17
Heb 2:3

b Lu 5:18, 19

c Ac 14:9, 10

d Isa 53:11
Mt 9:2
Lu 5:20
Lu 7:47, 48e Mt 9:3-8
Lu 5:21-26

f Isa 43:25

g Mt 9:4
Lu 6:8
Re 2:23

h Da 7:13

i Isa 53:11

j Mt 9:33
Joh 7:31
Joh 9:32k Mt 9:9
Lu 5:27, 28

many gathered that there was no more room, not even around the door, and he began to speak the word to them.^a **3** And they brought him a paralytic carried by four men.^b **4** But they could not bring him right to Jesus because of the crowd, so they removed the roof above Jesus, and after digging an opening, they lowered the stretcher on which the paralytic was lying. **5** When Jesus saw their faith,^c he said to the paralytic: "Child, your sins are forgiven."^d **6** Now some of the scribes were there, sitting and reasoning in their hearts:^e **7** "Why is this man talking this way? He is blaspheming. Who can forgive sins except one, God?"^f **8** But immediately Jesus discerned by his spirit that they were reasoning that way among themselves, so he said to them: "Why are you reasoning these things in your hearts?^g **9** Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and pick up your stretcher and walk'?" **10** But in order for you to know that the Son of man^h has authority to forgive sins on earth—ⁱ he said to the paralytic: **11** "I say to you, Get up, pick up your stretcher, and go to your home." **12** At that he got up and immediately picked up his stretcher and walked out in front of them all. So they were all astonished, and they glorified God, saying: "We have never seen anything like this."^j

13 Again he went out alongside the sea, and all the crowd kept coming to him, and he began to teach them. **14** And as he was passing by, he caught sight of Le'vi the son of Al-phae'-us sitting at the tax office, and he said to him: "Be my follower." At that he rose up and followed him.^k **15** Later he was dining*

2:15 *Or "reclining at the table."

let him do a single thing for his father or his mother.^a **13** Thus you make the word of God invalid by your tradition that you have handed down.^b And you do many things like this.”^c **14** So calling the crowd to him again, he said to them: “Listen to me, all of you, and understand the meaning.^d **15** Nothing from outside a man that enters into him can defile him; but the things that come out of a man are the things that defile him.”^e **16** *—

17 Now when he had entered a house away from the crowd, his disciples began to question him about the illustration.^f **18** So he said to them: “Are you also without understanding like them? Are you not aware that nothing from outside that enters into a man can defile him, **19** since it enters, not into his heart, but into his stomach, and it passes out into the sewer?” Thus he declared all foods clean. **20** Further, he said: “That which comes out of a man is what defiles him.^g **21** For from inside, out of the heart of men,^h come injurious reasonings, sexual immorality,* thefts, murders, **22** acts of adultery, greed, acts of wickedness, deceit, brazen conduct,* an envious eye, blasphemy, haughtiness, and unreasonableness. **23** All these wicked things come from within and defile a man.”

24 He rose up from there and went into the region of Tyre and Si'don.ⁱ There he entered into a house and did not want anyone to know it, but he could not escape notice. **25** Immediately, a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit

7:16 *See App. A3. 7:21 *Plural of the Greek *por-nei'a*. See Glossary. 7:22 *Or “shameless conduct.” Greek, *a-sel-gei-a*. See Glossary.

CHAP. 7

- a 1Ti 5:8
- b Mt 15:6
- c Mr 7:3
- d Mt 15:10
- e Mt 15:11
Tit 1:15
- f Mt 15:15-20
- g Mt 15:18
- h Ge 6:5
Ge 8:21
Jer 17:9
- i Mt 15:21

Second Col.

- a Mt 15:22-28
- b Mt 10:5, 6
Mt 15:26
Ro 9:4
Eph 2:12
- c Mt 15:28
- d Joh 4:49-51
- e Mt 15:29
- f Mt 9:32, 33
Lu 11:14
- g Mr 8:23
Joh 9:6
- h Isa 35:5
Mt 11:5
Mt 15:30
- i Isa 42:2
Mt 8:3, 4
Mr 5:42, 43
- j Mr 1:43-45
- k Ac 14:11

l Isa 35:5, 6
Mt 15:31

heard about him and came and fell down at his feet.^a **26** The woman was a Greek, a Sy-ro-phoe-ni'cian by nationality;* and she kept asking him to expel the demon from her daughter. **27** But he said to her: “First let the children be satisfied, for it is not right to take the bread of the children and throw it to the little dogs.”^b **28** But she replied to him: “Yes, sir, and yet even the little dogs underneath the table eat of the crumbs of the little children.” **29** At that he said to her: “Because you said this, go; the demon has gone out of your daughter.”^c **30** So she went away to her home and found the young child lying on the bed, and the demon was gone.^d

31 When Jesus returned from the region of Tyre, he went through Si'don to the Sea of Gal'i-lee, through the region of De-cap'o-lis.*^e **32** Here they brought him a deaf man with a speech impediment,^f and they pleaded with him to lay his hand on him. **33** And he took him aside privately, away from the crowd. Then he put his fingers into the man's ears, and after spitting, he touched his tongue.^g **34** And looking up into heaven, he sighed deeply and said to him: “*Eph'pha-tha*,” that is, “Be opened.” **35** At this his ears were opened,^h and his speech impediment was removed, and he began speaking normally. **36** With that he ordered them not to tell anyone,ⁱ but the more he would order them, the more they would proclaim it.^j **37** Indeed, they were astounded beyond measure,^k and they said: “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the speechless speak.”^l

7:26 *Or “by birth.” 7:31 *Or “the Ten City Region.”

35 Then people went out to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had come out, clothed and in his right mind, sitting at the feet of Jesus, and they grew fearful.

36 Those who had seen it reported to them how the demon-possessed man had been made well. **37** Then a great number from the surrounding region of the Ger'a-senes asked Jesus to go away from them, because they were gripped by great fear. Then he went aboard the boat to depart. **38** However, the man from whom the demons had gone out kept begging to continue with him, but he sent the man away, saying:^a **39** "Go back home, and keep on relating what God did for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what Jesus had done for him.

40 When Jesus returned, the crowd received him kindly, for they were all expecting him.^b

41 But look! a man named Ja'irus came; this man was a presiding officer of the synagogue. And he fell at the feet of Jesus and began to plead with him to come to his house,^c **42** because his only* daughter, who was about 12 years old, was dying.

As Jesus was going, the crowds pressed in on him. **43** Now there was a woman who had a flow of blood^d for 12 years, and she had not been able to get a cure from anyone.^e **44** She approached from behind and touched the fringe of his outer garment,^f and immediately her flow of blood stopped. **45** So Jesus said: "Who touched me?" When they were all denying it, Peter said: "Instructor, the crowds are hemming you in and pressing against you."^g **46** But

8:42 *Lit., "only-begotten."

CHAP. 8

a Mr 5:18-20

b Mr 5:21

c Mt 9:18, 19
Mr 5:22-24

d Le 15:25

e Mt 9:20-22
Mr 5:25-29

f Nu 15:38, 39

g Mr 5:30-34

Second Col.

a Lu 5:17

b Mt 9:22
Lu 7:50

c Mr 5:35-37

d Joh 11:25
Ro 4:17

e Lu 7:12, 13

f Mt 9:23-26
Mr 5:38-43
Joh 11:11
Ac 7:60
Ac 13:36

g Mr 5:41
Lu 7:14
Joh 11:43

h Ge 2:7
Ec 3:19
Isa 42:5

i Mr 5:42

j Mr 7:35, 36

CHAP. 9

k Mr 6:7

l Mt 10:1

Jesus said: "Someone touched me, for I know that power^a went out of me." **47** Seeing that she had not escaped notice, the woman came trembling and fell down before him and declared before all the people why she touched him and how she was healed immediately. **48** But he said to her: "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace."^b

49 While he was yet speaking, a representative of the presiding officer of the synagogue came, saying: "Your daughter has died; do not bother the Teacher any longer."^c **50** On hearing this, Jesus answered him: "Have no fear, only have faith, and she will be saved."^d **51** When he reached the house, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John, James, and the girl's father and mother. **52** But people were all weeping and beating themselves in grief for her. So he said: "Stop weeping,^e for she did not die but is sleeping."^f

53 At this they began to laugh at him scornfully, because they knew she had died. **54** But he took her by the hand and called to her: "Child, get up!"^g **55** And her spirit^{*h} returned, and she rose immediately,ⁱ and he ordered that something be given her to eat. **56** Well, her parents were beside themselves, but he instructed them to tell no one what had happened.^j

9 Then he called the Twelve together and gave them power and authority over all the demons^k and to cure diseases.^l **2** And he sent them out to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal, **3** and he said to them: "Carry nothing for the trip, neither staff nor food pouch nor bread nor money;^{*} neither have

8:55 *Or "life force." 9:3 *Lit., "silver."

88 *Children Are a Trust From God* (Psalm 127:3-5)

1. When a man becomes a father

And a woman has a child of her own,
They share a trust, they must remember,
That is not theirs, not theirs alone.
The gift they share is from Jehovah;
Of life and love he is the one true Source.
To parents he gives sure direction
That they may follow the wisest course.

(CHORUS)

*A sacred trust you have been given;
A precious life is in your hands.
You can bestow the greatest favor;
Instruct your child in God's commands.*

2. All the words God has commanded—

They must always prove to be on your heart.
These words you'll speak to sons and daughters;
This is your trust, this is your part.
To them you'll speak along your roadway,
When you rise up and when you are at rest.
In years to come, may they remember,
May they be faithful, may they be blessed.

(Chorus)