

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 2

Song 123 and Prayer

□ Congregation Bible Study:

jl Lessons 14-16 (30 min.)

□ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: 1 Peter 1-2 Peter 3 (10 min.)

No. 1: 1 Peter 2:18-3:7 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: **The Right Religion Is Bible-Based and Makes Known God's Name**—*rs* p. 328 ¶4-5 (5 min.)

No. 3: **Why We Are Sure That Jesus Is the Messiah**—Luke 24:44; Gal. 4:4 (5 min.)

□ Service Meeting:

Song 116

5 min: **Start a Bible Study on the First Saturday.** Talk. Encourage all to share in starting Bible studies on the first Saturday in December. Briefly demonstrate how this may be done by using the back cover of *The Watchtower*.

15 min: **Have You Tried It?** Discussion. By means of a talk, briefly review information from these recent articles in *Our Kingdom Ministry*: “Our Official Web Site—Designed to Benefit Us and Others” (*km* 12/12), “Use Videos in Your Teaching,” and “Who Would Be Interested in This?” (*km* 5/13). Invite audience to comment on how they have benefited from applying the suggestions in these articles.

10 min: **Local needs.**

Song 12 and Prayer

Announcements

■ **November:** Special campaign distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 38. If the congregation works all of its territory or places its entire supply of *Kingdom News*, publishers should offer *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* **December:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* **January and February:** Feature one of the following 32-page brochures: *Good News From God!*, *Listen to God*, or *Listen to God and Live Forever*.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in December

“Many people are looking for Jesus to return. If Jesus came back, what is one thing you would like him to do?” Allow for response. Show the back of the December 1 *Watchtower*, and consider together the material under the first question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® December 1 ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

“Life is so busy these days that it can be a challenge to think about God. Do you think it's important to have God in our life? [Allow for response.] In his famous Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said that we need spiritual values to be truly happy. [Read Matthew 5:3.] This magazine outlines three reasons why we need God.”

Awake!® December

“Most of us form opinions based on what we hear or read in the news media. Do you think that the news we receive is accurate and truthful? [Allow for response.] The Bible recommends caution when it comes to trusting what we hear. [Read Job 12:11.] This magazine gives some tips to help us test out the words we hear and read.”

Field Service Highlights

As of May 2013, there were 223 sign-language congregations and 58 groups in the 11 geographic locations cared for by the United States branch office. These are in 12 sign-language circuits. On average, 5,915 Bible studies are conducted each month in the sign-language field. Additionally, 15 sign-language congregations in Canada receive regular visits from a U.S. traveling overseer fluent in ASL. Certainly, these efforts are a fine expression of silent praise to Jehovah God.—Ps. 113:1.



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

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

(CHORUS)

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

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

(Chorus)

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

(Chorus)

What Is Missionary Service?

Would you be willing and able to leave your family and homeland to take the good news abroad? Thousands of Witnesses have done so, saying, in effect, “Here I am! Send me.” (Isaiah 6:8) They have thus imitated the greatest Missionary ever, Jesus Christ.—John 7:29.



United States

It is a way to walk in Jesus’ footsteps. Jesus was sent by God from heaven to the earth to live among sinful humans. Although he saw injustices here, Jesus did not try to reform society. He concentrated on his mission to “declare the good news of the kingdom of God” —the only solution to mankind’s problems. (Luke 4:43) Genuine Christian missionaries follow his example.



Gilead School,
Patterson, New York

It is a self-sacrificing lifestyle. A missionary must be able to adapt to a standard of living, culture, climate, and food that may be totally different from what he is used to. It is often necessary to learn a new language to communicate with the local population. Primitive transportation may have to be used to reach isolated areas. In order to make such sacrifices, missionaries must genuinely love the people among whom they serve.



It requires good training. Many Witnesses who enter missionary service attend a five-month study course at the **Watchtower Bible School of Gilead**. The curriculum strengthens their confidence in Jehovah, in his Word, and in his organization. (Proverbs 3:5, 6) It helps them to cultivate spiritual qualities that will be needed in their missionary life and skills that will enable them to be better Bible teachers. They become more qualified to preach “to the most distant part of the earth.”—Acts 1:8.



Panama

- What is required of a missionary?
- What special schooling is provided for our missionaries?

GILEAD SCHOOL HAS HAD AN IMPACT!

In Hebrew, “Gilead” means “Witness Heap.” Since 1943, more than 8,000 Gilead-trained missionaries have been sent out to give a heap of witness in some 200 lands, with great success. For example, when our

missionaries first arrived in Peru, we had no congregations there—now we have 1,255. When our missionaries began serving in Japan, we had fewer than ten Witnesses there—now we have over 200,000.



Finland



Teaching

Shepherding



Witnessing



How Do the Elders Serve the Congregation?

We do not have a paid clergy in our organization. Instead, as was done when the Christian congregation got its start, qualified overseers are appointed “to shepherd the congregation of God.” (Acts 20:28) These elders are spiritually mature men who take the lead in the congregation and shepherd, “not under compulsion, but willingly; neither for love of dishonest gain, but eagerly.” (1 Peter 5:1-3) What work do they perform in our behalf?

They care for us and watch over us. The elders guide and help to protect the congregation spiritually. Aware that God has entrusted them with this important role, the elders do not dominate his people, but rather, they contribute to our well-being and joy. (2 Corinthians 1:24) Just as a shepherd diligently cares for each one of his sheep, the elders try to get to know every member of the congregation individually.—Proverbs 27:23.

They teach us how to do God’s will. Every week, the elders preside over the congregation meetings in order to strengthen our faith. (Acts 15:32) These devoted men also take the lead in the evangelizing activity, working with us and training us in all features of the ministry.

They give us personal encouragement. In order to care for our individual spiritual needs, local elders may visit with us in our home or at the Kingdom Hall to offer help and comfort from the Scriptures.—James 5:14, 15.

In addition to their work in the congregation, most elders also have secular jobs and family responsibilities that require their time and attention. These hardworking brothers deserve our respect.—1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13.

- What is the role of the congregation elders?
- In what ways do the elders show personal interest in us?

FIND OUT MORE

Who qualify to serve? You can read the Scriptural qualifications for elders and ministerial servants at 1 Timothy 3:1-10, 12, and Titus 1:5-9.



What Is the Role of the Ministerial Servants?

The Bible describes two groups of Christian men who care for congregation responsibilities—“overseers and ministerial servants.” (Philippians 1:1) Generally, there are a number of such brothers serving in each congregation. What work do the ministerial servants perform for our benefit?

They assist the body of elders. The ministerial servants are spiritually-minded, reliable, and conscientious men, some younger, others older. They care for the important but often routine organizational and physical tasks that must be handled in the congregation. This allows the elders to focus on teaching and shepherding responsibilities.

They render practical services. Some ministerial servants are assigned as attendants to welcome all who arrive at the meetings. Others may handle the sound equipment, the distribution of literature, the congregation accounts, and the assigning of witnessing territory to members of the congregation. They also assist in maintenance of the Kingdom Hall. Elders may ask them to provide help for elderly ones. Whatever responsibilities ministerial servants are given, their willingness to carry these out earns them the respect of all.—1 Timothy 3:13.

They set a good example as Christian men. Ministerial servants are chosen for their fine spiritual qualities. When they handle parts on the meetings, they strengthen our faith. By taking a lead in the preaching activity, they stimulate our zeal. Because of their cooperative spirit, they promote joy and unity. (Ephesians 4:16) In time, they too may qualify to serve as elders.

- What sort of men are the ministerial servants?
- How do the servants help the congregation to function smoothly?



Myanmar



Meeting part



Service group



Kingdom Hall maintenance

FIND OUT MORE

Each time you go to the Kingdom Hall, become acquainted with one of the elders or ministerial servants until you get to know all of them and their families.



The Judge is standing before the doors. **10** Brothers, take as a pattern of the suffering of evil^a and the exercising of patience^b the prophets who spoke in the name of Jehovah.*^c **11** Look! We consider happy[#] those who have endured.^d You have heard of the endurance of Job^e and have seen the outcome Jehovah* gave,^f that Jehovah* is very tender in affection[^] and merciful.^g

12 Above all, my brothers, stop swearing, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath. But let your "Yes" mean yes and your "No," no,^h so that you do not become liable to judgment.

13 Is there anyone suffering hardship among you? Let him carry on prayer.ⁱ Is there anyone in good spirits? Let him sing psalms.^j **14** Is there anyone sick among you? Let him call the elders^k of the congregation to him, and let them pray over him, applying oil to him^l in the name of Jehovah.* **15** And

5:10, 11, 14, 15 *See App. A5. 5:11 #Or "blessed." ^Or "very compassionate."

CHAP. 5

- a Mt 5:12
- b Heb 6:12
- c 2Ch 36:16
- d Jas 1:2-4
- e Job 1:20, 21
- f Job 42:10
- g Ps 103:8
Lu 6:36
- h Mt 5:34-37
- i Ps 50:15
- j Col 3:16
- k Ac 20:28, 35
1Pe 5:2
- l Ps 141:5
Mr 6:13
Lu 10:34

Second Col.

- a 2Sa 12:13
Ps 32:5
Pr 28:13
1Jo 1:9
- b 1Sa 12:18
1Ki 13:6
- c 1Ki 17:1
- d 1Ki 18:42, 45
- e Ga 6:1
- f 1Ti 4:16

the prayer of faith will make the sick one[#] well, and Jehovah* will raise him up. Also, if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

16 Therefore, openly confess your sins^a to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. A righteous man's supplication has a powerful effect.*^b **17** E-li'jah was a man with feelings like ours, and yet when he prayed earnestly for it not to rain, it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.^c **18** Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the land produced fruit.^d

19 My brothers, if anyone among you is led astray from the truth and another turns him back, **20** know that whoever turns a sinner back from the error^e of his way will save him* from death and will cover a multitude of sins.^f

5:15 #Or possibly, "tired one." 5:16 *Lit., "has much force when it is at work." 5:20 *Or "his soul."

THE FIRST OF PETER

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

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Living stones built into a spiritual house (4-10)
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Proper subjection (13-25)
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|---|---|

1 Peter, an apostle^a of Jesus Christ, to the temporary residents scattered about in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia,^b Asia, and Bithynia, to those chosen **2** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father,^c with sanctification by the spirit,^d for the purpose of being obedient and sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ:^e

May undeserved kindness and peace be increased to you.

3 Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for according to his great mercy he gave us a new birth^f to a living hope^g through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,^h **4** to an incorruptible and undefiled and unfading inheritance.ⁱ It is reserved in the heavens for you,^j **5** who are being safeguarded by God's power through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last period of time. **6** Because of this you are greatly rejoicing, though for a short time, if it must be, you have been distressed by various trials,^k **7** in order that the tested quality of your faith,^l of much greater value than gold that perishes despite its being tested* by fire, may be found a cause for praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.^m **8** Though you never saw him, you love him. Though you do not see him now, yet you exercise faith in him and are greatly rejoicing with an indescribable and glorious joy, **9** as you attain the goal of your faith, your salvation.ⁿ

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the undeserved kindness meant for you made a diligent inquiry and a care-

1:7 *Or "refined." 1:9 *Or "the salvation of your souls."

CHAP. 1

- a Mt 10:2
b Ac 2:5, 9
c Ro 8:29
d 2Th 2:13
e Heb 12:22, 24
f 1Pe 1:23
g Re 20:6
h 1Co 15:20
i 1Co 15:53
j 2Ti 1:10
k 1Pe 5:4
l Joh 14:2
m 2Ti 4:8
n 2Co 4:17
o 2Ti 3:12
p Jas 1:2, 3
q 2Th 1:7
r Ro 6:22

Second Col.

- a Mt 13:17
b Da 9:24-27
c Isa 53:5
d Joh 15:26
e Ac 2:4
f Lu 12:35
g Eph 5:17
h 1Pe 4:7
i De 28:9
j Ro 12:1
k Heb 12:14
l He 11:44
m Le 19:2
n Le 20:7, 26
o De 10:17
p 2Co 7:1
q 1Co 6:20
r Isa 53:12
s Heb 9:14
t Ex 12:5
u Le 22:20
v Joh 1:29
w 1Co 5:7

- o Joh 17:5
p Eph 1:4

- q Col 1:26, 27

ful search.^a **11** They kept on investigating what particular time or what season the spirit within them was indicating concerning Christ^b as it testified beforehand about the sufferings meant for Christ^c and about the glory that would follow. **12** It was revealed to them that they were ministering, not to themselves, but to you, regarding what has now been announced to you by those who declared the good news to you with holy spirit sent from heaven.^d Into these very things, angels are desiring to peer.

13 So brace up your minds for activity;^e keep your senses completely;^f set your hope on the undeserved kindness that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **14** As obedient children, stop being molded by* the desires you formerly had in your ignorance, **15** but like the Holy One who called you, become holy yourselves in all your conduct,^g **16** for it is written: "You must be holy, because I am holy."^h

17 And if you are calling on the Father who judges impartiallyⁱ according to each one's work, conduct yourselves with fear^j during the time of your temporary residence. **18** For you know that it was not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, that you were set free*^k from your futile way of life handed down to you by your forefathers.^l **19** But it was with precious blood,^m that of an unblemished and spotless lamb,ⁿ that of Christ.^o **20** True, he was foreknown before the founding of the world,^p but he was made manifest at the end of the times for your sake.^p

1:14 *Or "fashioned after." 1:18 *Lit., "you were ransomed; you were redeemed." ^qOr "by tradition."

21 Through him you are believers in God,^a the one who raised him up from the dead^b and gave him glory,^c so that your faith and hope might be in God.

22 Now that you have purified yourselves* by your obedience to the truth with un hypocritical brotherly affection^d as the result, love one another intensely from the heart.^e

23 For you have been given a new birth,^f not by corruptible, but by incorruptible seed,^g through the word of the living and enduring God.^h **24** For "all flesh is* like grass, and all its glory is like a blossom of the field; the grass withers, and the flower falls off, **25** but the saying* of Jehovah^h endures forever."ⁱ And this "saying"^h is the good news that was declared to you.^j

2 So rid yourselves of all badness^k and deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all backbiting. **2** As newborn infants,^l form a longing for the unadulterated* milk of the word, so that by means of it you may grow to salvation,^m **3** provided you have tasted* that the Lord is kind.

4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by menⁿ but chosen, precious to God,^o **5** you yourselves as living stones are being built up into a spiritual house^p to be a holy priesthood, in order to offer up spiritual sacrifices^q acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.^r **6** For it says in Scripture: "Look! I am laying in Zion a chosen stone, a precious foundation cornerstone, and no one exercising faith in it will ever be disappointed."^s

1:22 *Or "your souls." 1:23 *That is, seed capable of reproducing, or bearing fruit. 1:24 *Or "all humans are." 1:25 *Or "word." ^hSee App. A5. 2:2 *Or "pure." 2:3 *Or "experienced." 2:6 *Lit., "put to shame."

CHAP. 1

a Joh 14:6
b Ac 2:24
c Heb 2:9
d Ro 12:9
e 1Jo 3:17
f 1Ti 1:5
g Joh 3:3
2Co 5:17
h 1Pe 1:3
1Jo 3:9
g Joh 3:6
h Joh 6:63
Jas 1:18
i Isa 40:6-8
j Tit 1:3

CHAP. 2

k Ga 5:16
Jas 1:21
l Mr 10:15
m 2Ti 3:15
n Isa 53:3
Joh 19:15
o Ps 118:22
Isa 42:1
Mt 21:42
Ac 4:11
p Eph 2:21
q Heb 13:15
r Ro 12:1
s Isa 28:16

Second Col.

a Ps 69:8
b Ps 118:22
Mt 21:42
Lu 20:17
Ac 4:11
c Isa 8:14
d Re 5:10
Re 20:6
e Ex 19:5, 6
De 7:6
De 10:15
Mal 3:17
f Isa 43:20, 21
g Eph 5:8
Col 1:13
h Ho 1:10
Ac 15:14
Ro 9:25
i Ho 2:23
j 1Pe 1:17
k Ro 8:5
Ga 5:24
l Ga 5:17
Jas 4:1
m Ro 12:17
1Ti 3:7
n Mt 5:16
Jas 3:13
o Ro 13:1
Eph 6:5
Tit 3:1
p 1Pe 2:17
q Ro 13:3, 4
r Tit 2:7, 8
s Ga 5:1
t Ga 5:13

7 It is to you, therefore, that he is precious, because you are believers; but to those not believing, "the stone that the builders rejected,^a this has become the chief cornerstone"^h **8** and "a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense."^c They are stumbling because they are disobedient to the word. To this very end they were appointed. **9** But you are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,^d a people for special possession,^e that you should declare abroad the excellencies"^h of the One who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.^g **10** For you were once not a people, but now you are God's people;^h once you had not been shown mercy, but now you have received mercy.ⁱ

11 Beloved, I urge you as foreigners and temporary residents^j to keep abstaining from fleshly desires,^k which wage war against you.^h **12** Maintain your conduct fine among the nations,^m so that when they accuse you of being wrongdoers, they may be eyewitnesses of your fine worksⁿ and, as a result, glorify God in the day of his inspection.

13 For the Lord's sake subject yourselves to every human creation,^o whether to a king^p as being superior **14** or to governors as sent by him to punish wrongdoers but to praise those who do good.^q **15** For it is the will of God that by doing good you may silence* the ignorant talk of unreasonable men.^r **16** Be as free people,^s using your freedom, not as a cover* for doing wrong,^t but as slaves

2:7 *Lit., "the head of the corner." 2:9 *Lit., "the virtues," that is, his praiseworthy qualities and deeds. 2:11 *Or "the soul." 2:13 *Or "institution." 2:15 *Lit., "muzzle." 2:16 *Or "an excuse."

of God.^a **17** Honor men of all sorts,^b have love for the whole association of brothers,^c be in fear of God,^d honor the king.^e

18 Let servants be in subjection to their masters with all due fear,^f not only to the good and reasonable but also to those hard to please. **19** For it is agreeable when someone endures hardship* and suffers unjustly because of conscience toward God.^g **20** For what merit is there if you are beaten for sinning and you endure it?^h But if you endure suffering because of doing good, this is an agreeable thing to God.ⁱ

21 In fact, to this course you were called, because even Christ suffered for you,^j leaving a model for you to follow his steps closely.^k **22** He committed no sin,^l nor was deception found in his mouth.^m **23** When he was being insulted,ⁿ he did not insult^o in return.^o When he was suffering,^p he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the One who judges^q righteously. **24** He himself bore our sins^r in his own body on the stake,^s so that we might die to^t sins and live to righteousness. And "by his wounds you were healed."^t **25** For you were like sheep going astray,^u but now you have returned to the shepherd^v and overseer of your souls.*

3 In the same way, you wives, be in subjection to your husbands,^w so that if any are not obedient to the word, they may be won without a word through the conduct of their wives.^x **2** because of having been eyewitnesses of your chaste conduct^y together with deep respect. **3** Do not let

2:17 *Lit., "the brotherhood." 2:19 *Or "grief; pain." 2:23 *Or "reviled." #Or "revile." 2:24 *Or "tree." #Or "be finished with." 2:25 *Or "lives."

CHAP. 2

a 1Co 7:22
b Le 19:32
Ro 12:10
Ro 13:7
c 1Jo 2:10
1Jo 4:21
d Ps 111:10
Pr 8:13
2Co 7:1
e Pr 24:21
f Eph 6:5
Col 3:22
1Ti 6:1
Tit 2:9
g Ro 13:5
h 1Pe 4:15
i Mt 5:10
Ac 5:41
1Pe 4:14
j 1Pe 3:18
k Mt 16:24
Joh 13:15
l Joh 8:46
Heb 4:15
m Isa 53:9
n Mt 27:39
o Isa 53:7
Ro 12:21
p Heb 5:8
q Jer 11:20
Joh 8:50
r Le 16:21
s Php 2:8
t Isa 53:5
u Isa 53:6
v Ps 23:1
Isa 40:11

CHAP. 3

w Ro 7:2
1Co 11:3
Eph 5:22
x 1Co 7:16
y 1Pe 2:12

Second Col.

a Pr 11:22
b Eph 4:24
Col 3:10, 12
1Ti 2:9, 10
c Ge 18:12
Eph 5:33
d Pr 3:25
Php 1:28
e Eph 5:25
f Ga 3:28
g 1Co 1:10
Php 2:2
h Ro 12:10
i Ro 15:5
Col 3:12
j Ro 12:17
1Th 5:15
k 1Pe 2:23
l Ro 12:14
1Co 4:12
m Jas 3:8
n Pr 8:13
o 3Jo 11
p 1Th 5:13
Jas 3:17
q 1Jo 3:22
r Ps 34:12-16

your adornment be external—the braiding of hair and the wearing of gold ornaments^a or fine clothing— **4** but let it be the secret person of the heart in the incorruptible adornment of the quiet and mild spirit,^b which is of great value in the eyes of God. **5** For this is how the holy women of the past who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, subjecting themselves to their husbands, **6** just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord.^c And you have become her children, provided you continue doing good and do not give in to fear.^d

7 You husbands, in the same way, continue dwelling with them according to knowledge.* Assign them honor^e as to a weaker vessel, the feminine one, since they are also heirs with you^f of the undeserved favor of life, in order for your prayers not to be hindered.

8 Finally, all of you have unity of mind,^g fellow feeling, brotherly affection, tender compassion,^h and humility.ⁱ **9** Do not pay back injury for injury^j or insult for insult.^k Instead, repay with a blessing,^l for you were called to this course, so that you might inherit a blessing.

10 For "whoever would love life and see good days must guard his tongue from bad^m and his lips from speaking deception. **11** Let him turn away from what is badⁿ and do what is good;^o let him seek peace and pursue it.^p **12** For the eyes of Jehovah* are on the righteous, and his ears listen to their supplication,^q but the face of Jehovah* is against those doing bad things."^r

13 Indeed, who will harm you if you become zealous for what

3:7 *Or "showing them consideration; understanding them." 3:8 *Or "think in agreement." 3:12 *See App. A5.

is good?^a **14** But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are happy.^b However, do not fear what they fear,^c nor be disturbed.^c **15** But sanctify the Christ as Lord in your hearts, always ready to make a defense before everyone who demands of you a reason for the hope you have, but doing so with a mild temper^d and deep respect.^e

16 Maintain a good conscience,^f so that in whatever way you are spoken against, those who speak against you may be put to shame^g because of your good conduct as followers of Christ.^h **17** For it is better to suffer because you are doing good,ⁱ if it is God's will to allow it, than because you are doing evil.^j **18** For Christ died once for all time for sins,^k a righteous person for unrighteous ones,^l in order to lead you to God.^m He was put to death in the fleshⁿ but made alive in the spirit.^o **19** And in this state he went and preached to the spirits in prison,^p **20** who had formerly been disobedient when God was patiently waiting* in Noah's day,^q while the ark was being constructed,^r in which a few people, that is, eight souls,^s were carried safely through the water.^s

21 Baptism, which corresponds to this, is also now saving you (not by the removing of the filth of the flesh, but by the request to God for a good conscience),^t through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. **22** He is at God's right hand,^u for he went to heaven, and angels and authorities and powers were made subject to him.^v

3:14 *Or possibly, "do not fear their threats." **3:20** *Lit., "the patience of God was waiting." ^aOr "persons."

CHAP. 3

- a Ro 13:3, 4
b Mt 5:11, 12
c Ac 5:41
1Pe 2:19
c Mt 10:28
d Pr 15:1
2Ti 2:24, 25
Tit 3:1, 2
e Col 4:6
f Ac 23:1
Ac 24:16
1Ti 1:5
1Ti 1:18, 19
1Ti 3:9
g Tit 2:8
h Ro 12:21
1Pe 2:12
i 2Co 1:7
Col 1:24
j 1Pe 4:15
k Heb 9:28
l Ro 5:6
m 2Co 5:18
n 1Co 15:50
o 1Ti 3:16
p 2Pe 2:4
Jude 6
q Ge 6:2, 3
r Ge 6:14
s Ge 7:13, 23
t Heb 9:14
Heb 10:22
u Ps 110:1
Ac 7:55
Heb 10:12
v Mt 28:18
1Co 15:25, 21
Eph 1:20, 21
Php 2:9, 10
Heb 1:6

Second Col.

CHAP. 4

- a Php 2:8
b Ro 6:11
Col 3:5
1Jo 3:6
c 2Co 5:15
d Ga 2:20
Eph 5:17
e Tit 3:3
f Ro 13:13
1Co 5:11
Ga 5:19, 21
Eph 4:17-19
g 1Pe 3:16
h Ac 10:42
Ac 17:31
2Ti 4:1
Re 20:12
i Eph 2:1
j Ro 12:3
1Ti 3:2
Tit 2:6
k Col 4:2
l Col 3:14
m Pr 10:12
Pr 17:9
1Co 13:4, 7
n 2Co 9:7
Heb 13:2
o Ro 12:6-8

4 Since Christ suffered in the flesh,^a you too arm yourselves with the same mental disposition;^a because the person who has suffered in the flesh has desisted from sins,^b **2** so that he may live the remainder of his time in the flesh, no more for the desires of men,^c but for God's will.^d **3** For the time that has passed by is sufficient for you to have done the will of the nations^e when you carried on in acts of brazen conduct,^a unbridled passions, overdrinking, wild parties,^f drinking bouts, and lawless idolatries.^f **4** They are puzzled that you do not continue running with them in the same decadent course of debauchery, so they speak abusively of you.^g **5** But these people will render an account to the one who is ready to judge those living and those dead.^h **6** In fact, this is why the good news was declared also to the dead,ⁱ so that although they are judged in the flesh from the standpoint of men, they might live in harmony with the spirit from God's standpoint.

7 But the end of all things has drawn close. Therefore, be sound in mind,^j and be vigilant* with a view to prayers.^k **8** Above all things, have intense love for one another,^l because love covers a multitude of sins.^m **9** Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.ⁿ **10** To the extent that each one has received a gift, use it in ministering to one another as fine stewards of God's undeserved kindness that is expressed in various ways.^o **11** If anyone speaks, let him do so as speaking pronouncements from

4:1 *Or "resolve; determination." **4:3** *Or "acts of shameless conduct." Plural of the Greek *a-sel/gei-a*. See Glossary. ^aOr "revelries." **4:7** *Or "alert; awake."

God; if anyone ministers, let him do so as depending on the strength that God supplies;^a so that in all things God may be glorified^b through Jesus Christ. The glory and the might are his forever and ever. Amen.

12 Beloved ones, do not be surprised about the fiery trials that you are experiencing,^c as though something strange were happening to you. **13** On the contrary, go on rejoicing^d over the extent to which you are sharers in the sufferings of the Christ,^e so that you may rejoice and be overjoyed also during the revelation of his glory.^f **14** If you are being reproached^g for the name of Christ, you are happy,^g because the spirit of glory, yes, the spirit of God, is resting upon you.

15 However, let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or a wrongdoer or a busybody in other people's matters.^h **16** But if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed,ⁱ but let him keep on glorifying God while bearing this name. **17** For it is the appointed time for the judgment to start with the house of God.^j Now if it starts first with us,^k what will the outcome be for those who are not obedient to the good news of God?^l **18** "And if the righteous man is being saved with difficulty, what will happen to the ungodly man and the sinner?"^m **19** So, then, let those who are suffering in harmony with the will of God keep on entrustingⁿ themselvesⁿ to a faithful Creator while they are doing good.ⁿ

5 Therefore, as a fellow elder, a witness of the sufferings of the Christ and a sharer of the glory that is to be revealed,^o I make this appeal^o to the elders

4:14 *Or "insulted." 4:19 *Or "commending." #Or "their souls." 5:1 *Or "exhortation."

CHAP. 4

a Isa 12:2
Eph 3:20
b 1Co 10:31
c 1Pe 5:9
d Ac 5:41
Jas 1:2
e Ro 8:17
2Co 4:10
2Ti 3:12
f 1Pe 1:7
g Jas 1:12
Jas 5:11
h 1Ti 5:13
1Pe 2:20
i Col 1:24
Heb 12:2
j Heb 3:6
k 1Co 11:32
l 2Th 1:7, 8
m Pr 11:31
Mt 7:13, 14
n 2Ti 1:12

CHAP. 5

o Ro 8:18

Second Col.

a Isa 40:11
Joh 21:16
Ac 20:28
b Joh 10:11
c 1Ti 3:2, 3
d 2Co 1:24
e Php 3:17
f Heb 13:20
g 1Co 9:25
2Ti 4:8
1Pe 1:3, 4
h Eph 5:21
Jas 3:17
i Pr 3:34
Isa 57:15
Jas 4:6
j Mt 23:12
Lu 14:11
k Mt 6:25
l Ps 55:22
m 1Th 5:6
n Lu 22:31
o Eph 6:11
Jas 4:7
p Ac 14:22
2Ti 3:12
q 2Co 4:17
1Th 2:12
r 2Th 2:16, 17
s Eph 6:10
t Ac 15:27

among you: **2** Shepherd the flock of God^a under your care, serving as overseers,^a not under compulsion, but willingly before God;^b not for love of dishonest gain,^c but eagerly; **3** not lording it over those who are God's inheritance,^d but becoming examples to the flock.^e **4** And when the chief shepherd^f has been made manifest, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.^g

5 In the same way, you younger men, be in subjection to the older men.^h But all of you clothe^h yourselves with humility^h toward one another, because God opposes the haughty ones, but he gives undeserved kindness to the humble ones.ⁱ

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time.^j **7** While you throw all your anxiety^k on him,^k because he cares for you.^l **8** Keep your senses, be watchful!^m Your adversary, the Devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking to devour someone.ⁿ **9** But take your stand against him,^o firm in the faith, knowing that the same kind of sufferings are being experienced by the entire association of your brothers^o in the world.^p **10** But after you have suffered a little while, the God of all undeserved kindness, who called you to his everlasting glory^q in union with Christ, will himself finish your training. He will make you firm,^r he will make you strong,^s he will firmly ground you. **11** To him be the might forever. Amen.

12 Through Sil-va'nus,[†] whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written you in

5:2 *Or "carefully watching over it." 5:5 *Or "the elders." #Or "gird." ^Or "lowliness of mind." 5:7 *Or "cares; worries." 5:8 *Or "looking for someone to devour." 5:9 *Lit., "by your brotherhood." 5:12 *Also called Silas.

few words in order to encourage you and to give an earnest witness that this is the true undeserved kindness of God. Stand firm in it. **13** She who is in Babylon, a chosen one

Second Col.

CHAP. 5

a Ac 12:12

like you, sends you her greetings, and so does Mark,^a my son. **14** Greet one another with a kiss of love.

May all of you who are in union with Christ have peace.

THE SECOND OF PETER

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1 Simon Peter, a slave and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have acquired a faith as precious as ours* through the righteousness of our God and the Savior Jesus Christ:

2 May undeserved kindness and peace be increased to you by an accurate knowledge^a of God and of Jesus our Lord, **3** for his divine power has granted* us all the things that contribute to life and godly devotion through the accurate knowledge of the One who called us^b by his own glory and virtue. **4** Through these things he has granted* us the precious and very grand promises,^c so that through these you may be-

1:1 *Or "a faith held in equal privilege with ours." **1:3, 4** *Or "freely given."

CHAP. 1

a Col 1:9

b Joh 17:3

c Lu 22:29, 30

Joh 14:2

Ga 3:29

Second Col.

a 1Co 15:53

1Pe 1:3, 4

1Jo 3:2

Re 20:6

b Php 2:12

2Ti 2:15

Heb 4:11

Jude 3

c Php 4:8

d Joh 17:3

Heb 5:14

e 1Co 9:25

2Ti 2:24

f 2Pe 2:9

g 1Th 4:9

h Tit 3:14

come sharers in divine nature,^a having escaped from the world's corruption produced by wrong desire.*

5 For this very reason, put forth all earnest effort^b to supply to your faith virtue,^c to your virtue knowledge,^d **6** to your knowledge self-control, to your self-control^e endurance, to your endurance godly devotion,^f **7** to your godly devotion brotherly affection, to your brotherly affection love.^g **8** For if these things exist in you and overflow, they will prevent you from being either inactive or unfruitful^{*h} regarding the accurate knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1:4 *Or "by lust." **1:8** *Or "unproductive."

9 For anyone lacking these things is blind, shutting his eyes to the light,^a and has become forgetful of his cleansing from his sins^b of long ago. 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling^c and choosing sure for yourselves, for if you keep on doing these things, you will by no means ever fail.^d 11 In fact, in this way you will be richly granted* entrance into the everlasting Kingdom^e of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.^f

12 For this reason I intend always to remind you of these things, although you know them and are well-established in the truth that is present in you.

13 But I consider it right, as long as I am in this tabernacle,^g to stir you with reminders,^h 14 knowing as I do that my tabernacle is soon to be removed, just as also our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.ⁱ 15 I will always do my utmost so that after my departure, you may be able to recall* these things for yourselves.

16 No, it was not by following artfully contrived false stories that we made known to you the power and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, but rather, we were eyewitnesses of his magnificence.^j 17 For he received from God the Father honor and glory when words such as these* were conveyed to him by the magnificent glory: "This is my Son, my beloved, whom I myself have approved."^k 18 Yes, these words we heard coming from heaven while we were with him in the holy mountain.

19 So we have the prophetic

1:9 *Or possibly, "blind, shortsighted."
1:11 *Or "abundantly supplied with."
1:13 *Or "tent," that is, his earthly body. 1:15 *Or "mention." 1:17 *Lit., "such a voice."

CHAP. 1

- a 1Jo 2:9
Re 3:17
b Heb 9:14
c Heb 3:1
d 2Ti 4:7,8
e Da 2:44
f Lu 16:9
Joh 3:5
g 2Co 5:1
h Ro 15:15
Jude 5
i Joh 21:18
j Mt 17:2
Mr 9:2
Lu 9:29
k Ps 2:7
Mt 17:1, 5
Mr 9:7
Lu 9:35

Second Col.

- a Ps 119:105
Joh 1:9
b Nu 24:17
Re 22:16
c 2Ti 3:16
d 2Sa 23:2
Ac 1:16
Ac 28:25
1Pe 1:11

CHAP. 2

- e Mt 24:24
ITi 4:1
f 1Co 6:20
g Jude 4
h Isa 52:5
i Jude 4
j 2Pe 3:9
k Ge 6:4
Eph 6:12
l 1Pe 3:19, 20
m Jude 6
n Ge 7:23
o Ge 6:9
Heb 11:7
p Ge 8:18
q 2Pe 3:6
r Ge 19:24, 25

word made more sure, and you are doing well in paying attention to it as to a lamp^a shining in a dark place (until day dawns and a daystar^b rises) in your hearts. 20 For you know this first, that no prophecy of Scripture springs from any private interpretation. 21 For prophecy was at no time brought by man's will,^c but men spoke from God as they were moved* by holy spirit.^d

2 However, there also came to be false prophets among the people, as there will also be false teachers among you.^e These will quietly bring in destructive sects, and they will even disown the owner who bought them,^f bringing speedy destruction upon themselves. 2 Furthermore, many will follow their brazen conduct,^g and because of them the way of the truth will be spoken of abusively.^h 3 Also, they will greedily exploit you with counterfeit words. But their judgment, decided long ago,ⁱ is not moving slowly, and their destruction is not sleeping.^j

4 Certainly God did not refrain from punishing the angels who sinned,^k but threw them into Tar'tarus,^{*l} putting them in chains[#] of dense darkness to be reserved for judgment.^m 5 And he did not refrain from punishing an ancient world,ⁿ but kept Noah, a preacher of righteousness,^o safe with seven others^p when he brought a flood upon a world of ungodly people.^q 6 And by reducing the cities of Sod'om and Go-mor'rah to ashes, he condemned them,^r setting a pattern for ungodly

1:21 *Lit., "carried along; borne along."
2:2 *Or "their acts of shameless conduct." Plural of the Greek *a-sel'gei-a*. See Glossary. 2:4 *See Glossary. #Or possibly, "pits."

people of things to come.^a **7** And he rescued righteous Lot,^b who was greatly distressed by the brazen conduct* of the lawless people— **8** for day after day that righteous man was tormenting his righteous soul* over the lawless deeds that he saw and heard while dwelling among them. **9** So, then, Jehovah* knows how to rescue people of godly devotion out of trial,^c but to reserve unrighteous people to be destroyed^d on the day of judgment.^d **10** especially those who seek to defile the flesh of others^e and who despise authority.*^f

Daring and self-willed, they are not afraid to speak abusively of glorious ones, **11** whereas angels, although they are greater in strength and power, do not bring against them an accusation in abusive terms, out of respect for^g Jehovah.*^g **12** But these men, like unreasoning animals that act on instinct and are born* to be caught and destroyed, speak abusively about things of which they are ignorant.^h They will suffer destruction brought on by their own destructive course, **13** suffering harm as their reward for their own harmful course.

They consider it pleasurable to indulge in luxurious living,ⁱ even in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes who reveal* in their deceptive teachings while feasting together with you.^j **14** Their eyes are full of adultery^k and are unable to desist from sin, and they entice un-

2:7 *Or "shameless conduct." Greek, *a-sel'gei-a*. See Glossary. 2:8 *See Glossary. 2:9, 11 *See App. A5. 2:9 #Lit., "cut off." 2:10 *Or "look down on lordship." 2:11 #Or "before." 2:12 *Or "are born naturally." 2:13 *Or "who indulge with unrestrained delight."

CHAP. 2

- a Jude 7
b Ge 19:15, 16
c Ps 34:19
1Co 10:13
2Ti 4:18
Re 3:10
d Ro 2:5
2Pe 3:7
e Jude 7
f Ex 22:28
Jude 8
g Jude 9
h Jude 10
i Ro 13:13
j Jude 12
k Mt 5:28

Second Col.

- a Nu 22:5, 6
Jude 11
Re 2:14
b Nu 22:7
Ne 13:2
c Nu 22:31, 34
Nu 31:8
d Nu 22:28
e Jude 12, 13
f Jude 16
g 2Pe 2:14
h 1Pe 2:16
i Ro 6:16
j 2Pe 1:4
k Heb 6:4-6
Heb 10:26
l Lu 12:47
Joh 15:22
m Pr 26:11

stable ones.* They have a heart trained in greed. They are accursed children. **15** Abandoning the straight path, they have been led astray. They have followed the path of Ba'laam^a the son of Be'or, who loved the reward of wrongdoing,^b **16** but was reproved for his own violation of what was right.^c A voiceless beast of burden speaking with a human voice hindered the prophet's mad course.^d

17 These are waterless springs and mists driven by a violent storm, and the blackest darkness has been reserved for them.^e **18** They make high-sounding statements that are empty. By appealing to the desires of the flesh^f and with acts of brazen conduct,* they entice people who have just escaped from those who live in error.^g **19** While they are promising them freedom, they themselves are slaves of corruption;^h for if anyone is overcome by someone, he is his slave.*ⁱ **20** Certainly if after escaping from the defilements of the world^j by an accurate knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they get involved again with these very things and are overcome, their final state has become worse for them than the first.^k **21** It would have been better for them not to have accurately known the path of righteousness than after knowing it to turn away from the holy commandment they had received.^l **22** What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog has returned to its own vomit, and the sow that was bathed to rolling in the mire."^m

2:14 *Or "souls." 2:18 *Or "acts of shameless conduct." Plural of the Greek *a-sel'gei-a*. See Glossary. 2:19 *Or "overcome by something, he is its slave."

3 Beloved ones, this is now the second letter I am writing you in which, as in my first one, I am stirring up your clear thinking faculties by way of a reminder,^a **2** that you should remember the sayings previously spoken* by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles. **3** First of all know this, that in the last days ridiculers will come with their ridicule, proceeding according to their own desires^b **4** and saying: "Where is this promised presence of his?^c Why, from the day our forefathers fell asleep in death, all things are continuing exactly as they were from creation's beginning."^d

5 For they deliberately ignore this fact, that long ago there were heavens and an earth standing firmly out of water and in the midst of water by the word of God;^e **6** and that by those means the world of that time suffered destruction when it was flooded with water.^f **7** But by the same word the heavens and the earth that now exist are reserved for fire and are being kept until the day of judgment and of destruction of the ungodly people.^g

8 However, do not let this escape your notice, beloved ones, that one day is with Jehovah* as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day.^h **9** Jehovah* is not slow concerning his promise,ⁱ as some people consider slowness, but he is patient with you because he does not desire anyone to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance.^j **10** But Jehovah's* day^k will come as a thief,^l in which the heavens will pass away^m

3:2 *Or "the things foretold." 3:8-10, 12 *See App. A5.

CHAP. 3

a Ro 15:15
2Pe 1:13

b Jude 17, 18

c Jer 17:15
Mt 24:48
Lu 12:45

d Eze 12:22, 27

e Ge 1:6, 9

f Ge 7:11, 23
Mt 24:38, 39

g De 7:10
2Th 1:7-9

h Ps 90:4

i Hab 2:3

j Ro 2:4

k Joe 2:31
Zep 1:14

l 1Th 5:2

m Re 21:1

Second Col.

a Ps 37:10
Isa 13:9
Zep 1:18
Re 6:14

b Zep 1:14

c Isa 34:4

d Isa 65:17
Isa 66:22
Re 21:1

e Isa 11:4, 5

f 2Co 13:11

g Ro 2:4

h Mt 24:24
Eph 4:14

with a roar,^{*} but the elements being intensely hot will be dissolved, and earth and the works in it will be exposed.^a

11 Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, consider what sort of people you ought to be in holy acts of conduct and deeds of godly devotion, **12** as you await and keep close in mind[#] the presence of the day of Jehovah,^{*b} through which the heavens will be destroyed^c in flames and the elements will melt in the intense heat! **13** But there are new heavens and a new earth that we are awaiting according to his promise,^d and in these righteousness is to dwell.^e

14 Therefore, beloved ones, since you are awaiting these things, do your utmost to be found finally by him spotless and unblemished and in peace.^f **15** Furthermore, consider the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote you according to the wisdom given him,^g **16** speaking about these things as he does in all his letters. However, some things in them are hard to understand, and these things the ignorant* and unstable are twisting, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

17 You, therefore, beloved ones, having this advance knowledge, be on your guard so that you may not be led astray with them by the error of the lawless people and fall from your own steadfastness.^{*h} **18** No, but go on growing in the undeserved kindness and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

3:10 *Or "a rushing sound." 3:12 #Or "eagerly desire." Lit., "speed up." 3:16 *Or "untaught." 3:17 *Or "stability."

some who evidently were zealous about their faith and obviously thought they had a good relationship with God but who did not understand what was really required in order to have God's approval.—Rom. 10:2-4.

Could we have a good personal relationship with God if we treated as of little importance his commandments? One of these is that we regularly assemble with fellow believers.—Heb. 10:24, 25.

If we personally read the Bible, is that sufficient?

It is true that many people can learn a great deal by reading the Bible personally. If their motive is to learn the truth about God and his purposes, what they are doing is highly commendable. (Acts 17:11) But, being honest with ourselves, are we truly going to grasp the full significance of it all without help? The Bible tells about a man who held a prominent position but who was humble enough to acknowledge his need for help in understanding Bible prophecy. That help was provided by a member of the Christian congregation.—Acts 8:26-38; compare other references to Philip in Acts 6:1-6; 8:5-17.

Of course, if a person reads the Bible but does not apply it in his life, it does him little good. If he believes it and acts on it, he *will* associate with God's servants in regular congregation meetings. (Heb. 10:24, 25) He will also join with them in sharing the "good news" with other people.—1 Cor. 9:16; Mark 13:10; Matt. 28:19, 20.

How can a person know which religion is right?

(1) On what are its teachings based? Are they from God, or are they largely from men? (2 Tim. 3:16; Mark 7:7) Ask, for example: Where does the Bible teach that God is a Trinity? Where does it say that the human soul is immortal?

(2) Consider whether it is making known the name of God. Jesus said in prayer to God: "I have made your name manifest to the men you gave me out of the world." (John 17:6) He declared: "It is Jehovah your God you must worship, and it is to him alone you must

render sacred service.” (Matt. 4:10) Has your religion taught you that ‘it is Jehovah you must worship’? Have you come to know the Person identified by that name—his purposes, his activities, his qualities—so that you feel you can confidently draw close to him?

(3) Is true faith in Jesus Christ being demonstrated? This involves appreciation of the value of the sacrifice of Jesus’ human life and of his position today as heavenly King. (John 3:36; Ps. 2:6-8) Such appreciation is shown by obeying Jesus—sharing personally and zealously in the work that he assigned to his followers. True religion has such faith that is accompanied by works.—Jas. 2:26.

(4) Is it largely ritualistic, a formality, or is it a way of life? God strongly disapproves of religion that is merely a formalism. (Isa. 1:15-17) True religion upholds the Bible’s standard of morality and clean speech instead of weakly going along with popular trends. (1 Cor. 5:9-13; Eph. 5:3-5) Its members reflect the fruits of God’s spirit in their lives. (Gal. 5:22, 23) So, those who adhere to true worship can be identified because they sincerely endeavor to apply Bible standards in their lives not only at their places of meeting but in their family life, at their secular work, in school, and in recreation.

(5) Do its members truly love one another? Jesus said: “By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love among yourselves.” (John 13:35) Such love reaches across racial, social, and national boundaries, drawing people together in genuine brotherhood. So strong is this love that it sets them apart as being truly different. When the nations go to war, who have enough love for their Christian brothers in other lands that they refuse to take up arms and kill them? That is what early Christians did.

(6) Is it truly separate from the world? Jesus said that his true followers would be “no part of the world.” (John 15:19) To worship God in a manner that he approves requires that we keep ourselves “without spot from the world.” (Jas. 1:27) Can that be said of those whose clergy and other members are involved in politics, or whose lives are largely built around materialistic and fleshly desires?—1 John 2:15-17.

1. The prophets of old sought to learn of the Christ,
The hope of all groaning creation.
God's spirit revealed that Messiah would come,
Providing the means of salvation.
The time has arrived, the Messiah now reigns,
The proof of his presence is clear.
How great is the favor of learning such things;
Into these even angels would peer!

(CHORUS)

*Our path now becomes ever brighter;
We walk in the full light of day.
Behold what our God is revealing;
He guides us each step of the way.*

2. Our Lord has appointed a trustworthy slave,
Through whom He gives food in due season.
The light of the truth has grown brighter with time,
Appealing to heart and to reason.
Our path ever clearer, our steps ever firm,
We walk in the brightness of day.
All thanks to Jehovah, the Source of all truth,
We most gratefully walk in his way.

(Chorus)

Our Official Web Site—Designed to Benefit Us and Others

Jesus commissioned us to preach the good news of the Kingdom “in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations.” (Matt. 24:14) In order to help us ‘fully accomplish our ministry,’ watchtower.org, jw-media.org, and jw.org have been combined into the redesigned jw.org Web site.—2 Tim. 4:5.

“All the Inhabited Earth”: About one third of the earth’s population uses the Internet. It has become the primary source of information for many, especially young people. Our site gives Internet users truthful answers to Bible questions. It introduces them to Jehovah’s organization and makes it easy

for them to request a free home Bible study. It enables the good news to penetrate areas of the earth where people have few opportunities to hear the Kingdom message.

“All the Nations”: In order to give a witness to “all the nations,” we must present Bible truth in different languages. Visitors to jw.org can easily find information in about 400 languages, more than any other Web site.

Make Good Use of It: The redesigned jw.org Web site is not just for the purpose of witnessing to unbelievers. It has been designed for use by Jehovah’s Witnesses too. If you have access to the Internet, we encourage you to get acquainted with jw.org. The following are some suggestions on how to use it.

Try It

- 1 Enter www.jw.org in the address field of the Internet browser of your computer.
- 2 Explore the site by clicking the section headings, menu options, and links.
- 3 Try using jw.org on your Internet-enabled mobile device. The page layout adjusts to fit the smaller screen, but the information is the same.

The image displays the jw.org website interface. At the top, a browser address bar shows the URL <http://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/faq/>. The website header includes the JW.ORG logo and navigation links for HOME, BIBLE TEACHINGS, PUBLICATIONS, NEWS, and ABOUT US. The main content area features a large banner image of people in a library setting, with a '50% OFF' sign. Below the banner, the 'Frequently Asked Questions About Jehovah's Witnesses' section is visible, including a 'Top Questions' list and a 'Beliefs' section with questions like 'Do You Believe That You Have the One True Religion?'. A mobile device view is shown below, displaying the same content adapted to a smaller screen. Numbered callouts 1, 2, and 3 indicate key features: 1 points to the browser address bar, 2 points to the navigation menu, and 3 points to the mobile device view.

Our Official Web Site—Use It for Personal and Family Study

Read the Latest Magazine Online: Read *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* online several weeks before receiving the printed copies in the congregation. Listen to audio recordings of a magazine.—Go to “Publications/Magazines.”

Read Material That Appears Only on the Web Site: Some material, such as “For Young People,” “My Bible Lessons,” “For Family Review,” and “Young People Ask,” now appears only on our Web site. Go online and consider some of this material during your personal and family study.—Go to “Bible Teachings/Children” or “Bible Teachings/Teenagers.”

Get the Latest News: Read encouraging reports and experiences, and watch video clips that highlight the progress of our work around the world. Reports on disasters and persecution can help us to be specific in our prayers for the affected brothers. (Jas. 5:16)—Go to “News.”

Do Research Using Online Library: If this feature is available in your language, use a computer or a mobile device to read the daily text online or to do research in some of our recent publications.—Go to “Publications/Online Library,” or type www.wol.jw.org in the address field of your browser.

Try It

- 1 Click on the picture or the “Download” link. The picture displays in a PDF document window. Print it and use the printout as an activity for your child.
- 2 Click “Play” to watch a video.

The image shows a composite of three screenshots from the Jehovah's Witnesses website. The top screenshot displays the 'Picture Activities' section with a link to 'Abraham Makes Peace With Lot' and a 'Download and print this activity' button. A red circle with the number '1' points to this button. The bottom-left screenshot shows the 'LATEST NEWS' section with a video player for 'The Watchtower—Published Since 1879'. A red circle with the number '2' points to the play button on the video player. The bottom-right screenshot shows the 'Bible Cards' section with a link to 'Download this Bible character card and learn about Nehemiah'. A red circle with the number '1' points to this link.

Our Official Web Site —Use It in Your Ministry

Direct People to the Web Site: Some who hesitate to converse with us or accept literature are willing to investigate Jehovah’s Witnesses by looking at jw.org in the privacy of their home. So publicize the Web site at every appropriate opportunity.

Answer Questions: At times a householder, an interested person, or an acquaintance will ask a question about Jehovah’s Witnesses or our beliefs. Show him the answer on the spot, using a mobile device or a computer. It is often best to read the cited scriptures directly from the Bible. If you do not have ready access to the Internet, explain how the person can use jw.org to find the answer himself.—Go to

“Bible Teachings/Bible Questions Answered” or “About Us/Frequently Asked Questions.”

Send an Article or a Publication to Someone You Know: Attach a downloaded PDF or an EPUB to an e-mail. Or download an audio version of a publication onto a CD. Each time you give someone who is not baptized a *complete* electronic book, brochure, or magazine, you may count it as a placement. Material should not be sent anonymously or in bulk. Neither should it be uploaded to any other Internet Web site.—Go to “Publications.”

Show the Latest News About Jehovah’s Witnesses: This will help Bible students and others you are calling on to develop appreciation for the worldwide scope of our work and our Christian unity. (Ps. 133:1)—Go to “News.”

Try It

- 1 Under “Publications,” find the item you wish to download, and click the button for the text or audio format you want.
- 2 Click the MP3 button to display a list of individual articles. Click the article title to download it or to listen to it online.
- 3 Choose another language from this list if you want to download a publication in that language.

The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu with 'Publications' highlighted. The main content area displays 'The Watchtower and Awake! Magazines' with a list of issues from September 2012 to June 2012. A callout box provides a detailed view of the 'Awake!' magazine for June 2012, including a table of contents and download options for EPUB, PDF, MP3, and AAC. The callouts are as follows:

- 1: Points to the 'Publications' menu item in the top navigation bar.
- 2: Points to the 'MP3' download button in the callout box.
- 3: Points to the 'Awake!' magazine title in the callout box.

Our Official Web Site—Use It to Help Someone Who Speaks a Different Language


Show Him Our Web Site: Demonstrate how he can use the “Site Language” list to see the Web site in his language. (In some languages, only a portion of the site is available.)

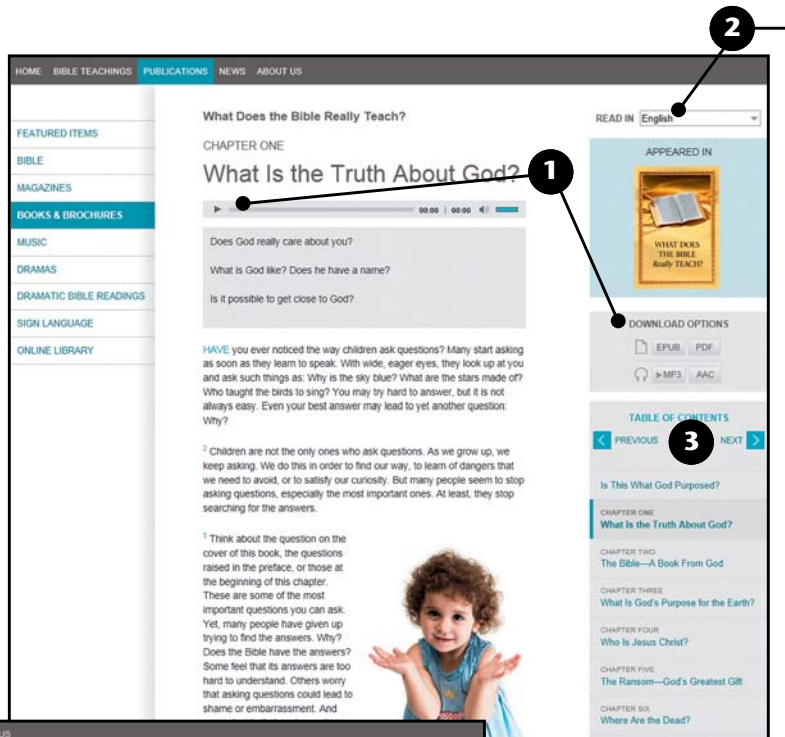
Show Him a Web Page in His Language: Display a page from one of our publications, such as the *Bible Teach* book or the *Know the Truth* tract. Choose the householder’s language from the “Read In” list.

Let Him Listen to an Article: Find an article for which there is an audio track in the person’s language, and play it for him. If you are learning another language, improve your skill by listening to an audio track in that language as you read.—Go to “Publications/Books and Brochures” or “Publications/Magazines.”

Witness to the Deaf: If you find a deaf person, play a sign-language video of a chapter from the Bible, a book, a brochure, or a tract.—Go to “Publications/Sign Language.”

Try It

- 1 Click  to play the selected audio track (if available in your language) or one of the “Download Options” buttons to download the publication.
- 2 Choose another language from the “Read In” list to show this page in that language.
- 3 Click “Next” or a link in the “Table of Contents” to read another article or chapter.



The screenshot shows the English version of the website. The navigation menu on the left includes 'HOME', 'BIBLE TEACHINGS', 'PUBLICATIONS', 'NEWS', and 'ABOUT US'. The 'PUBLICATIONS' menu is expanded, showing 'FEATURED ITEMS', 'BIBLE', 'MAGAZINES', 'BOOKS & BROCHURES', 'MUSIC', 'DRAMAS', 'DRAMATIC BIBLE READINGS', 'SIGN LANGUAGE', and 'ONLINE LIBRARY'. The main content area displays 'What Does the Bible Really Teach?' with a chapter title 'What Is the Truth About God?' and an audio player. The 'READ IN' dropdown is set to 'English'. A 'TABLE OF CONTENTS' sidebar on the right shows a list of chapters, with 'CHAPTER ONE: What Is the Truth About God?' selected. A 'NEXT' button is visible next to the table of contents.



The screenshot shows the Chinese (Simplified) version of the website. The navigation menu on the left is identical to the English version. The main content area displays 'What Does the Bible Really Teach?' with a chapter title '第1章 上帝是个怎样的神?' and an audio player. The 'READ IN' dropdown is set to 'Chinese (Simplified)'. The audio player shows '播放' (Play) and '普通话(简化字)' (Mandarin Chinese). A callout points to the play button on the audio player.

WEEK STARTING MAY 27

Song 6 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

jr chap. 10 ¶1-7 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: John 12-16 (10 min.)

No. 1: John 12:20-36 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: **To Whom First Was the Merit of Jesus' Sacrifice Applied, and With What Objective?**—*rs* p. 308 ¶2-3 (5 min.)

No. 3: **Why Is It Appropriate That Jehovah Is Called "the God Who Gives Peace"?**
—Rom. 15:33 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 98

5 min: **Start a Bible Study on the First Saturday.** Talk. Demonstrate how a study may be started on the first Saturday in June, using the back cover of *The Watchtower*. Encourage all to have a share.

15 min: **Watering the Seeds That We Plant.** (1 Cor. 3:6-9) Discussion based on the following questions: (1) What do you enjoy about the return visit work? (2) What do some find challenging about making return visits? (3) How can these challenges be overcome? (4) How can we obtain assistance if return visits are difficult for us? (5) What system do you have for keeping track of someone who showed interest and for noting the subject you discussed, the literature you left, and other details? (6) How do you prepare for your return visits? (7) Why is it good to schedule time each week for making return visits?

10 min: **"Use Videos in Your Teaching."** Discussion. Invite audience to relate how they benefited from viewing our videos before they became Witnesses.

Song 101 and Prayer

Use Videos in Your Teaching

When Jehovah conveyed important information to Abraham and Jeremiah, he did so not only by telling them but also by showing them. (Gen. 15:5; Jer. 18:1-6) We can help our students to grasp and appreciate Bible truths by making good use of visual aids, such as our videos. The follow-

ing are ideas as to when some of the videos could be shown. Keep in mind that these are just suggestions, since every student is different.

Bible Teach book

- ❑ **Chapter 1:** After paragraph 17, view *The Wonders of Creation Reveal God's Glory*
- ❑ **Chapter 2:** At the end, view *The Bible—Mankind's Oldest Modern Book*
- ❑ **Chapter 9:** After paragraph 14, view *Jehovah's Witnesses—Organized to Share the Good News*
- ❑ **Chapter 14:** At the end, view *The Bible—Its Power in Your Life*
- ❑ **Chapter 15:** After paragraph 10, view *Our Whole Association of Brothers*

"God's Love" book

- ❑ **Chapter 3:** After paragraph 15, view *Young People Ask—How Can I Make Real Friends?*
- ❑ **Chapter 4:** At the end, view *Respect Jehovah's Authority*
- ❑ **Chapter 7:** After paragraph 12, view *No Blood—Medicine Meets the Challenge*
- ❑ **Chapter 9:** After paragraph 6, view *Warning Examples for Our Day*
- ❑ **Chapter 17:** At the end, view *'Walk by Faith, Not by Sight'*

Are there other videos that one of your students would benefit from seeing? For example, individuals who are dealing with opposition might be encouraged by viewing *Faithful Under Trials—Jehovah's Witnesses in the Soviet Union* or *Jehovah's Witnesses Stand Firm Against Nazi Assault*. Youths may benefit from *Pursue Goals That Honor God* and *Young People Ask—What Will I Do With My Life?* Make notations in your copy of the *Bible Teach* and *"God's Love"* books to remind you when you might view a video with your student or lend it to him to watch. As new videos are released, think about how you could use them to touch the heart of your Bible students.—Luke 24:32.

WEEK STARTING MAY 20

Song 70 and Prayer

□ **Congregation Bible Study:**

jr chap. 9 ¶14-19 (30 min.)

□ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: John 8-11 (10 min.)

No. 1: John 8:12-30 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: What Steps Can We Take to Protect Ourselves From False Teachers?—Rom. 16:17; 2 John 9-11 (5 min.)

No. 3: Why Did God Not Simply Decree That All Who Would Obey Could Live Forever?—*rs* p. 307 ¶3—p. 308 ¶1 (5 min.)

□ **Service Meeting:**

Song 96

10 min: Ways to Expand Your Ministry—Part 3. Discussion based on the *Organized* book, page 116, paragraph 1, to page 117, paragraph 1. Briefly interview a publisher who assists the Regional Building Committee.

10 min: Jehovah Helps Us Fulfill Our Assignments. (Ex. 4:10-12; Phil. 4:13) Discussion based on the *2013 Yearbook*, page 101, paragraph 3; and page 111, paragraph 3, to page 112, paragraph 2. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

10 min: “Who Would Be Interested in This?” Questions and answers. Invite audience to name some of the businesses and local government agencies in the congregation’s territory that may be interested in a particular subject discussed in our magazines. Song 92 and Prayer

Who Would Be Interested in This?

¹ *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* are prepared with the worldwide field in mind. Therefore, the articles deal with a wide variety of topics. As we read each article in our personal copy, we should consider whom in particular it may interest, and then make it a point to offer it to that person.

1. When we read our copy of *The Watchtower* or *Awake!* what should we consider, and why?

² Does the current *Watchtower* discuss a Bible topic that you and a workmate previously talked about? Is there an article on family life that would be of help to a relative? Do you have an acquaintance who is planning a trip to a land that has been featured in *Awake!*? Would one of the magazines appeal to certain businesses or local government agencies in your territory? For example, a magazine that highlights challenges facing the elderly may be of particular interest at nursing homes. Law enforcement agencies may be interested in a magazine on the subject of crime.

³ **Results:** After receiving the October 2011 *Awake!* on “How to Raise Responsible Children,” a couple in South Africa phoned 25 schools in their congregation’s territory. Twenty-two accepted copies and distributed them to their students. Another couple in that country had the same idea and placed copies at schools in their territory. Teachers at one of the schools decided to use the magazine in their weekly orientation and reading program. The couple shared their experience with a circuit overseer. He then encouraged congregations in his circuit to approach schools in their territories. The branch office received so many requests for additional magazines that this issue had to be reprinted!

⁴ Our magazines discuss the real meaning behind current events and direct attention to the Bible and God’s Kingdom. They are the only magazines on earth that are “publishing salvation.” (Isa. 52:7) Therefore, we want to give them wide distribution. A good way to do that is by asking yourself, ‘Who would be interested in this?’

2. What topics covered in our magazines may be of particular interest to others?

3. Relate an experience that illustrates the value of offering specific issues of the magazines to those who we feel may be interested in their contents.

4. Why do we want to give the magazines wide distribution?

12 *Life Everlasting Is Promised* (Psalm 37:29)

1. Life everlasting is promised.

Man's earthly home will endure.

'Meek ones will thrive,' said the psalmist.

This grand future is sure.

(CHORUS)

We can live forever.

It's worth all endeavor.

God's promise is faithful.

His Word will come true.

2. Paradise brought to perfection;

All of God's children set free.

Under Jehovah's direction,

Peace on earth we will see.

(Chorus)

3. Soon in the grand resurrection,

Sorrow will all disappear.

Showering tender affection,

God will dry ev'ry tear.

(Chorus)