

- Song 61 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“With What Will I Repay Jehovah?”:** (10 min.)
Ps 116:3, 4, 8—Jehovah rescued the psalmist from death (w87 3/15 24 ¶5)
Ps 116:12—The psalmist wanted to show his gratitude to Jehovah (w09 7/15 29 ¶4-5; w98 12/1 24 ¶3)
Ps 116:13, 14, 17, 18—The psalmist was determined to fulfill all his obligations to Jehovah (w10 4/15 27, box)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Ps 110:4—What is the “oath” referred to in this verse? (w14 10/15 11 ¶15-17; w06 9/1 14 ¶1)

Ps 116:15—During a funeral talk, why should this verse not be applied to the deceased?
(w12 5/15 22 ¶2)

What does this week’s Bible reading teach me about Jehovah?

What points from this week’s Bible reading can I use in the field ministry?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Ps 110:1–111:10

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) // 16—Lay the groundwork for a return visit.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) // 17—Lay the groundwork for the next visit.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) bh 179-181 ¶17-19—Help the student to see how he can apply the material.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 82
- **“Teach the Truth”:** (7 min.) Discussion.
- **“Special Campaign to Distribute *The Watchtower* in September”:** (8 min.) Discussion. Play the first sample presentation for September, and then discuss the highlights. Generate enthusiasm for the campaign, and encourage auxiliary pioneering.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) ia chap. 23 ¶1-14
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 144 and Prayer
Reminder: Play the music through once before singing.



PSALMS 110-118 | “With What Will I Repay Jehovah?”



The psalmist felt deep gratitude toward Jehovah because He had rescued him from “the ropes of death.” (Ps 116:3) He was determined to show his gratitude to Jehovah by keeping all his promises and by fulfilling all his obligations to Him.

Why am I grateful to Jehovah this week?

How can I show my gratitude to Jehovah?

61 *What Sort of Person I Should Be* (2 Peter 3:11)

1. How can I repay you, what gift can I give
 To thank you, Jehovah, for the life that I live?
I look in my heart with your Word as my mirror;
 The person I see, may you help me see clearer.
My life I have promised in service to you,
 But not from mere duty will I do what I do.
Whole-souled and wholehearted I serve you by
 choice;
 May I be one more who makes you rejoice.
2. Help me to examine, and help me to see
 Just what sort of person you desire me to be.
Those loyal to you, you will loyally treasure;
 May I be among those who bring your heart
 pleasure.

May they be wrapped in their shame as in a robe.*^a

- 30** My mouth will fervently praise Jehovah;
I will praise him in front of many people.^b
- 31** For he will stand at the right hand of the poor
To save him from those who condemn him.*

Of David. A melody.

110 Jehovah declared to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand^c
Until I place your enemies at a stool for your feet.”^d

- 2** Jehovah will extend the scepter of your power out of Zion, saying:
“Go subduing in the midst of your enemies.”^e

- 3** Your people will offer themselves willingly on the day of your military force.*
In splendid holiness, from the womb of the dawn,
You have your company of young men just like dew-drops.

- 4** Jehovah has sworn an oath, and he will not change his mind:*

“You are a priest forever^f
In the manner of Mel-chiz’ e-dek!”^g

- 5** Jehovah will be at your right hand;^h
He will crush kings on the day of his anger.ⁱ

- 6** He will execute judgment against* the nations;^j
He will fill the land with dead bodies.^k
He will crush the leader[#] of a vast land.^Δ

109:29 *Or “sleeveless coat.” **109:31** *Or “his soul.” **110:3** *Or “on the day your army mobilizes.” **110:4** *Or “he will feel no regret.” **110:6** *Or “among.” [#]Lit., “head.” ^ΔOr “of the entire earth.”

CHAP. 109

- a Ps 35:26
b Ps 22:22

CHAP. 110

- c Ro 8:34
Eph 1:20
Heb 8:1
Heb 12:2
- d Mt 22:43, 44
Mr 12:36
Lu 20:42, 43
Ac 2:34, 35
1Co 15:25
Heb 1:3, 13
Heb 10:12, 13
- e Ps 2:8, 9
Ps 45:4, 5
Mt 28:18
Re 6:2
Re 12:5
Re 19:11, 15
- f Heb 7:21, 28
- g Ge 14:18
Heb 5:5, 6
Heb 6:19, 20
Heb 7:3, 11
- h Ps 16:8
- i Ps 2:2
Ro 2:5
Re 11:18
Re 19:19
- j Ps 79:6
- k Jer 25:31-33

Second Col.

CHAP. 111

- a Ps 68:4
Ps 113:1
Re 19:1
- b Ps 9:1
- c Ps 98:1
Ps 139:14
Re 15:3
- d Ps 77:12
Ps 143:5
- e Ps 103:17
- f De 31:19
Jos 4:5-7
- g Ex 34:6
Jas 5:11
- h Ps 37:25
Mt 6:33
- i Ps 89:34
Ps 105:8
- j Ps 44:2
Ps 105:44
- k De 32:4

- 7** He* will drink from the stream along the road.
Therefore, he will hold his head high.

111 Praise Jah!^{*a}

⚡ [Aleph]

I will praise Jehovah with all my heart^b

⚡ [Beth]

In the assembled group of upright ones and in the congregation.

⚡ [Gimel]

- 2** The works of Jehovah are great;^c

⚡ [Daleth]

They are studied by all those finding pleasure in them.^d

⚡ [He]

- 3** His activity is glorious and splendid,

⚡ [Waw]

And his righteousness endures forever.^e

⚡ [Zayin]

- 4** He causes his wonderful works to be remembered.^f

⚡ [Heth]

Jehovah is compassionate* and merciful.^g

⚡ [Teth]

- 5** Food he gives to those fearing him.^h

⚡ [Yod]

He remembers his covenant forever.ⁱ

⚡ [Kaph]

- 6** He has revealed to his people his powerful works

⚡ [Lamed]

By giving them the inheritance of the nations.^j

⚡ [Mem]

- 7** The works of his hands are truth and justice;^k

110:7 *Referring to “my Lord” in vs. 1. **111:1** *Or “Hallelujah!” “Jah” is a shortened form of the name Jehovah. **111:4** *Or “gracious.”

י [Nun]

Trustworthy are all his orders.^a

ב [Samekh]

- 8 They are always reliable,* now and forever;

א [Ayin]

They are made in truth and righteousness.^b

פ [Pe]

- 9 He has given redemption to his people.^c

צ [Tsade]

He commanded that his covenant should last forever.

ק [Qoph]

His name is holy and awe-inspiring.^d

ר [Resh]

- 10 The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom.^e

ש [Sin]

All those observing his orders* show good insight.^f

ת [Taw]

His praise endures forever.

112 Praise Jah! *g

א [Aleph]

Happy is the man who fears Jehovah,^h

ב [Beth]

Who takes great pleasure in his commandments.ⁱ

ג [Gimel]

- 2 His descendants will be mighty in the earth,

ד [Daleth]

And the generation of the upright will be blessed.^j

ה [He]

- 3 Wealth and riches are in his house,

ו [Waw]

And his righteousness continues forever.

ז [Zayin]

- 4 To the upright he shines like a light in the darkness.^k

111:8 *Or "well-founded." 111:10 *Lit., "them." 112:1; 113:1 *Or "Hallelujah!" "Jah" is a shortened form of the name Jehovah.

CHAP. 111

- a Ps 19:8
Isa 55:10, 11
b Ps 19:9
c Ex 15:13
Lu 1:68
Re 7:10
d Ps 89:7
Isa 6:2, 3
Lu 1:49
Re 4:8
e Job 28:28
Pr 1:7
Ec 12:13
f De 4:6
Jos 1:7, 8
1KI 2:3
Ps 119:100
2Ti 3:14, 15

CHAP. 112

- g Ex 15:2
Re 19:1
h Ps 111:10
i Ps 1:1, 2
Ps 40:8
j Ps 25:12, 13
Ps 37:25, 26
k Ps 97:11
1Pe 2:9

Second Col.

- a Lu 6:36
Eph 4:32
b De 15:7, 8
Ps 41:1
Pr 19:17
Lu 6:34, 35
Ac 20:35
Heb 13:16
c Ps 15:5
Ps 125:1
d Ne 5:19
Pr 10:7
e Ps 27:1
Pr 3:25
f Ps 62:8
Isa 26:3
g Pr 28:1
h Ps 59:10
i De 15:11
Pr 11:24
Pr 19:17
j De 24:12, 13
2Co 9:9
Heb 6:10
k Pr 11:7

ח [Heth]

He is compassionate* and merciful^a and righteous.

ט [Teth]

- 5 It goes well for the man who generously* lends.^b

י [Yod]

He conducts his affairs with justice.

כ [Kaph]

- 6 He will never be shaken.^c

ל [Lamed]

The righteous will be remembered forever.^d

מ [Mem]

- 7 He will not fear bad news.^e

נ [Nun]

His heart is steadfast, trusting in Jehovah.^f

ס [Samekh]

- 8 His heart is unshakable;* he is not afraid;^g

ע [Ayin]

In the end he will look in triumph on his adversaries.^h

פ [Pe]

- 9 He has distributed widely;* he has given to the poor.ⁱ

צ [Tsade]

His righteousness continues forever.^j

ק [Qoph]

His own strength[#] will be exalted with glory.

ר [Resh]

- 10 The wicked one will see and be upset.

ש [Shin]

He will grind his teeth and melt away.

ת [Taw]

The desires of the wicked will perish.^k

113 Praise Jah!*

Offer praise, you servants of Jehovah,

Praise the name of Jehovah.

- 2 May Jehovah's name be praised

112:4 *Or "gracious." 112:5 *Or "graciously." 112:8 *Or "resolute; steady." 112:9 *Or "generously." #Lit., "horn."

From now on and forever.^a

- 3** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
Let Jehovah's name be praised.^b
- 4** Jehovah is high above all the nations;^c
His glory is above the heavens.^d
- 5** Who is like Jehovah our God,^e
The one who dwells* on high?
- 6** He stoops down to look on heaven and earth,^f
- 7** Raising the lowly from the dust.
He lifts up the poor from the ash heap*^g
- 8** In order to make him sit with nobles,
With the nobles of his people.
- 9** He gives the barren woman a home
As a happy mother with children.*^h
Praise Jah![#]

- 114** When Israel went out of Egypt,ⁱ
The house of Jacob from a people speaking a foreign language,
2 Judah became his sanctuary,*
Israel, his dominion.^j
- 3** The sea saw it and fled;^k
The Jordan turned back.^l
- 4** The mountains skipped about like rams,^m
The hills, like lambs.
- 5** What made you flee, O sea?ⁿ
Why, O Jordan, did you turn back?^o
- 6** Why did you skip about like rams, O mountains,
Like lambs, O hills?

113:5 *Or "sits enthroned." **113:7** *Or possibly, "garbage dump." **113:9** *Lit., "sons." #Or "Hallelujah!" "Jah" is a shortened form of the name Jehovah. **114:2** *Or "holy place."

CHAP. 113

a 1Ch 16:36
1Ch 29:10
Ps 106:48
b Ps 72:19
Ps 86:9
Isa 59:19
Mal 1:11
c Ps 97:9
Ps 99:2
d 1Ki 8:27
e Ex 15:11
f Ps 18:35
Ps 138:6
Isa 57:15
Isa 66:2
g 1Sa 2:7
h 1Sa 2:5
Isa 54:1

CHAP. 114

i Ex 12:41
j Ex 6:7
Ex 19:6
De 32:9
k Ex 14:21
l Jos 3:16
m Ex 19:18
Jg 5:4
n Ex 15:8
o Jos 4:23

Second Col.

a 1Ch 16:29, 30
b Ex 17:6
Nu 20:11
De 8:14, 15
Ps 107:35

CHAP. 115

c Isa 48:11
Joh 12:28
d Ps 138:2
e Ex 32:12
Nu 14:15, 16
De 32:26, 27
Ps 79:10
f Ps 135:15-18
Isa 40:19
Isa 46:6
Jer 10:3, 4
Jer 10:8, 9
Ac 19:26
1Co 10:19
g Hab 2:19
h 1Sa 5:3
Isa 46:7
i Hab 2:18
j Isa 44:9
k Ps 97:7
l Pr 3:5
m De 33:29
Ps 33:20
n Ex 28:1
o Pr 16:20
p Ps 84:11

- 7** Tremble, O earth, because of the Lord,
Because of the God of Jacob,^a
- 8** Who turns the rock into a reedy pool of water,
The flinty rock into springs of water.^b

- 115** Not to us, O Jehovah,
not to us,*
But to your name give glory^c
Because of your loyal love
and your faithfulness.^d
- 2** Why should the nations say:
"Where is their God?"^e
- 3** Our God is in the heavens;
He does whatever he pleases.
- 4** Their idols are silver and gold,
The work of human hands.^f
- 5** A mouth they have, but they cannot speak;^g
Eyes, but they cannot see;
- 6** Ears they have, but they cannot hear;
A nose, but they cannot smell;
- 7** Hands they have, but they cannot feel;
Feet, but they cannot walk;^h
They make no sound with their throat.ⁱ
- 8** The people who make them will become just like them,^j
As will all those who trust in them.^k
- 9** O Israel, trust in Jehovah!
—He is their help and their shield.^m
- 10** O house of Aaron,ⁿ trust in Jehovah
—He is their help and their shield.
- 11** You who fear Jehovah, trust in Jehovah^o
—He is their help and their shield.^p
- 12** Jehovah remembers us and will bless;

115:1 *Or "To us belongs nothing, O Jehovah, to us belongs nothing."

He will bless the house of
Israel;^a

He will bless the house of
Aaron.

13 He will bless those who fear
Jehovah,

The small as well as the
great.

14 Jehovah will give you an
increase,
To you and your children. ^{*b}

15 May you be blessed by
Jehovah,^c
The Maker of heaven and
earth.^d

16 As for the heavens, they
belong to Jehovah,^e
But the earth he has given
to the sons of men.^f

17 The dead do not praise Jah;^g
Nor do any who go down into
the silence of death.^{*h}

18 But we will praise Jah
From now on and forever.
Praise Jah!^{*}

116 I love Jehovah
Because he hears^{*} my
voice, my pleas for
help.ⁱ

2 For he inclines his ear^{*}
to me,^j
And I will call on him as long
as I live.[#]

3 The ropes of death
encircled me;
The Grave had me in its
grip.^{*k}
I was overcome by distress
and grief.^l

4 But I called on the name of
Jehovah.^m
"O Jehovah, rescue me!"^{**}

115:14 *Lit., "sons." **115:17** *Lit., "into
silence." **115:18** *Or "Hallelujah!"
"Jah" is a shortened form of the name
Jehovah. **116:1** *Or possibly, "I love
because Jehovah hears." **116:2** *Or
"bends down to listen." [#]Lit., "in my
days." **116:3** *Lit., "The distresses of
Sheol found me." **116:4, 8** *Or "my
soul."

CHAP. 115

a Ge 12:2

b Ge 13:16

c Ps 3:8

d Ps 96:5

e Isa 66:1

f Ge 1:28
Ps 37:29
Isa 45:18
Ac 17:26

g Ps 6:5
Ec 9:5

h Ps 31:17

CHAP. 116

i Ps 18:6

j Ps 34:15

k Isa 38:10

l Ps 18:4
Ps 38:6

m Ps 34:6
Ro 10:13

Second Col.

a De 32:4

b Ex 34:6
Ne 9:17
Da 9:9

c Ps 19:7

d Ps 56:13
Ps 94:18

e 2Co 4:13

f Ro 3:4

g Ps 22:25
Jon 2:9

h 1Sa 25:29
Job 1:12
Ps 91:14
Zec 2:8
2Pe 2:9

i Ps 107:14

j Le 7:12
Ps 50:23

k Ps 22:25
Ps 76:11

5 Jehovah is compassionate^{*}
and righteous;^a

Our God is merciful.^b

6 Jehovah is guarding the
inexperienced.^c

I was brought low, and he
saved me.

7 Let my soul^{*} rest once again,
For Jehovah has dealt kindly
with me.

8 You have rescued me^{*} from
death,

My eye from tears, my foot
from stumbling.^d

9 I will walk before Jehovah
in the land of the living.

10 I had faith, for I spoke;^e
I was greatly afflicted.

11 As for me, I panicked and
said:
"Every man is a liar."^f

12 With what will I repay
Jehovah
For all the good he has done
for me?

13 I will take up the cup of
salvation,^{*}
And I will call on the name
of Jehovah.

14 I will pay my vows to
Jehovah
In the presence of all his
people.^g

15 Costly^{*} in the eyes of
Jehovah
Is the death of his loyal
ones.^h

16 I beg you, O Jehovah,
For I am your servant.
I am your servant, the son
of your slave girl.
You have freed me from my
bonds.ⁱ

17 I will offer to you the sacri-
fice of thanksgiving;^j
I will call on the name of
Jehovah.

18 I will pay my vows to
Jehovah^k

116:5 *Or "gracious." **116:7** *See Glos-
sary. **116:13** *Or "grand salvation."
116:15 *Lit., "Precious."

In the presence of all his people,^a

- 19 In the courtyards of the house of Jehovah,^b
In your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise Jah!^{*c}

117 Praise Jehovah, all you nations;^d
Glorify him, all you peoples.^{*e}

- 2 For his loyal love toward us is great;^f
The faithfulness^g of Jehovah endures forever.^h
Praise Jah!^{*i}

118 Give thanks to Jehovah, for he is good;^j
His loyal love endures forever.

- 2 Let Israel now say:
"His loyal love endures forever."
3 Let those of the house of Aaron now say:
"His loyal love endures forever."
4 Let those fearing Jehovah now say:
"His loyal love endures forever."
5 I called on Jah* in my distress;
Jah answered and brought me into a place of safety.^{*k}
6 Jehovah is on my side;
I will not be afraid.^l
What can man do to me?^m
7 Jehovah is on my side as my helper;^{*n}
I will look in triumph on those who hate me.^o
8 It is better to take refuge in Jehovah
Than to trust in humans.^p
9 It is better to take refuge in Jehovah

116:19; 117:2 *Or "Hallelujah!" "Jah" is a shortened form of the name Jehovah. 117:1 *Or "clans." 118:5 *"Jah" is a shortened form of the name Jehovah. *Or "a roomy place." 118:7 *Or possibly, "along with those helping me."

CHAP. 116

- a Ps 116:14
b Ps 96:8
c Re 19:1

CHAP. 117

- d Re 7:9, 10
e Ro 15:11
f La 3:22
g Ps 25:10
Ps 91:4
h Ps 100:5
i Ps 111:1

CHAP. 118

- j Mt 19:17
k Ps 18:19
l Ps 27:1
m Isa 51:12
Ro 8:31
Heb 13:6
n Mt 26:52, 53
o Ps 54:7
p Ps 40:4
Ps 146:3, 4
Jer 17:5

Second Col.

- a Eze 29:6, 7
b 2Ch 20:15, 17
c 2Ch 14:11
d Ex 15:2
Ps 18:2
Isa 12:2
e Ps 89:13
Isa 63:12
f Ex 15:6
Isa 40:26
g Ps 6:5
Ps 71:17
h Ps 66:10
Ps 94:12
i Ps 16:10
j Isa 26:2
Re 22:14
k Ps 24:3, 4
l Ps 116:1

Than to trust in princes.^a

- 10 All the nations surrounded me,
But in the name of Jehovah,
I warded them off.^b
11 They surrounded me,
yes, I was completely surrounded,
But in the name of Jehovah,
I warded them off.
12 They surrounded me like bees,
But they were extinguished
as quickly as a fire among thorns.
In the name of Jehovah,
I warded them off.^c
13 I was pushed hard* to make me fall,
But Jehovah helped me.
14 Jah is my shelter and my strength,
And he has become my salvation.^d
15 The sound of rejoicing and salvation*
Is in the tents of the righteous.
The right hand of Jehovah is demonstrating its power.^e
16 The right hand of Jehovah is exalting itself;
The right hand of Jehovah is demonstrating its power.^f
17 I will not die, no, I will live,
In order to declare the works of Jah.^g
18 Jah disciplined me severely,^h
But he did not hand me over to death.ⁱ
19 Open to me the gates of righteousness;^j
I will enter them and praise Jah.
20 This is the gate of Jehovah.
The righteous will enter through it.^k
21 I will praise you, for you answered me^l
And you became my salvation.

118:13 *Or possibly, "You pushed me hard." 118:15 *Or "victory."

- 22 The stone that the builders rejected
Has become the chief
cornerstone.*^a
- 23 This has come from
Jehovah;^b
It is wonderful in our eyes.^c
- 24 This is the day that Jehovah
has made;
We will be joyful and rejoice
in it.
- 25 Jehovah, save us, please,
we beg!
Jehovah, grant us victory,
please!
- 26 Blessed is the one who
comes in the name of
Jehovah;^d
We bless you from the
house of Jehovah.
- 27 Jehovah is God;
He gives us light.^e
Join in the festival pro-
cession with branches in
hand,^f
Up to the horns of the
altar.^g
- 28 You are my God, and I will
praise you;
My God, I will exalt you.^h
- 29 Give thanks to Jehovah,ⁱ
for he is good;
His loyal love endures for-
ever.^j

℣ [Aleph]

- 119** Happy are those who
are blameless* in
their way,
Who walk in the law of
Jehovah.^k
- 2 Happy are those who ob-
serve his reminders,^l
Who search for him with all
their heart.^m
- 3 They practice no unright-
eousness;
They walk in his ways.ⁿ
- 4 You have commanded
That your orders be care-
fully kept.^o

118:22 *Lit., "the head of the corner."
119:1 *Or "who keep integrity."

CHAP. 118

- a Isa 28:16
Lu 20:17
Ac 4:11
1Co 3:11
Eph 2:19, 20
1Pe 2:4-7
- b Ac 5:31
- c Mr 12:10, 11
- d Mt 21:7-9
Mt 23:39
Mr 11:7-10
Lu 19:37, 38
- e Ps 18:28
1Pe 2:9
- f Le 23:34
Ps 42:4
- g Ex 27:2
- h Ex 15:2
Isa 25:1
- i Ps 50:23
- j Ezr 3:11
Ps 118:1

CHAP. 119

- k 2Ki 20:3
Jas 1:25
- l Ps 19:7
- m 2Ch 31:20, 21
- n Isa 38:3
- o De 5:33
Jer 7:23
Jas 2:10

Second Col.

- a Ps 51:10
- b Ps 119:80
- c Pr 6:20, 22
- d Ps 25:5
- e Ps 112:1
- f Ps 19:13
Ps 37:31
- g Jer 15:16
- h Ps 19:8, 10
Ps 119:72
- i Ps 119:93
Ps 119:100
- j Ps 25:10

k Jas 1:23-25

l Isa 38:20

- 5 If only I could remain stead-
fast*^a
So as to observe your regu-
lations!
- 6 Then I would not be put to
shame^b
When I consider all your
commandments.
- 7 I will praise you with
an upright heart
When I learn your righteous
judgments.
- 8 I will observe your regula-
tions.
May you never utterly for-
sake me.
 Ⲛ [Beth]
- 9 How can a young man keep
his path clean?
By keeping on guard ac-
cording to your word.^c
- 10 With my whole heart I seek
you.
Do not let me stray from
your commandments.^d
- 11 In my heart I treasure up
your saying^e
So that I may not sin
against you.^f
- 12 May you be praised,
O Jehovah;
Teach me your regulations.
- 13 With my lips I declare
All the judgments that you
have spoken.
- 14 I rejoice over your
reminders^g
More than over all other
valuable things.^h
- 15 I will ponder over* your
ordersⁱ
And keep my eyes on your
paths.^j
- 16 I am fond of your statutes.
I will not forget your word.^k
 λ [Gimel]
- 17 Deal kindly with your ser-
vant,
So that I may live and ob-
serve your word.^l

119:5 *Lit., "O that my ways were firm-
ly established." 119:15 *Or "study."

- Song 61 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“With What Will I Repay Jehovah?”:** (10 min.)
Ps 116:3, 4, 8—Jehovah rescued the psalmist from death (w87 3/15 24 ¶5)
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PSALMS 110-118 | “With What Will I Repay Jehovah?”



The psalmist felt deep gratitude toward Jehovah because He had rescued him from “the ropes of death.” (Ps 116:3) He was determined to show his gratitude to Jehovah by keeping all his promises and by fulfilling all his obligations to Him.

Why am I grateful to Jehovah this week?

How can I show my gratitude to Jehovah?

August 29–September 4

Treasures From God's Word

“With What Will I Repay Jehovah?”

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Psalm 116:3, 4, 8—Jehovah rescued the psalmist from death

Reference: w87 3/15 24 **paragraph 5.**

What are “the ropes of death”?

It seemed as if death had so tightly bound the psalmist with unbreakable ropes that escape was impossible. Ropes tied tightly about limbs produce sharp pains, or pangs, and the Greek *Septuagint* version renders the Hebrew word for “ropes” as “pangs.” Hence, when Jesus Christ died, he was in the paralyzing grip, or pangs, of death. When Jehovah resurrected Jesus, therefore, He was “loosing the pangs of death.” —Acts

2:24.

Psalm 116:12—The psalmist wanted to show his gratitude to Jehovah

Reference: *w09 7/15 29 paragraphs 4-5.*

“What Shall I Repay to Jehovah?”

The psalmist wondered: “What shall I repay to Jehovah for all his benefits to me?” (**Psalm 116:12**) What benefits had he received? Jehovah had sustained him during a period of “distress and grief.” Moreover, Jehovah had “rescued [his] soul from death.” Now he wanted to “repay” Jehovah somehow. What could the psalmist do? He said: “My vows I shall pay to Jehovah.” (**Psalm 116:3, 4, 8, 10-14**) He resolved to keep all the solemn promises that he had made to Jehovah and to fulfill all his obligations to him.

You can do the same. How? By following a life course that at all times conforms to God’s laws and principles. Hence, make sure that your worship of Jehovah remains the most important thing in your life and that you let God’s spirit guide you in everything you do.

(**Ecclesiastes 12:13; Galatians 5:16-18**) In reality, of course, you can never fully repay Jehovah for all he has done for you. Still, it does ‘make Jehovah’s heart rejoice’ to see that you are wholeheartedly giving of yourself in his service. (**Proverbs 27:11**) What a

wonderful privilege it is to give Jehovah pleasure in this way!

Reference: w98 12/1 24 **paragraph 3.**

Talks by three members of the Gilead faculty followed. Karl Adams spoke first, on the subject “What Will You Repay to Jehovah?” His talk was based on the 116th Psalm, which Jesus may have sung on the night before his death. (Matthew 26:30, footnote) What went through Jesus’ mind as he sang the words: “What shall I repay to Jehovah for all his benefits to me”? (Psalm 116:12) He may have been reflecting on the perfect body that Jehovah had prepared for him. (Hebrews 10:5) The following day, he would offer that body in sacrifice, proving the depth of his love. The students of the 105th class had tasted Jehovah’s goodness for the past five months. Now they would show their love for God by working hard in their missionary assignments.

Psalm 116:13, 14, 17, 18—The psalmist was determined to fulfill all his obligations to Jehovah
Reference: w10 4/15 27, box.

[Box.] What Will Help You to Keep Following the Christ?

- Read God’s Word daily, and meditate on what you read.—**Psalm 1:1-3; 1 Timothy 4:15.**
- Pray often for the support and guidance of God’s spirit.—**Zechariah 4:6; Luke 11:9, 13.**
- Associate with those who demonstrate heartfelt zeal for the ministry.—**Proverbs 13:20; Hebrews 10:24, 25.**
- Appreciate the urgency of the times in which we are living.—**Ephesians 5:15, 16.**
- Be conscious of the serious consequences of ‘begging off.’—**Luke 9:59-62.**
- Reflect regularly on your dedication vow and the abundant blessings that result from serving Jehovah and following the Christ wholeheartedly.—**Psalm 116:12-14; 133:3; Proverbs 10:22. [End of Box.]**

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Psalm 110:4—What is the “oath” referred to in this verse?

Reference: *w14* 10/15 11 paragraphs 15-17.

A Covenant Fills the Need for a Priestly Function

15 While the Abrahamic covenant and the Davidic covenant make it certain that the offspring of the woman would have a kingly function, that role alone would not suffice to bring blessings to people of all nations. For them to be truly blessed, they would have to be freed from their sinful state and brought into Jehovah's universal family. To accomplish this requires that the offspring also serve in a priestly capacity. The wise Creator provided for this by means of another legal arrangement, the ***covenant for a priest like Melchizedek.***

16 Jehovah revealed through King David that He would make a personal covenant with Jesus with a twofold objective: to have him "sit at [God's] right hand" until he subdues his enemies and to be "a priest forever in the manner of Melchizedek." (Read **Psalm 110:1, 2, 4.**) Why "in the manner of Melchizedek"? Because long before any descendants of Abraham inherited the Promised Land, Melchizedek, the king of Salem, served as "priest of the Most High God." (**Hebrews 7:1-3**) He was directly appointed by Jehovah to do so. He is the only one mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures who served as both a king and a priest. Moreover, since he was without a recorded predecessor or successor, he can be called "a priest for all time," or forever.

17 Jesus is directly appointed to be a priest by means of this personal covenant that Jehovah made with him, and he will remain “a priest forever in the manner of Melchizedek.” (Hebrews 5:4-6) This clearly shows that Jehovah has legally bound himself to use the Messianic Kingdom to accomplish his original purpose concerning humans on earth.

Reference: w06 9/1 14 paragraph 1.

To what has Jehovah ‘sworn without feeling regret’?

This oath is the covenant that Jehovah made with Jesus Christ to serve as King and High Priest.—Luke 22:29.

Psalm 116:15—During a funeral talk, why should this verse not be applied to the deceased?

Reference: w12 5/15 22 paragraph 2.

When delivering a memorial talk for a Christian, it is not fitting to apply Psalm 116:15 to the deceased person, even though he died as a loyal servant of Jehovah.

Why? Because the psalmist’s statement has a broader significance. It means that God counts the death of the *entire group of his loyal ones* too costly for him to let it take place.—See Psalm 72:14; 116:8.

- Song 61 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

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- Song 82
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PSALMS 110-118 | “With What Will I Repay Jehovah?”



The psalmist felt deep gratitude toward Jehovah because He had rescued him from “the ropes of death.” (Ps 116:3) He was determined to show his gratitude to Jehovah by keeping all his promises and by fulfilling all his obligations to Him.

Why am I grateful to Jehovah this week?

How can I show my gratitude to Jehovah?

Who Was Jesus?

If we want to please Jehovah, we must listen to another important person. Long before creating Adam, Jehovah created a mighty spirit person in the heavens.

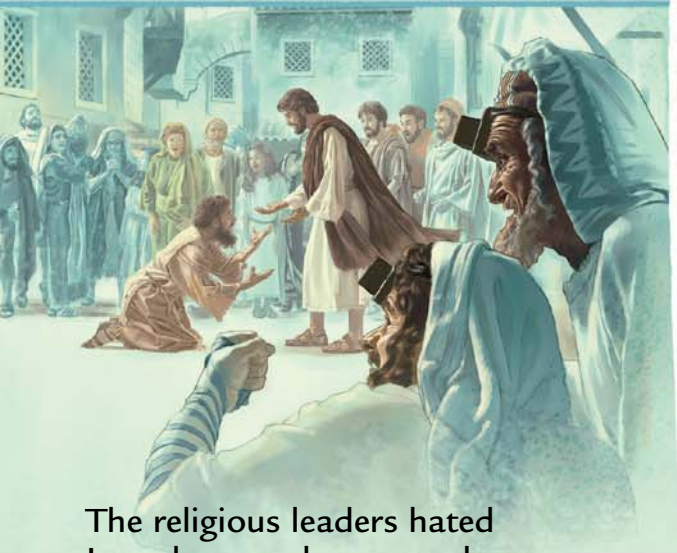
In time, Jehovah sent this one to be born in Bethlehem to a virgin named Mary. The child was given the name Jesus.—John 6:38.

As a man on earth, Jesus perfectly reflected God's qualities. He was kind, loving, and approachable. Fearlessly, he taught others the truth about Jehovah.

Jehovah sent Jesus to earth.
1 John 4:9



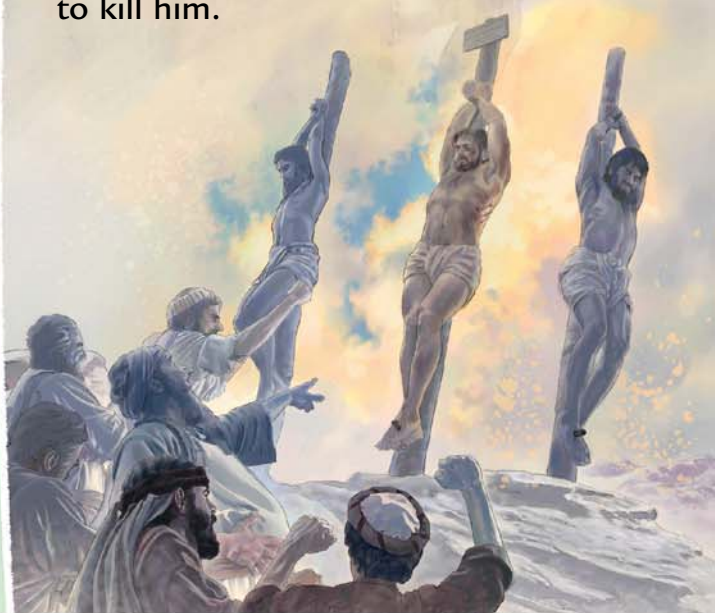
Jesus also healed the sick and raised to life some who had died.



The religious leaders hated Jesus because he exposed their false teachings and their evil ways.



The religious leaders persuaded the Romans to beat Jesus and to kill him.



Why is it important to know about Jesus?
—John 17:3.

What did Jesus do in heaven before he came to earth?—Colossians 1:15-17.

Jesus did good but was hated.
1 Peter 2:21-24

doing Jehovah God's will must be your main purpose in life.—1 Peter 4:2.

OVERCOMING FEAR OF FAILURE

¹⁷ Some hold back from making a dedication to Jehovah because they are somewhat afraid of taking such a serious step. They may fear being accountable to God as a dedicated Christian. Being afraid that they may fail and disappoint Jehovah, they think that it is best not to make a dedication to him.

¹⁸ As you learn to love Jehovah, you will be moved to make a dedication to him and to do your best to live up to it. (Ecclesiastes 5:4) After making a dedication, surely you will want to “walk worthily of Jehovah to the end of fully pleasing him.” (Colossians 1:10) Because of your love for God, you will not think it is too hard to do his will. No doubt you will agree with the apostle John, who wrote: “This is what the love of God means, that we observe his commandments; and yet his commandments are not burdensome.”—1 John 5:3.

17. Why might some hold back from making a dedication to God?

18. What can move you to make a dedication to Jehovah?

¹⁹ You do not have to be perfect to make a dedication to God. Jehovah knows your limitations and never expects you to do more than you are able to do. (Psalm 103:14) He wants you to succeed and will support and help you. (Isaiah 41:10) You can be sure that if you trust in Jehovah with all your heart, he “will make your paths straight.”—Proverbs 3:5, 6.

SYMBOLIZING YOUR DEDICATION BY GETTING BAPTIZED

²⁰ Thinking about the things we have just discussed may help you to make a personal dedication to Jehovah in prayer. Everyone who really loves God must also ‘make public declaration for salvation.’ (Romans 10:10) How do you go about doing that?

²¹ Let the coordinator of the body of elders of your congregation know that you want to get baptized. He will arrange for some elders to review with you a number of questions that cover the

19. Why do you not need to fear making a dedication to God?

20. Why can dedication to Jehovah not remain a private matter?

21, 22. How can you make “public declaration” of your faith?

1. The greatest of men was our Lord Jesus Christ;
By pride or ambition he was not enticed.
God's purpose gave him the most prominent part;
Yet, always he proved himself lowly in heart.
2. All you who are toiling with burdensome cares,
He bids you come under the yoke that he bears.
Refreshment you'll find as the Kingdom you seek.
Our Lord is mild-tempered; he favors the meek.
3. 'All you are just brothers,' our Lord Jesus said.
So never seek greatness; serve others instead.
The mild and the meek to our God have great
worth;
He promises they will inherit the earth.

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Teach the Truth

Beginning in September, the *Life and Ministry Meeting Workbook* will include a new type of sample presentation entitled “Teach the Truth.” Our objective will be to highlight a basic Bible truth, using a question and a scripture.

If we discern interest, we can build anticipation for our next visit by leaving a publication or by showing a video from jw.org. We should try to return within a few days to build on the previous discussion. The new presentations and student assignments will be based on chapter summaries found in the book *What Can the Bible Teach Us?* There we can find additional questions and scriptures to help us make return visits or to conduct a study using only the Bible.

There is only one road leading to life. (Mt 7:13, 14)
 Since we speak to people of various religions and backgrounds, we must feature Bible truths that will appeal to them as individuals. (1Ti 2:4) As we become more

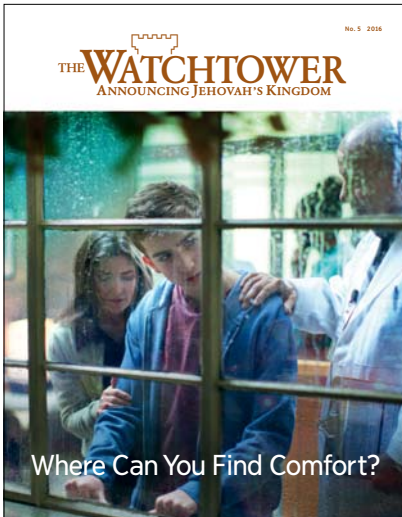


USE THIS NEW PRESENTATION WHEN . . .

- preaching from house to house
- witnessing informally
- starting a Bible study

conversant in various Bible topics and improve in our skill of “handling the word of the truth aright,” our joy will increase, and we will have success in teaching the truth to others.—2Ti 2:15.

Special Campaign to Distribute *The Watchtower* in September



People around the earth need comfort. (Ec 4:1) During the entire month of September, we will make a special effort to offer *The Watchtower*, which will feature the subject of comfort. Give this magazine wide distribution. However, because we desire to speak directly with people in order to comfort them, we will not leave the magazine at not-at-homes.

WHAT TO SAY

“We all need comfort at times. But where can we find it? [Read 2 Corinthians 1:3, 4.] This issue of *The Watchtower* considers how God provides such comfort.”

If the person shows interest and accepts the magazine, . . .

► SHOW THE VIDEO *WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?*

Then offer a Bible study.

► LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR A RETURN VISIT

Pose a question that you will answer when you return, such as “Why does God permit suffering?”

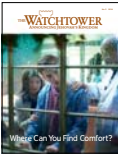




Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Presentations



THE WATCHTOWER

Question: We all need comfort at times. But where can we find it?

Scripture: 2Co 1:3, 4

Offer: This issue of *The Watchtower* considers how God provides such comfort.



TEACH THE TRUTH

Question: How can we know if God cares about us?

Scripture: 1Pe 5:7

Truth: God invites us to pray to him because he cares.

THE WATCHTOWER (back page)

Question: Some think that God's Kingdom is a condition in a person's heart; others think that it's the result of human efforts to bring world peace. What do you think?

Scripture: Da 2:44

Offer: According to the Bible, God's Kingdom is a real government. This article discusses further what the Bible says about God's Kingdom.

BUILD YOUR OWN PRESENTATION

Question:

Scripture:

Offer:

He Learned Forgiveness From the Master

PETER would never forget that terrible moment when their eyes met. Did he see in Jesus' gaze some hint of disappointment or reproach? We cannot venture so far; the inspired record says only that "the Lord turned and looked upon Peter." (Luke 22:61) But in that one glance, Peter saw the depth of his own failure. He realized that he had just done the very thing that Jesus had foretold, the one thing that Peter had insisted he would never do—he had disowned his beloved Master. It was a low point for Peter, perhaps the worst moment of the worst day of his life.

² All was not lost, though. Because Peter was a man of great faith, he still had an opportunity to recover from his mistakes and to learn one of Jesus' greatest lessons. It had to do with forgiveness. Each

- 1. What may have been the worst moment of Peter's life?**
- 2. Peter needed to learn what lesson, and how may we benefit from his story?**



“The Lord turned and looked upon Peter”

of us needs to learn the same lesson, so let us follow Peter on this difficult journey.

A Man With Much to Learn

³ About six months earlier in his hometown of Capernaum, Peter approached Jesus and asked: “Lord, how many times is my brother to sin against me and am I to forgive him? Up to seven times?” Peter likely thought that he was being generous. After all, the religious leaders of the day taught that one had to forgive only three times! Jesus replied: “Not, Up to seven times, but, Up to seventy-seven times.”—Matt. 18:21, 22.

⁴ Was Jesus suggesting that Peter keep a running tally of a transgressor’s actions? No; rather, by turning Peter’s 7 into a 77, he was saying that love does not allow us to set an arbitrary limit on forgiveness. (1 Cor. 13:4, 5) Jesus showed that Peter had been influenced by a hard-hearted and unforgiving spirit that was prevalent in those days, one that meted out forgiveness as if by an accountant’s ledger.

3, 4. (a) What question did Peter ask Jesus, and what might Peter have thought? (b) How did Jesus show that Peter had been influenced by the spirit prevalent in those days?

However, divine forgiveness is expansive, generous.
—*Read 1 John 1:7-9.*

⁵ Peter did not argue with Jesus. But did Jesus' lesson really reach his heart? Sometimes we learn the most about forgiveness when we realize how desperately we need it ourselves. So let us return to the events leading up to Jesus' death. In those difficult hours, Peter gave his Master many things to forgive.

A Growing Need for Forgiveness

⁶ It was a momentous evening—the final night of Jesus' earthly life. Jesus still had much to teach his apostles—for instance, about humility. Jesus set an example by humbly washing their feet, a job normally assigned to the lowliest of servants. At first, Peter questioned Jesus' actions. Then he refused the service. Next he insisted that Jesus wash not only his feet but also his hands and head! Jesus did not lose his patience but calmly explained the importance and meaning of what he was doing.—John 13:1-17.

5. When might we learn the most about forgiveness?

6. How did Peter respond as Jesus tried to teach the apostles about humility, yet how did Jesus treat him?

⁷ Shortly thereafter, Peter further tested Jesus' patience. The apostles fell to bickering over who of them was the greatest, and Peter surely played a part in that shameful display of human pride. Nonetheless, Jesus corrected them kindly and even commended them for what they had done well; they had shown faithfulness in sticking to their Master. He foretold, however, that they would all abandon him. Peter countered that he would stick with Jesus even in the face of death. Jesus prophesied that, on the contrary, Peter would deny his Master three times that very night before a cock crowed twice. Peter then not only contradicted Jesus but boasted that he would prove more faithful than all the other apostles!—Matt. 26:31-35; Mark 14:27-31; Luke 22:24-28; John 13:36-38.

⁸ Was Jesus close to losing his patience with Peter? In fact, throughout this difficult time, Jesus kept looking for the good in his imperfect apostles. He knew that Peter would fail him, yet He said: “I have made supplication for you that your faith may not
7, 8. (a) In what ways did Peter further test Jesus' patience? (b) How did Jesus continue to show a kind, forgiving spirit?

give out; and you, when once you have returned, strengthen your brothers.” (Luke 22:32) Jesus thus expressed confidence in Peter’s spiritual recovery and his return to faithful service. What a kind, forgiving spirit!

⁹ Later, in the garden of Gethsemane, Peter needed correction more than once. Jesus asked him, as well as James and John, to keep on the watch while He prayed. Jesus was in emotional agony and in need of support, but Peter and the others fell asleep repeatedly. Jesus made this empathetic and forgiving observation: “The spirit, of course, is eager, but the flesh is weak.”—Mark 14:32-41.

¹⁰ Before long, a mob arrived, bearing torches and armed with swords and clubs. Here was a time to act with caution and discretion. Yet, Peter rashly leaped into action, swinging a sword at the head of Malchus, a slave of the high priest, and lopping off one of the man’s ears. Jesus calmly corrected Peter, healed the wound, and explained a principle of nonviolence that guides His followers to this day. (Matt. 26:47-55; **9, 10.** (a) In the garden of Gethsemane, what correction did Peter need? (b) Peter’s case may remind us of what?

Luke 22:47-51; John 18:10, 11) Peter had already given his Master much to forgive. His case may remind us that we all sin frequently. (*Read James 3:2.*) Who of us does not need divine forgiveness every single day? For Peter, though, the night was far from over. The worst lay ahead.

Peter's Worst Failure

¹¹ Jesus reasoned with the mob that if they were looking for him, they should let his apostles go. Peter watched helplessly as the mob bound Jesus. Then Peter fled, as did his fellow apostles.

¹² Peter and John stopped in their flight, perhaps near the house of the former High Priest Annas, where Jesus was first taken for questioning. As Jesus was led from there, Peter and John followed but “at a good distance.” (Matt. 26:58; John 18:12, 13) Peter was no coward. It surely took a measure of courage to follow at all. The mob was armed, and Peter had already wounded one of them. Still, we do not here see in Peter's example the kind of loyal love that he

11, 12. (a) How did Peter show a measure of courage after Jesus' arrest? (b) In what way did Peter's example fall short of what he himself had professed?

himself had professed—a willingness to die by his Master’s side if need be.—Mark 14:31.

¹³ Like Peter, many today seek to follow Christ “at a good distance”—in such a way that no one else will notice. But as Peter himself later wrote, the only way to follow Christ properly is to stick as close to Him as we can, imitating His example in all things, regardless of the consequences.—*Read 1 Peter 2:21.*

¹⁴ Peter’s cautious steps finally brought him up to the gate of one of Jerusalem’s most imposing mansions. It was the home of Caiaphas, the wealthy and powerful high priest. Such homes were usually built around a courtyard, with a gate in the front. Peter reached the gate and was refused entrance. John, who knew the high priest and was already inside, came and got the doorkeeper to admit Peter. It seems that Peter did not stick close to John; nor did he try to get inside the house to stand at his Master’s side. He stayed in the courtyard, where some slaves and servants were passing the chilly night hours in front of a bright fire, watching as the false

13. What is the only way to follow Christ properly?

14. How did Peter pass the nighttime hours during Jesus’ trial?

witnesses against Jesus paraded in and out of the trial going on inside.—Mark 14:54-57; John 18:15, 16, 18.

¹⁵ In the firelight, the girl who had admitted Peter at the gate was able to see him better. She recognized him. She said accusingly: “You, too, were with Jesus the Galilean!” Caught off guard, Peter denied knowing Jesus—or even understanding what the girl was talking about. He went to stand near the gatehouse, trying to be inconspicuous, but another girl noticed him and pointed out the same fact: “This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.” Peter swore: “I do not know the man!” (Matt. 26:69-72; Mark 14:66-68) Perhaps it was after this second denial that Peter heard a cock crowing, but he was too distracted to be reminded of the prophecy Jesus had uttered just hours earlier.

¹⁶ A little while later, Peter was still trying desperately to escape notice. But a group of people standing around in the courtyard approached. One of them was related to Malchus, the slave whom Peter

15, 16. Explain how Jesus’ prophecy about three denials was fulfilled.

It Means Their Life (Ezekiel 3:17-19)

1. In this year of goodwill
by our God, all need to hear
That the day of his anger
will come, and it is near.

(CHORUS)

*It means their life, but not just theirs;
It means our own life as well.
It means their life if they obey,
So all the nations we must tell;
We must tell.*

2. There's a message to preach,
so we spread it all abroad.
We invite all to come and
be reconciled to God.

(Chorus)

(BRIDGE)

It's urgent, it's important,
That people listen, learn, and live.
We tell them, and we teach them;
Life-giving truth we freely give.

(Chorus)

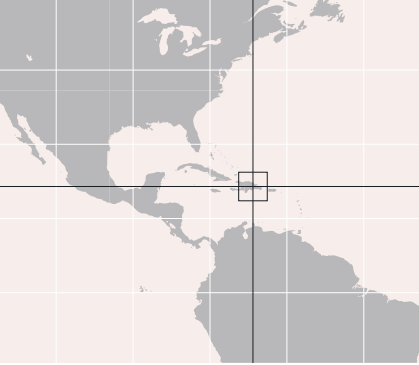
JULY 2016

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
AUGUST 29–SEPTEMBER 25, 2016



COVER IMAGE:
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

On the beach at Las Terrenas, a special pioneer uses the Bible to share the good news with a man who has harvested coconuts

PUBLISHERS
37,536

BIBLE STUDIES
69,892

MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE
(2015)
120,103

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3 THEY OFFERED THEMSELVES WILLINGLY —In Ghana

7 WEEK OF **AUGUST 29–SEPTEMBER 4** **Seek the Kingdom, Not Things**

Jesus taught us to ‘seek first the Kingdom,’ not material things. How can we avoid the snare of materialism and simplify our life so that we can pursue more important spiritual interests? Consider Jesus’ encouraging words in the portion of his Sermon on the Mount found at Matthew 6:25-34.

13 WEEK OF **SEPTEMBER 5-11** **Why Must We “Keep on the Watch”?**

As Christians, we must take seriously Jesus’ admonition to “keep on the watch” in these last days. (Matt. 24:42) To do that, we need to guard against negative influences that could cause us not to be alert and vigilant with respect to Jesus’ coming. This article explains how we can avoid being distracted from our watchfulness.

18 “Do Not Be Afraid. I Will Help You”

21 WEEK OF **SEPTEMBER 12-18** **Grateful Recipients of God’s Undeserved Kindness**

26 WEEK OF **SEPTEMBER 19-25** **Spread the Good News of Undeserved Kindness**

These two articles examine many of the ways that we benefit from Jehovah’s undeserved kindness. They also explain why our deep gratitude for these expressions of love should move us to make known to others how they too can benefit from Jehovah’s undeserved kindness.

31 QUESTIONS FROM READERS

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Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the modern-language *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*.

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

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

(CHORUS)

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

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

(Chorus)

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

(Chorus)

Seek the Kingdom, Not Things

“Keep seeking [God’s] Kingdom, and these things will be added to you.”—LUKE 12:31.

SONGS: 40, 98

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What difference is there between what we need and what we want?

Why should we control our desire to want more material things?

Why are you convinced that Jehovah can provide your daily needs?

IT HAS been said that man’s necessities are few, but his wants are infinite. It seems that many cannot see the difference between material needs and wants. What is the difference? A “need” is something you must have because your life depends on it. Food, clothing, and shelter—these

1. What difference is there between what we need and what we want?

are legitimate necessities. A “want” is something you would like to have, but it is not essential for everyday living.

2 What people want may vary considerably, depending on where they live. In developing countries, many may simply want to have enough money to buy a cell phone, a motorbike, or a small plot of land. In wealthier lands, the urge may be to acquire a lavish wardrobe, a bigger house, or a more expensive automobile. In any case, herein lies a real danger—becoming ensnared by materialism, wanting more and more things, whether we need them or not and whether we can afford them or not.

BEWARE OF THE SNARE OF MATERIALISM

3 What is materialism? It is a preoccupation with material things rather than spiritual riches.

2. What are some things that people want?

3. What is materialism?

Materialism is rooted in one's desires, priorities, and focus in life. It creates in us a yearning for a lot of material possessions. A materialistic person may not have a lot of money or make expensive purchases. Even poor people can become victims of materialism and can neglect seeking first the Kingdom.—Heb. 13:5.

4 Satan uses his world's commercial system to seduce us into believing that having material things beyond our actual needs is necessary for the enjoyment of life. He is adept at appealing to “the desire of the eyes.” (1 John 2:15-17; Gen. 3:6; Prov. 27:20) The world offers every kind of material thing, from the superb to the absurd, some of which look very enticing. Have you ever purchased something, not because you needed it, but because it caught your eye in an advertisement or a store display? Did you later realize that you could have lived the rest

4. How does Satan use “the desire of the eyes”?

of your life without it? Such nonessential things only complicate our life and weigh us down. They can ensnare us and distract us from our spiritual routine of studying the Bible, preparing for and attending meetings, and sharing regularly in the ministry. Remember, the apostle John warned: “The world is passing away and so is its desire.”

5 Satan wants us to slave for Riches rather than for Jehovah. (Matt. 6:24) Those who spend most of their energy accumulating material things end up with a life that is, at best, shallow because it appeals to selfish gratification or that is, at worst, spiritually empty and full of grief and frustration. (1 Tim. 6:9, 10; Rev. 3:17) It is as Jesus described in his illustration of the sower. When the Kingdom message is “sown among the thorns . . . , the *desires for everything else* make inroads and choke

5. What can happen to those who use most of their energy to get more things?

the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”—Mark 4:14, 18, 19.

6 Consider the man Baruch, the prophet Jeremiah’s secretary. As Jerusalem was nearing its foretold destruction, Baruch began “seeking great things” for himself—pursuits that had no lasting value. However, the only thing he should have hoped for was to receive what Jehovah promised him: “I will let you escape with *your life*.” (Jer. 45:1-5; ftn.) God certainly was not going to preserve anyone’s material possessions in a city that was going to be destroyed. (Jer. 20:5) As we near the end of this system of things, now is not the time to amass more and more material things for ourselves. We should not expect that any of our possessions, regardless of how treasured or valuable they may be, will survive with us through the great tribulation.—Prov. 11:4, ftn.; Matt. 24:21, 22; Luke 12:15.

6. What lesson do we learn from Baruch?

7 Jesus gave us the best counsel for securing the necessities of life without being sidetracked, becoming materialistic, or creating needless anxiety for ourselves. He included this advice in the Sermon on the Mount. (Matt. 6:19-21) Let us read and analyze the portion that is recorded at Matthew 6:25-34. Doing so should convince us that we must ‘keep seeking the Kingdom,’ not *things*. —Luke 12:31.

JEHOVAH CARES FOR OUR MATERIAL NEEDS

8 Read Matthew 6:25. When Jesus told his listeners to “stop being anxious about [their] lives,” it was the same as telling them to “stop worrying.” They were anxious about things they ought not be anxious about. Jesus said to stop that—and for

7. What will we consider next, and why?

8, 9. (a) Why should we not worry too much about the things we need? (b) What did Jesus know about humans and their needs?

good reason. Needless anxiety or worry, even about legitimate concerns, can divide a person's mind and distract him, shutting out the more important spiritual matters of life. Jesus was so concerned for his disciples that he warned them about this dangerous tendency four more times in his sermon.—Matt. 6:27, 28, 31, 34.

9 Why did Jesus tell us not to worry about what we will eat, or drink, or wear? Are not such things some of the major necessities of life? They certainly are! If we lack the means to obtain these things, will we not naturally be anxious? Of course we will, and Jesus knew that. He was well-aware of people's day-to-day needs. More than that, he knew of the difficult conditions facing his disciples who centuries later would live during "the last days," characterized by "critical times hard to deal with." (2 Tim. 3:1) Such conditions include unemployment, inflation, food shortages, and abject poverty that many

experience. Yet, Jesus also realized that ‘life means more than food and the body than clothing.’

10 Earlier in his sermon, Jesus taught his audience to petition their heavenly Father for their physical needs, saying that they could pray: “Give us today our bread for this day.” (Matt. 6:11) Or as he put it on a later occasion: “Give us each day our bread according to our daily *needs*.” (Luke 11:3) But that counsel does not mean that our material provisions should dominate our thinking. In that same model prayer, Jesus gave priority to praying for God’s Kingdom to come. (Matt. 6:10; Luke 11:2) To put his listeners’ minds at ease, Jesus next highlighted Jehovah’s matchless record as a Provider.

11 **Read Matthew 6:26.** We should “observe in-

10. When Jesus taught his followers how to pray, what did he say should be most important in their life?

11, 12. What do we learn from the way Jehovah cares for the birds of heaven? (See opening picture of the standard edition.)

tently the birds of heaven.” As small as those creatures are, they eat a lot of fruit, seeds, insects, or worms. For their body weight, they consume proportionately more than humans. Yet, they do not have to cultivate the ground and plant seed for food. Jehovah provides everything they need. (Ps. 147:9) Of course, he does not put the food in their beaks! They have to go and find it, but the food is there in abundance.

12 For Jesus, it was unthinkable that his heavenly Father would provide food for the birds but not take care of the same basic needs of humans.[1] (1 Pet. 5:6, 7) He will not put the food in our mouths, but he may bless our efforts to grow the food we need or to earn the money to buy our daily provisions. In cases of need, he may motivate others to share what they have. Although Jesus did not mention providing shelter for the birds of heaven, Jehovah has provided them with the

instincts, skills, and materials needed to make nests for themselves. Jehovah can likewise help us find adequate housing for our families.

13 Jesus asked his listeners: “Are you not worth more than [the birds of heaven] are?” No doubt, Jesus had in mind that he would soon give his life in behalf of mankind. (Compare Luke 12:6, 7.) Christ’s ransom sacrifice was not provided for any other living creatures. Jesus did not die for the birds of heaven, but he did die for us so that we might enjoy unending life.—Matt. 20:28.

14 **Read Matthew 6:27.** Why did Jesus then say that the anxious person cannot add even a cubit to his life? Because needlessly worrying about our daily needs will not help us to live longer. Instead, overwhelming anxiety is more likely to shorten our life span.

13. What proves that we are worth more than the birds of heaven?

14. What can an anxious person never do?

How to Simplify Your Life

1. Identify your actual needs
2. Eliminate unnecessary expenses
3. Prepare a realistic budget*
4. Dispose of things you do not use
5. Pay off any debts that you have
6. Cut back on secular employment
7. Plan how to expand your ministry

* See the box “How to Develop a Budget” in the July 2010 *Awake!*, p. 8.

15 Read Matthew 6:28-30. Who does not want to have nice clothing, especially when engaging in spiritual activities—sharing in the ministry or attending meetings and assemblies? Even so, must

15, 16. (a) What do we learn from the way Jehovah cares for the lilies of the field? (See opening picture of the standard edition.) **(b)** What questions might we need to ask ourselves, and why?

we be “anxious about clothing”? Jesus again turns our attention to Jehovah’s handiwork. In this case, we can learn a lot from the appearance of “the lilies of the field.” Jesus may have had in mind such lilylike flowers as gladiolus, hyacinths, irises, and tulips—all beautiful in their own way. These creations do not have to spin thread and sew or weave garments for themselves. Yet, their blooms are gorgeous to behold! Why, “not even Solomon in all his glory was arrayed as one of these”!

16 Do not miss the point of what Jesus is saying: “If this is how God clothes the vegetation of the field . . . , will he not much rather clothe you, you with little faith?” Most assuredly he will! Jesus’ disciples, though, were somewhat lacking in faith. (Matt. 8:26; 14:31; 16:8; 17:20) They needed stronger faith and trust in Jehovah. What about us? How strong is our faith in Jehovah’s desire and ability to provide for us?

17 Read Matthew 6:31, 32. We should not imitate the people of “the nations,” who have no real faith in a loving heavenly Father who cares for those who put the interests of his Kingdom first in their life. Trying to accumulate all “the things the nations are eagerly pursuing” would damage our relationship with Jehovah. Instead, we can be ever confident that if we do what we are supposed to do—give spiritual interests priority in our life—Jehovah will not hold back what is good from us. Our “godly devotion” should prompt us to be content with “food and clothing,” or “sustenance and shelter.”—1 Tim. 6:6-8; ftn.

DOES GOD’S KINGDOM COME FIRST IN YOUR LIFE?

18 Read Matthew 6:33. Christ’s disciples must always make the Kingdom their first concern in

17. What might damage our relationship with Jehovah?

18. What does Jehovah know about us personally, and what will he do for us?

life. If we do that, then, as Jesus said, “all these other things will be added” to us. Why could he say that? He explained in the preceding verse: “Your heavenly Father *knows* that you need all these things,” meaning the necessities of life. Jehovah can easily anticipate our individual needs regarding food, clothing, and shelter, even before we become aware of them. (Phil. 4:19) He knows which piece of our clothing will wear out next. He knows what our dietary requirements are and what would be adequate shelter for us, given the size of our family. Jehovah will see to it that we have what we really *need*.

19 Read Matthew 6:34. Note that for the second time, Jesus says: “Never be anxious.” He wants us to address life’s concerns one day at a time—fully confident that Jehovah will help us. If a person is unduly anxious about what may happen in the

19. Why should we not worry about what might happen in the future?

future, he may try to rely on himself rather than on God, and that can adversely affect his relationship with Jehovah.—Prov. 3:5, 6; Phil. 4:6, 7.

SEEK THE KINGDOM FIRST, AND JEHOVAH WILL ADD THE REST

20 It is futile to sacrifice the pursuit of Kingdom interests in order to maintain a materialistic lifestyle. Instead, we should pursue spiritual goals. For example, can you transfer to a congregation where the need for Kingdom publishers is greater? Are you able to pioneer? If you are pioneering, have you thought about applying for the School for Kingdom Evangelizers? Could you serve as a part-time commuter, helping out at a Bethel facility or a remote translation office? Could you become a Local Design/Construction volunteer, working part-time on Kingdom Hall projects? Think about what you might be able to do to simplify your lifestyle so that

- 20.** (a) What is a goal you may set in Jehovah's service?
(b) What can you do to simplify your life?

you can get more involved in Kingdom activities. Prayerfully consider the box “How to Simplify Your Life,” and begin taking the steps needed to achieve your goal.

21 For good reason, Jesus taught us to seek the Kingdom, not things. By doing so, we need never be anxious about our material *needs*. We draw closer to Jehovah by putting our trust in him and not trying to indulge every whim or to buy every *thing* the world offers, even if we can afford it. Simplifying our life now will help us to “get a firm hold on the real life” yet to come.—1 Tim. 6:19.

21. What will help you to draw closer to Jehovah?

ENDNOTE:

[1] (paragraph 12) To understand why Jehovah at times might allow a Christian to lack sufficient food, see “Questions From Readers” in the September 15, 2014, issue of *The Watchtower*, p. 22.

Sowing Kingdom Seed

(Matthew 13:4-8)

1. Oh, come all you slaves of Jehovah,
Who've given your heart and your soul.
Come out to the work of our Master,
And learn from his steps and his role.
The seed of the truth, you sow without fear
On hearts that are able to yield
Fine fruit to God's praise as you faithfully work,
And you do your full share in the field.
2. Some seed that you sow will be scattered
On hearts as resistant as stone.
Though these may respond for a season,
The want of their hearts will be known.
When thorns choke the word,
then greed fills their hearts;
The things of the world they prefer.
Yet, some seed may prosper; you will see results
From the ground that is good, fine, and pure.
3. How much of your work is successful
May often depend much on you.
With patience and love for your neighbors,
Their hearts may be opened anew.
By being alert you'll ward off their fears,
With measures some gentle some bold.
And thus with rejoicing you can hope to reap
At least thirty if not hundredfold.

(See also Matt. 13:19-23; 22:37.)