

- Song 32 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

## TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **"Do Not Let Your Heart Turn Aside":** (10 min.)  
Pr 7:6-12—Those lacking good sense often run into spiritual danger (w00 11/15 29-30)  
Pr 7:13-23—Poor decisions can lead to disaster (w00 11/15 30-31)  
Pr 7:4, 5, 24-27—Wisdom and understanding will safeguard us (w00 11/15 29, 31)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
Pr 9:7-9—What does our response to counsel reveal about us? (w01 5/15 29-30)

Pr 10:22—What does Jehovah's blessing include in our day? (w06 5/15 26-30 ¶13-16)

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) Pr 8:22-9:6

## APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

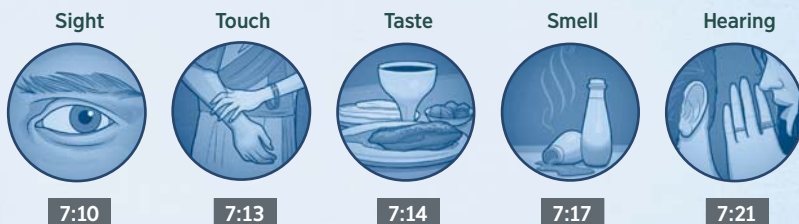
- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) g16.5 cover  
—Invite the person to the weekend meeting.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) g16.5 cover  
—Invite the person to the weekend meeting.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) bh 176 ¶15-6  
—Invite the student to the meetings.

## LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 83
- **What Your Peers Say—Cell Phones (Pr 10:19):** (15 min.) Discussion. Begin by playing the video *What Your Peers Say—Cell Phones* (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY). Then discuss the accompanying jw.org article "What Should I Know About Texting?" Emphasize the points under the subheading "Texting Tips."
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)  
kr chap. 2 ¶13-22
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 152 and Prayer  
*Reminder:* Play the new song through once before singing.

## PROVERBS 7-11 | "Do Not Let Your Heart Turn Aside"

Jehovah's standards can protect us. To benefit from them, however, we must treasure them in our heart. (Pr 7:3) When a servant of Jehovah allows his heart to turn aside, he becomes vulnerable to Satan's smooth and deceptive tactics. Proverbs chapter 7 describes a young man who allowed his heart to deceive him. What can we learn from his mistakes?



- Satan tries to draw us away from Jehovah by using our five senses to induce us to get involved in wrongdoing
- Wisdom and understanding will help us to perceive the devastating effects of wrongdoing and to stay far away from spiritual danger

# 32            *Be Steadfast, Unmovable!*

(1 Corinthians 15:58)

1. Nations are troubled as never before.

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

*(CHORUS)*

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

2. Snares of this world and temptations abound.

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

*(Chorus)*

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

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

*(Chorus)*

- No one who touches her will go unpunished.<sup>a</sup>
- 30** People do not despise a thief If he steals to satisfy himself\* when he is hungry.
- 31** Yet, when found, he will repay sevenfold; He will give up all the valuables of his house.<sup>b</sup>
- 32** Anyone committing adultery with a woman is lacking good sense;\* The one who does so brings ruin on himself.<sup>c</sup>
- 33** He will get only wounds and dishonor,<sup>d</sup> And his disgrace will not be wiped away.<sup>e</sup>
- 34** For jealousy makes a husband furious; He will show no compassion when he takes revenge.<sup>f</sup>
- 35** He will accept no compensation;\* He will not be appeased, no matter how large you make the gift.
- 7** My son, keep my sayings, And treasure up my commandments.<sup>g</sup>
- 2** Keep my commandments and live;<sup>h</sup> Guard my instruction\* like the pupil of your eye.
- 3** Tie them around your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart.<sup>i</sup>
- 4** Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," And call understanding "my relative,"
- 5** To guard you against the wayward\* woman,<sup>j</sup> Against the immoral\* woman and her smooth<sup>Δ</sup> words.<sup>k</sup>

6:30 \*Or "fill his soul." 6:32; 7:7 \*Lit., "in want of heart." 6:32 \*Or "his soul." 6:35 \*Or "ransom." 7:2 \*Or "law." 7:5 \*Lit., "strange." See Pr 2:16. \*Lit., "foreign." See Pr 2:16. ΔOr "seductive."

## CHAP. 6

a 2Sa 11:4  
2Sa 12:10, 11  
Pr 6:32-35  
Heb 13:4

b Ex 22:1, 4

c Pr 2:18, 19  
Pr 5:20, 23  
Mal 3:5  
1Co 6:9, 10  
Heb 13:4

d Pr 5:8, 9

e 1Ki 15:5  
1Ch 5:1  
Mt 1:6

f Ge 39:19, 20

## CHAP. 7

g Pr 10:14

h Le 18:5  
De 5:16  
Isa 55:3  
Joh 12:50

i Pr 2:10, 11

j Pr 23:27, 28

k Pr 2:11, 16  
Pr 5:3  
Pr 6:23, 24

## Second Col.

a Pr 6:32  
Pr 9:16, 17

b Job 24:15

c Jer 4:30

d Pr 9:13-18

e Pr 23:27, 28

f Le 19:5

g Eze 27:7

h Ca 3:6  
Ca 4:14

- 6** From the window of my house,  
Through my lattice, I looked down,
- 7** And as I observed the naive<sup>#</sup> ones,  
I discerned among the youths a young man lacking good sense.<sup>a</sup>
- 8** He passed along the street near her corner,  
And he marched in the direction of her house
- 9** In the twilight, in the evening,<sup>b</sup>  
At the approach of night and darkness.
- 10** Then I saw a woman meet him,  
Dressed like\* a prostitute,<sup>c</sup> with a cunning heart.
- 11** She is loud and defiant.<sup>d</sup> She never stays\* at home.
- 12** One moment she is outside, next she is in the public squares,  
She lurks near every corner.<sup>e</sup>
- 13** She grabs hold of him and gives him a kiss;  
With a bold face, she says to him:
- 14** "I had to offer communion sacrifices.<sup>f</sup>  
Today I paid my vows.
- 15** That is why I came out to meet you,  
To look for you, and I found you!
- 16** I have spread fine covers upon my bed,  
Colorful linen from Egypt.<sup>g</sup>
- 17** I have sprinkled my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.<sup>h</sup>
- 18** Come, let us drink our fill of love until the morning;  
Let us enjoy passionate love together,

7:7 <sup>#</sup>Or "inexperienced." 7:10 \*Or "with the garment of." 7:11 \*Lit., "Her feet never stay."

- 19** For my husband is not at home;  
He has gone on a distant journey.
- 20** He took a bag of money with him,  
And he will not return until the day of the full moon.”
- 21** She misleads him with great persuasiveness.<sup>a</sup>  
She seduces him with smooth speech.
- 22** Suddenly he goes after her,  
like a bull to the slaughter,  
Like a fool to be punished in the stocks.<sup>\*b</sup>
- 23** Until an arrow pierces his liver;  
Like a bird rushing into a trap, he does not know that it will cost him his life.<sup>\*c</sup>
- 24** And now, my sons, listen to me;  
Pay attention to the words I speak.
- 25** Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways.  
Do not stray onto her paths,<sup>d</sup>
- 26** For she has caused many to fall down slain,<sup>e</sup>  
And those she has killed are numerous.<sup>f</sup>
- 27** Her house leads to the Grave;<sup>\*g</sup>  
It goes down to the inner chambers of death.
- 8** Is not wisdom calling out?  
Is not discernment raising its voice?<sup>g</sup>
- 2** On the heights<sup>h</sup> along the road,  
It takes its position at the crossroads.
- 3** Next to the gates leading into the city,  
At the entrances of the doorways,

7:22 \*Or “fetters.” 7:23 \*Or “soul.”  
7:27 \*Or “Sheol,” that is, the common grave of mankind. See Glossary.

CHAP. 7

- a Pr 5:3  
b 1Co 6:18  
c Pr 5:8-11  
d Pr 5:8  
e Ec 7:26  
f 1Co 10:8

CHAP. 8

- g Pr 1:20, 21  
h Mt 10:27

Second Col.

- a Ac 20:20  
b Ps 19:7  
c Ps 19:9, 10  
Ps 119:72, 127  
Pr 3:13-15  
d Pr 2:11  
Pr 5:1, 2  
e Ps 97:10  
Ps 101:3  
Pr 16:6  
Ro 12:9

- f Ps 101:5  
1Pe 5:5

- g Pr 4:24

- h Pr 2:7

- i Pr 4:7

- j Pr 24:5

- k Ps 72:1

It keeps crying out loudly:<sup>a</sup>

- 4** “To you, O people, I am calling;  
I raise my voice to everyone.<sup>\*</sup>
- 5** You inexperienced ones, learn shrewdness;<sup>b</sup>  
You stupid ones, acquire an understanding heart.<sup>\*</sup>
- 6** Listen, for what I say is important,  
My lips speak what is right;
- 7** For my mouth softly utters truth,  
And my lips detest what is wicked.
- 8** All the sayings of my mouth are righteous.  
None of them are twisted or crooked.
- 9** They are all straightforward to the discerning  
And right to those who have found knowledge.
- 10** Take my discipline instead of silver,  
And knowledge rather than the finest gold,<sup>c</sup>
- 11** For wisdom is better than corals;<sup>\*</sup>  
All other desirable things cannot compare to it.
- 12** I, wisdom, dwell together with shrewdness;  
I have found knowledge and thinking ability.<sup>d</sup>
- 13** The fear of Jehovah means the hating of bad.<sup>e</sup>  
I hate self-exaltation and pride<sup>f</sup> and the evil way and perverse speech.<sup>g</sup>
- 14** I possess good advice and practical wisdom;<sup>h</sup>  
Understanding<sup>i</sup> and power<sup>j</sup> are mine.
- 15** By me kings keep reigning,  
And high officials decree righteousness.<sup>k</sup>

8:4 \*Lit., “to the sons of men.” 8:5 \*Lit., “understand heart.” 8:11 \*See Glossary.

- 16** By me princes keep ruling,  
And nobles judge in righteousness.
- 17** I love those loving me,  
And those seeking me will find me.<sup>a</sup>
- 18** Riches and glory are with me,  
Lasting wealth\* and righteousness.
- 19** My fruitage is better than gold, even refined gold,  
And what I produce is better than the finest silver.<sup>b</sup>
- 20** I walk in the path of righteousness,  
In the middle of the pathways of justice;
- 21** I give a rich inheritance to those who love me,  
And I fill up their storehouses.
- 22** Jehovah produced me as the beginning of his way,<sup>c</sup>  
The earliest of his achievements of long ago.<sup>d</sup>
- 23** From ancient times\* I was installed,<sup>e</sup>  
From the start, from times earlier than the earth.<sup>f</sup>
- 24** When there were no deep waters,<sup>g</sup> I was brought forth,<sup>\*</sup>  
When there were no springs overflowing with water.
- 25** Before the mountains were set in place,  
Before the hills, I was brought forth,
- 26** When he had not yet made the earth and its fields  
Or the first clods of earth's soil.
- 27** When he prepared the heavens,<sup>h</sup> I was there;  
When he marked out the horizon\* on the surface of the waters,<sup>i</sup>

**8:18** \*Or "Hereditary values." **8:23** \*Or "From time immemorial." **8:24** \*Or "brought forth as with labor pains." **8:27** \*Lit., "a circle."

CHAP. 8

a Pr 2:4, 5

b Pr 3:13, 14

c Joh 1:1-3, 14

d Col 1:15-17

e Mic 5:2

f Joh 8:58  
Joh 17:5

g Ge 1:2

h Ps 33:6  
Jer 10:12

i Ge 1:6, 7  
Job 26:10

Second Col.

a Job 38:8-11  
Ps 33:7  
Ps 104:6-9  
Jer 5:22

b Ge 1:26  
Joh 1:1, 3  
Joh 17:5  
Col 1:15, 16

c Isa 42:1  
Mt 3:17

d Job 38:7

e Pr 3:11  
Pr 4:13  
Heb 12:7, 9

f Pr 13:14

g Pr 5:23

- 28** When he established\* the clouds above,  
When he founded the fountains of the deep,
- 29** When he set a decree for the sea  
That its waters should not pass beyond his order,<sup>a</sup>  
When he established\* the foundations of the earth,
- 30** Then I was beside him as a master worker.<sup>b</sup>  
I was the one he was especially fond of<sup>c</sup> day by day;  
I rejoiced before him all the time;<sup>d</sup>
- 31** I rejoiced over his habitable earth,  
And I was especially fond of the sons of men.\*
- 32** And now, my sons, listen to me;  
Yes, happy are those who keep my ways.
- 33** Listen to discipline<sup>e</sup> and become wise,  
And never neglect it.
- 34** Happy is the man who listens to me  
By coming early to\* my doors day by day,  
By waiting next to my doorposts;
- 35** For the one finding me will find life,<sup>f</sup>  
And he receives approval from Jehovah.
- 36** But the one who ignores me harms himself,\*  
And those who hate me love death."<sup>g</sup>
- 9** True wisdom has built its house;  
It has carved\* out its seven pillars.
- 2** It has fully prepared its meat;\*

**8:28** \*Lit., "made strong." **8:29** \*Or "decreed." **8:31** \*Or "mankind." **8:34** \*Or "By keeping awake at." **8:36** \*Or "his soul." **9:1** \*Or "hewed." **9:2** \*Lit., "She has slaughtered her slaughtering."

- It has mixed its wine;  
It has also arranged its table.
- 3** It has sent out its female servants  
To call out from the heights  
above the city:<sup>a</sup>
- 4** "Whoever is inexperienced,  
let him come in here."  
She says to the one lacking  
good sense:<sup>\*</sup>
- 5** "Come, eat my bread  
And share in drinking the  
wine that I have mixed.
- 6** Leave behind your inexperience<sup>\*</sup> and live;<sup>b</sup>  
Walk forward in the way of  
understanding."<sup>c</sup>
- 7** The one who corrects a ridic-  
uler invites dishonor,<sup>d</sup>  
And whoever reproves some-  
one wicked will get hurt.
- 8** Do not reprove a ridiculer,  
or he will hate you.<sup>e</sup>  
Reprove a wise person, and  
he will love you.<sup>f</sup>
- 9** Share with a wise person,  
and he will become wiser.<sup>g</sup>  
Teach someone righteous,  
and he will add to his  
learning.
- 10** The fear of Jehovah is the  
beginning of wisdom,<sup>h</sup>  
And knowledge of the Most  
Holy One<sup>i</sup> is understand-  
ing.
- 11** For by me your days will  
be many,<sup>j</sup>  
And years will be added  
to your life.
- 12** If you become wise, you  
are wise to your own  
advantage,  
But if you are a ridiculer,  
you alone will bear it.
- 13** A stupid woman is loud.<sup>k</sup>  
She is ignorant and knows  
absolutely nothing.
- 14** She sits at the entrance  
of her house

9:4, 16 \*Lit., "in want of heart." 9:6  
\*Or "the inexperienced ones."

CHAP. 9

- a Pr 1:20-22  
b Ps 119:130  
c Pr 4:5  
Pr 13:20  
d Pr 15:12  
e 1Ki 21:20, 21  
1Ki 22:8  
2Ch 25:15, 16  
Mt 7:6  
f Ps 141:5  
Pr 27:6  
Pr 28:23  
g Pr 1:5  
Pr 15:31  
Pr 17:10  
Pr 25:12  
h Ps 111:10  
i 1Ch 28:9  
Mt 11:27  
Joh 17:3  
j De 6:1, 2  
Pr 8:35  
Pr 10:27  
k Pr 7:10, 11

Second Col.

- a Pr 23:27, 28  
b Pr 6:32  
c Pr 7:18, 19  
d Pr 2:18, 19  
Pr 7:23, 26  
Pr 23:27, 28

CHAP. 10

- e Pr 1:1  
f Pr 13:1  
Pr 27:11  
g Pr 11:4  
h Ps 33:18, 19  
Ps 37:25  
Mt 6:33  
i Pr 20:4  
Ec 10:18  
j Pr 12:24  
Pr 13:4  
Pr 21:5  
k Pr 6:6, 9  
l Ex 23:25  
Pr 28:20

- On a seat in the high places  
of the city,<sup>a</sup>
- 15** Calling out to those  
passing by,  
To those walking straight  
ahead on their way:
- 16** "Whoever is inexperienced,  
let him come in here."  
She says to those lacking  
good sense:<sup>\*b</sup>
- 17** "Stolen waters are sweet,  
And food eaten in secret is  
pleasant."<sup>c</sup>
- 18** But he does not know that  
those powerless in death  
are there,  
That her guests are in the  
depths of the Grave.<sup>\*d</sup>
- 10** Proverbs of Sol'o-mon.<sup>e</sup>  
A wise son makes his  
father rejoice,<sup>f</sup>  
But a foolish son is the grief  
of his mother.
- 2** The treasures gained by  
wickedness will be of no  
benefit,  
But righteousness is what  
rescues from death.<sup>g</sup>
- 3** Jehovah will not cause  
the righteous one<sup>\*</sup> to go  
hungry,<sup>h</sup>  
But he will deny the wicked  
what they crave.
- 4** Idle hands will cause  
poverty,<sup>i</sup>  
But diligent hands bring  
riches.<sup>j</sup>
- 5** The son acting with insight  
gathers the crop in  
summer,  
But the son acting shame-  
fully is fast asleep during  
the harvest.<sup>k</sup>
- 6** Blessings are on the head of  
the righteous one,<sup>l</sup>  
But the mouth of the wicked  
conceals violence.

9:18 \*Or "Sheol," that is, the common  
grave of mankind. See Glossary. 10:3  
\*Or "the soul of the righteous one."

- 7** The memory\* of the righteous one is due for a blessing,<sup>a</sup>  
But the name of the wicked will rot.<sup>b</sup>
- 8** The wisehearted person will accept instructions,<sup>\*c</sup>  
But the one speaking foolishly will be trodden down.<sup>d</sup>
- 9** The one walking in integrity will walk in security,<sup>e</sup>  
But the one making his ways crooked will be found out.<sup>f</sup>
- 10** The one who slyly winks his eye causes grief,<sup>g</sup>  
And the one who speaks foolishly will be trodden down.<sup>h</sup>
- 11** The mouth of the righteous one is a source of life,<sup>i</sup>  
But the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.<sup>j</sup>
- 12** Hatred is what stirs up contentions,  
But love covers over all transgressions.<sup>k</sup>
- 13** Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning person,<sup>l</sup>  
But the rod is for the back of one lacking good sense.<sup>\*m</sup>
- 14** Those who are wise treasure up knowledge,<sup>n</sup>  
But the mouth of the fool invites ruin.<sup>o</sup>
- 15** The wealth\* of a rich man is his fortified city.  
The ruin of the poor is their poverty.<sup>p</sup>
- 16** The activity of the righteous one leads to life;  
But the produce of the wicked one leads to sin.<sup>q</sup>
- 17** The one who heeds discipline is a path to life,<sup>\*</sup>  
But the one who ignores reproof leads others astray.

10:7 \*Or "reputation." 10:8 \*Lit., "commandments." 10:13 \*Lit., "in want of heart." 10:15 \*Or "valuable thing." 10:17 \*Or possibly, "is on the path to life."

# CHAP. 10

- a Ps 112:6  
Ec 7:1  
b Ps 9:5  
c De 4:6  
Ps 19:7  
Ps 119:34  
Ps 119:100  
d Pr 18:6  
e Ps 25:21  
f 1Ti 5:24  
g Pr 6:12, 13  
h Pr 18:21  
i Pr 11:30  
j Mt 12:35  
Jas 3:5  
k Pr 17:9  
1Co 13:4, 7  
1Pe 4:8  
l Isa 50:4  
m Pr 26:3  
n Pr 9:9  
o Pr 13:3  
Pr 18:7  
p Pr 19:7  
Pr 30:8, 9  
Ec 7:12  
q Mt 7:17

## Second Col.

- a 1Sa 18:17, 21  
b Ec 5:2  
c Ps 39:1  
Pr 17:27  
Pr 21:23  
Jas 1:19  
d Pr 12:18  
Pr 16:13  
e Jer 3:15  
f Ho 4:6  
g De 8:17, 18  
Ps 37:22  
1Ti 6:6  
h Pr 2:10, 11  
Pr 14:9  
Pr 15:21  
i Ps 37:4  
1Jo 5:14  
j Ps 37:10  
k Mt 7:24, 25  
l Ps 91:15, 16  
m Ps 55:23  
n Ps 16:9  
Ro 12:12  
o Pr 11:7  
p Pr 18:10  
Isa 40:31

- 18** The one who conceals his hatred speaks lies,<sup>a</sup>  
And the one spreading malicious reports\* is stupid.
- 19** When words are many, transgression cannot be avoided,<sup>b</sup>  
But whoever controls his lips acts discreetly.<sup>c</sup>
- 20** The tongue of the righteous one is like the finest silver,<sup>d</sup>  
But the heart of the wicked one is worth little.
- 21** The lips of the righteous one nourish\* many,<sup>e</sup>  
But the foolish die for lack of sense.<sup>f</sup>
- 22** It is the blessing of Jehovah that makes one rich,<sup>g</sup>  
And He adds no pain\* with it.
- 23** Engaging in shameful conduct is like a game to the stupid one,  
But wisdom is for the man of discernment.<sup>h</sup>
- 24** What the wicked one fears will come upon him;  
But the desire of the righteous will be granted.<sup>i</sup>
- 25** When the storm passes by, the wicked one will be no more,<sup>j</sup>  
But the righteous one is a foundation forever.<sup>k</sup>
- 26** Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes,  
So the lazy person is to the one who sends him.<sup>\*</sup>
- 27** The fear of Jehovah prolongs life,<sup>l</sup>  
But the years of the wicked will be cut short.<sup>m</sup>
- 28** The expectation\* of the righteous brings joy,<sup>n</sup>  
But the hope of the wicked will perish.<sup>o</sup>
- 29** The way of Jehovah is a stronghold for the blameless one,<sup>p</sup>

10:18 \*Or "rumors." 10:21 \*Or "guide." 10:22 \*Or "sorrow; hardship." 10:26 \*Or "to his employer." 10:28 \*Or "hope."

But it means ruin for evil-doers.<sup>a</sup>

**30** The righteous one will never be made to fall,<sup>b</sup>

But the wicked will no longer inhabit the earth.<sup>c</sup>

**31** The mouth of the righteous one produces\* wisdom,  
But the perverse tongue will be cut off.

**32** The lips of the righteous one know what is pleasing,  
But the mouth of the wicked is perverse.

**11** Dishonest\* scales are detestable to Jehovah,  
But an accurate weight\* brings pleasure to him.<sup>d</sup>

**2** When presumptuousness comes, dishonor will follow,<sup>e</sup>  
But wisdom is with the modest ones.<sup>f</sup>

**3** The integrity of the upright is what guides them,<sup>g</sup>  
But the deviousness of the treacherous will destroy them.<sup>h</sup>

**4** Wealth\* will be of no benefit on the day of fury,<sup>i</sup>  
But righteousness is what will rescue from death.<sup>j</sup>

**5** The righteousness of the blameless one makes his path straight,  
But the wicked one will fall because of his own wickedness.<sup>k</sup>

**6** The righteousness of the upright will rescue them,<sup>l</sup>  
But the treacherous will be caught by their own desires.<sup>m</sup>

**7** When a wicked man dies, his hope perishes;  
And expectations based on his power also perish.<sup>n</sup>

**8** The righteous one is rescued from distress,

10:31 \*Or "bears the fruit of." 11:1 \*Or "Cheating." #Or "a complete stone weight." 11:4 \*Or "Valuable things."

CHAP. 10

a Ro 2:6-8

b Ps 16:8

c Ps 37:9

CHAP. 11

d Le 19:36

e Pr 16:18  
Lu 14:8, 9

f Mic 6:8  
1Pe 5:5

g Ps 26:1  
Pr 13:6

h Pr 28:18

i Eze 7:19  
Mt 16:26

j Ge 7:1

k 2Sa 17:23  
Es 7:10  
Pr 5:22

l Jer 39:18

m Pr 1:32

n Ex 15:9, 10  
Lu 12:18-20

Second Col.

a Es 7:9  
Pr 21:18  
Da 6:23, 24

b Pr 2:10-12

c Ex 15:20, 21  
Es 9:19, 22

d Pr 14:34

e Jas 3:6

f Pr 17:27  
1Pe 2:23

g Le 19:16  
Pr 20:19  
Pr 26:22

h Pr 15:22  
Pr 20:18  
Pr 24:6

i Pr 6:1, 5  
Pr 20:16

j 1Sa 25:39  
1Pe 3:3, 4

k Lu 6:38

l Jas 5:3, 4

And the wicked one takes his place.<sup>a</sup>

**9** By his mouth the apostate\* brings his neighbor to ruin,  
But by knowledge the righteous are rescued.<sup>b</sup>

**10** The goodness of the righteous makes a city rejoice,  
And when the wicked perish, there is a joyful cry.<sup>c</sup>

**11** Because of the blessing of the upright a city is exalted,<sup>d</sup>

But the mouth of the wicked tears it down.<sup>e</sup>

**12** Whoever is lacking good sense\* shows contempt for\* his neighbor,  
But the man of true discernment remains silent.<sup>f</sup>

**13** A slanderer goes about revealing confidential talk,<sup>g</sup>  
But the trustworthy person\* keeps a confidence.<sup>h</sup>

**14** When there is no skillful direction,\* the people fall,  
But there is success\* through many advisers.<sup>h</sup>

**15** Whoever guarantees a loan\* for a stranger is sure to fare badly,<sup>i</sup>

But whoever avoids\* shaking hands in a pledge will be secure.

**16** A gracious\* woman acquires glory,<sup>j</sup>

But ruthless men seize riches.

**17** A kind man\* benefits himself,<sup>k</sup>

But the cruel person brings trouble<sup>l</sup> on himself.<sup>l</sup>

11:9 \*Or "godless man." 11:12 \*Lit., "in want of heart." #Or "despises." 11:13 \*Lit., "the one faithful in spirit." #Lit., "covers over a matter." 11:14 \*Or "wise guidance." #Or "salvation." #Or "counselors." 11:15 \*Or "puts up security." #Lit., "hates." 11:16 \*Or "charming." 11:17 \*Or "A man of loyal love." #Or "does good to his soul." #Or "disgrace."



- 18** The wicked one earns deceptive wages,<sup>a</sup>  
But the one who sows righteousness receives a true reward.<sup>b</sup>
- 19** The one standing firmly for righteousness is in line for life,<sup>c</sup>  
But the one chasing after evil is in line for death.
- 20** Those crooked at heart are detestable to Jehovah,<sup>d</sup>  
But those whose way is blameless bring pleasure to him.<sup>e</sup>
- 21** Be assured of this:<sup>\*</sup> An evil person will not go unpunished,<sup>f</sup>  
But the children of the righteous will escape.
- 22** Like a gold ring in the snout of a pig  
Is a beautiful woman who rejects good sense.
- 23** The desire of the righteous leads to good,<sup>g</sup>  
But what the wicked hope for leads to fury.
- 24** One gives generously<sup>\*</sup> and ends up with more;<sup>h</sup>  
Another withholds what should be given, but he comes to poverty.<sup>i</sup>
- 25** The generous person<sup>\*</sup> will prosper,<sup>#j</sup>  
And whoever refreshes<sup>^</sup> others will himself be refreshed.<sup>k</sup>
- 26** The people will curse the one who withholds grain,  
But they will bless the one who sells it.
- 27** The one who diligently seeks to do good seeks favor,<sup>l</sup>  
But the one searching for bad—that is what will surely come upon him.<sup>m</sup>
- 28** The one trusting in his riches will fall,<sup>n</sup>

**11:21** \*Lit., "Hand to hand." **11:24** \*Lit., "scatters." **11:25** \*Or "soul."  
#Lit., "will be made fat." ^Lit., "freely waters."

## CHAP. 11

- a Job 27:13, 14  
b Ga 6:7, 8  
c Ac 10:34, 35  
Re 2:10  
d Ps 18:26  
Pr 3:32  
e Ps 51:6  
Pr 15:8  
f Ec 8:13  
Eze 18:4  
g Isa 26:9  
Mt 5:6  
h De 15:10  
Pr 19:17  
Ec 11:1, 2  
i Hag 1:6  
j Ac 20:35  
2Co 9:6  
k Lu 6:38  
l Pr 12:2  
m Es 7:10  
Ps 10:2  
n Job 31:24, 28  
Ps 52:5, 7

## Second Col.

- a Ps 1:2, 3  
Ps 52:8  
b Jos 7:15  
c Pr 15:4  
d 1Co 9:20-22  
Jas 5:19, 20  
e Eze 18:24  
2Th 1:6  
1Pe 4:18

## CHAP. 12

- f Pr 4:13  
g Ps 32:9  
h De 25:1  
1Ki 8:31, 32  
i Ps 37:10, 38  
j Pr 18:22  
Pr 19:14  
k 1Ki 21:25  
l 2Sa 17:1, 2  
m Es 7:3, 4  
Pr 14:3  
n Pr 24:3  
Mt 7:24, 25  
o Ge 41:39  
1Sa 16:18

But the righteous will flourish like the foliage.<sup>a</sup>

- 29** Anyone who brings trouble<sup>\*</sup> on his household will inherit the wind,<sup>b</sup>  
And the fool will be a servant to the wisehearted one.
- 30** The fruitage of the righteous one is a tree of life,<sup>c</sup>  
And the one who wins souls<sup>\*</sup> is wise.<sup>d</sup>
- 31** If, indeed, the righteous one on earth is rewarded,  
How much more the wicked one and the sinner!<sup>e</sup>
- 12** The one who loves discipline loves knowledge,<sup>f</sup>  
But the one who hates reproof is unreasoning.<sup>g</sup>
- 2** The good person obtains Jehovah's approval,  
But He condemns the man of wicked schemes.<sup>h</sup>
- 3** No man is made secure by wickedness,<sup>i</sup>  
But the righteous will never be uprooted.
- 4** A capable wife is a crown to her husband,<sup>j</sup>  
But the wife who acts shamefully is like rotteness in his bones.<sup>k</sup>
- 5** The thoughts of the righteous are just,  
But the guidance of the wicked is deceptive.
- 6** The words of the wicked are a deadly ambush,<sup>l</sup>  
But the mouth of the upright saves them.<sup>m</sup>
- 7** When the wicked are overthrown, they are no more,  
But the house of the righteous will keep standing.<sup>n</sup>
- 8** A man is praised for the discretion of his mouth,<sup>o</sup>

**11:29** \*Or "disgrace." **11:30** \*See Glossary. **12:1** \*Or "has no sense."  
**12:6** \*Lit., "lie in wait for blood."

- Song 32 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

## TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **"Do Not Let Your Heart Turn Aside":** (10 min.)  
Pr 7:6-12—Those lacking good sense often run into spiritual danger (w00 11/15 29-30)  
Pr 7:13-23—Poor decisions can lead to disaster (w00 11/15 30-31)  
Pr 7:4, 5, 24-27—Wisdom and understanding will safeguard us (w00 11/15 29, 31)
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What does this week's Bible reading teach me about Jehovah?

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- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) g16.5 cover  
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## LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

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- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)  
kr chap. 2 ¶13-22
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 152 and Prayer  
*Reminder:* Play the new song through once before singing.

## PROVERBS 7-11 | "Do Not Let Your Heart Turn Aside"

Jehovah's standards can protect us. To benefit from them, however, we must treasure them in our heart. (Pr 7:3) When a servant of Jehovah allows his heart to turn aside, he becomes vulnerable to Satan's smooth and deceptive tactics. Proverbs chapter 7 describes a young man who allowed his heart to deceive him. What can we learn from his mistakes?



- Satan tries to draw us away from Jehovah by using our five senses to induce us to get involved in wrongdoing
- Wisdom and understanding will help us to perceive the devastating effects of wrongdoing and to stay far away from spiritual danger

**October 10-16**

**Treasures From God's Word**

**Proverbs 7:6-12**—Those lacking good sense often run into spiritual danger

Reference: w00 11/15 29-30.

“Tie them [my commandments] upon your fingers,” continues Solomon, “and write them upon the tablet of your heart.” (Proverbs 7:3) As fingers are prominently before our eyes and are vital in carrying out our purposes, the lessons learned from a Scriptural upbringing or the gaining of Bible knowledge are to be a constant reminder and guide in everything we do. We are to inscribe them upon the tablet of our heart, making them a part of our nature.

Not forgetting the importance of wisdom and understanding, the king exhorts: “Say to wisdom: ‘You are my sister’; and may you call understanding itself ‘Kinswoman.’” (Proverbs 7:4) Wisdom is the ability to put God-given knowledge to proper use. We should have affection for wisdom as for a dearly loved sister. What is understanding? It is the ability to see into a matter and get the sense of it by grasping the connections between its parts and the whole. Understanding must be as close to us as an intimate friend.

Why should we adhere to Scriptural training and cultivate closeness with wisdom and understanding? So as “to guard [ourselves] against the woman stranger,

against the foreigner who has made her own sayings smooth.” (Proverbs 7:5) Yes, doing so will protect us from the smooth and persuasive ways of a stranger, or foreigner—an immoral person.

### **The Young Man Meets ‘a Cunning Woman’**

The king of Israel next describes a scene that he himself has observed: “At the window of my house, through my lattice I looked down, that I might peer upon the inexperienced ones. I was interested in discerning among the sons a young man in want of heart, passing along on the street near her corner, and in the way to her house he marches, in the twilight, in the evening of the day, at the approach of the night and the gloom.”—Proverbs 7:6-9.

The window through which Solomon looks out has a lattice—apparently a framework with laths and perhaps elaborate carvings. As the twilight fades, the darkness of the night pours into the streets. He catches sight of a young man who is particularly vulnerable. Lacking discernment, or good sense, he is in want of heart.

Likely, he is aware of the type of neighborhood he has entered and what could happen to him there. The young man comes near “her corner,” which is on the way to her house. Who is she? What is she up to?

The observant king continues: “Look! there was a woman to meet him, with the garment of a prostitute and cunning of heart. She is boisterous and stubborn. In her

house her feet do not keep residing. Now she is outdoors, now she is in the public squares, and near every corner she lies in wait.”—Proverbs 7:10-12.

This woman’s manner of dress speaks volumes about her. (**Genesis 38:14, 15**) She is dressed immodestly, like a prostitute. Moreover, she is cunning of heart—her mind is “treacherous,” her intent “crafty.” (*An American Translation; New International Version*) She is boisterous and stubborn, talkative and headstrong, loud and self-willed, brazen and defiant. Rather than staying at home, she prefers to frequent public places, lurking on street corners to pick up her prey. She is waiting for someone like the young man.

**Proverbs 7:13-23**—Poor decisions can lead to disaster

Reference: w00 11/15 30-31.

### **An ‘Abundance of Persuasiveness’**

A young man thus meets a loose woman with a crafty plan. How this must have caught the attention of Solomon! He relates: “She has grabbed hold of him and given him a kiss. She has put on a bold face, and she begins to say to him: ‘Communion sacrifices were incumbent upon me. Today I have paid my vows. That is why I have come out to meet you, to look for your face, that I may find you.’”—Proverbs 7:13-15.

The lips of this woman are smooth. Putting on a bold

face, she utters her words confidently. Everything she says is carefully calculated to seduce the young man. By stating that she had made communion sacrifices that very day and paid her vows, she makes a display of righteousness, hinting that she is not lacking in spirituality. Communion sacrifices at the temple in Jerusalem consisted of meat, flour, oil, and wine.

(**Leviticus 19:5, 6**; 22:21; Numbers 15:8-10) Since the offerer could take part of the communion sacrifice for himself and his family, she thus suggests that there is plenty to eat and drink at her house. The implication is clear: The young man would have a good time there. She has come out of her house specifically to look for him. How touching—if anyone could swallow such a story. “It is true she was out looking for someone,” says one Bible scholar, “but did she really come looking just for this one special fellow? Only a fool—perhaps this one—would believe her.”

After making herself appealing by the sight of her attire, by the sound of her flattering words, by the touch of her embrace, and by the taste of her lips, the seductress enlists the sense of smell. She says: “With coverlets I have bedecked my divan, with many-colored things, linen of Egypt. I have besprinkled my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon.” (**Proverbs 7:16, 17**) She has aesthetically prepared her bed with colorful linen from Egypt and perfumed it with choice fragrances of myrrh,



aloes, and cinnamon.

“Do come, let us drink our fill of love until the morning,” she continues, “do let us enjoy each other with love expressions.” The invitation is to something much more than a pleasant dinner for two. Her promise is that of enjoying sexual intimacy. To the young man, the appeal is adventurous and exciting! As further inducement, she adds: “For the husband is not in his house; he has gone traveling on a way of some distance. A bag of money he has taken in his hand. On the day of the full moon he will come to his house.” (Proverbs 7:18-20) They would be perfectly safe, she assures him, for her husband is away on a business trip and is not expected back for some time. How talented she is at beguiling a young person! “She has misled him by the abundance of her persuasiveness. By the smoothness of her lips she seduces him.” (Proverbs 7:21) It would take a man of Joseph’s caliber to resist an appeal this enticing. (**Genesis 39:9, 12**) Does this young man measure up?

### **‘Like a Bull to the Slaughter’**

“All of a sudden he is going after her,” reports Solomon, “like a bull that comes even to the slaughter, and just as if fettered for the discipline of a foolish man, until an arrow cleaves open his liver, just as a bird hastens into the trap, and he has not known that it involves his very soul.”—**Proverbs 7:22, 23**.

The invitation proves to be irresistible to the young man. Throwing all good sense to the wind, he goes after her ‘like a bull to the slaughter.’ As a man in fetters cannot escape his punishment, so the young man is drawn into sin. He does not see the danger of it all until “an arrow cleaves open his liver,” that is, until he receives a wound that can cause his death. The death may be physical in that he exposes himself to death-dealing sexually transmitted diseases. The wound can also cause his spiritual death; “it involves his very soul.” His entire being and his life are seriously affected, and he has gravely sinned against God. He thus hastens into the grip of death like a bird into a trap!

### **Digging for Spiritual Gems**

**Proverbs 9:7-9**—What does our response to counsel reveal about us?

Reference: *w01* 5/15 29-30.

### **“Do Not Reprove a Ridiculer”**

The teachings of wisdom also include correction and reproof. This feature of wisdom is not welcomed by all. Hence, the closing of the first section of the book of Proverbs contains a warning: “He that is correcting the ridiculer is taking to himself dishonor, and he that is giving a reproof to someone wicked—a defect in him. Do not reprove a ridiculer, that he may not hate you.”—**Proverbs 9:7, 8a.**



A ridiculer builds up resentment and hatred for the one trying to help make his path straight. A wicked person lacks appreciation for the value of reproof. How unwise to try to teach the beautiful truth of God's Word to someone who hates the truth or is simply seeking to ridicule it! When the apostle Paul was preaching in Antioch, he encountered a group of Jews who had no love for the truth. They tried to embroil him in an argument by blasphemously contradicting him, but Paul simply stated: "Since you are thrusting [the word of God] away from you and do not judge yourselves worthy of everlasting life, look! we turn to the nations."—**Acts 13:45, 46**.

In our endeavor to reach **honest hearted** ones with the Kingdom good news, may we be careful not to get involved in debates and arguments with ridiculers. Christ Jesus instructed his disciples: "When you are entering into the house, greet the household; and if the house is deserving, let the peace you wish it come upon it; but if it is not deserving, let the peace from you return upon you. Wherever anyone does not take you in or listen to your words, on going out of that house or that city shake the dust off your feet."—Matthew 10:12-14.

A wise person's response to reproof is opposite to that of a ridiculer. Solomon states: "Give a reproof to a wise person and he will love you. Give to a wise person and he will become still wiser." (**Proverbs 9:8b, 9a**) A wise

person knows that “no discipline seems for the present to be joyous, but grievous; yet afterward to those who have been trained by it it yields peaceable fruit, namely, righteousness.” (Hebrews 12:11) Although the counsel may seem painful, why should we retaliate or be defensive if accepting it is going to make us wiser?

“Impart knowledge to someone righteous and he will increase in learning,” continues the wise king. (Proverbs 9:9b) No one is too wise or too old to keep learning. What a delight it is to see even those in their twilight years accept the truth and make a dedication to Jehovah! May we also endeavor to retain the will to learn and keep the mind active.

**Proverbs 10:22**—What does Jehovah’s blessing include in our day?

Reference: w06 5/15 26-30 **paragraphs 3-16**.

3 “The blessing of Jehovah—that is what makes rich, and he adds no pain with it,” states Proverbs 10:22. Is not the spiritually prosperous condition of the modern-day servants of Jehovah a blessing to rejoice over? Let us consider some aspects of our spiritual prosperity and see what they mean to us personally. Taking time to reflect on the favors that Jehovah has showered upon ‘the righteous one walking in his integrity’ will indeed strengthen our resolve to continue serving our heavenly

Father joyfully.—Proverbs 20:7.

## **‘Blessings That Make Us Rich’ Now**

**4 *An accurate knowledge of Bible teachings.*** The religions of Christendom generally claim to believe the Bible. However, they fail to agree on what it teaches. Even members of the same religious group often differ in their views of what the Scriptures really teach. How different their condition is from that of Jehovah’s servants! Regardless of our national, cultural, or ethnic background, we worship the God we know by name. He is not some mysterious triune god. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 83:18; Mark 12:29) We are also aware that the paramount issue of God’s universal sovereignty is due for settlement and that by maintaining our integrity to him, each one of us is personally involved in that issue. We know the truth about the dead and are free of the morbid fear of a God who is said to torment humans in hellfire or consign them to purgatory.—**Ecclesiastes 9:5, 10.**

**5** Moreover, what a joy it is to know that we are not an accidental product of blind evolution! Rather, we are God’s creation, made in his own image. (Genesis 1:26; Malachi 2:10) “I shall laud you because in a fear-inspiring way I am wonderfully made,” sang the psalmist to his God. “Your works are wonderful, as my soul is very well aware.”—Psalm 139:14.

**6 *Release from detrimental habits and practices.***

Warnings about the dangers of smoking, excessive drinking, and sexual promiscuity abound in the media. For the most part, these warnings go unheeded. What happens, though, when a sincere person learns that the true God condemns such things and is saddened by those who practice them? Why, that person is moved to exclude such practices from his life! (**Isaiah 63:10; 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Ephesians 4:30**) While he does this primarily to please Jehovah God, he also receives additional benefits—better health and peace of mind.

7 Breaking bad habits is very difficult for many. Still, each year tens of thousands are doing so. They dedicate themselves to Jehovah and submit to water baptism, thus making it public that they have eliminated from their lives the practices that displease God. What an encouragement that is to all of us! Our determination to remain free from enslavement to sinful and hurtful conduct is reinforced.

8 ***Happy family life.*** In numerous countries family life is faltering. Many marriages end in divorce, often leaving behind painfully scarred children. In some European countries, one-parent families make up close to 20 percent of all households. How has Jehovah helped us walk in the way of integrity in this regard? Please read Ephesians 5:22–6:4, and note the fine counsel that God’s Word gives to husbands, wives, and children. Applying

what is stated there and elsewhere in the Scriptures certainly strengthens the marriage bond, helps parents to bring up children properly, and contributes to a happy family life. Is that not a blessing to rejoice over?

***9 Assurance that world problems will soon be solved.***

Despite scientific and technological know-how and the sincere efforts of certain leaders, serious problems of present-day life remain unsolved. Klaus Schwab, founder of the World Economic Forum, recently noted that “the list of challenges facing the world grows ever longer and the time to address them grows shorter.” He spoke of “dangers that transcend national boundaries like terrorism, environmental degradation and financial instability.” Schwab concluded: “Now, more than ever, the world is faced with realities that call for collective *and* decisive action.” As the 21st century moves forward, the overall outlook for mankind’s future remains bleak.

10 How gratifying to know that Jehovah has instituted an arrangement that is capable of solving all of mankind’s problems—the Messianic Kingdom of God! By means of it, the true God will ‘make wars to cease’ and bring about ‘abundant peace.’ (Psalm 46:9; 72:7) The anointed King, Jesus Christ, ‘will deliver the poor one, the afflicted one, and the lowly one from oppression and from violence.’ (Psalm 72:12-14) Under Kingdom

rule, there will be no food shortage. (Psalm 72:16) Jehovah “will wipe out every tear from [our] eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.” (Revelation 21:4) The Kingdom has already been established in heaven and will shortly take the necessary action to affect every affair on the earth.—Daniel 2:44; Revelation 11:15.

**11 *Knowing what brings true happiness.*** What does bring true happiness? One psychologist said that happiness has three components—pleasure, engagement (involvement in such activities as work and family), and meaning (working toward a larger end or goal than self). Of the three, he listed pleasure as the least consequential and observed: “This is newsworthy because so many people build their lives around pursuing pleasure.” What is the Bible’s view in this regard?

**12** King Solomon of ancient Israel stated: “I said, even I, in my heart: ‘Do come now, let me try you out with rejoicing. Also, see good.’ And, look! that too was vanity. I said to laughter: ‘Insanity!’ and to rejoicing: ‘What is this doing?’” (**Ecclesiastes 2:1, 2**) Scripturally, whatever happiness pleasure offers is at best temporary. What about involvement in work? We have the most meaningful work to get involved in—the Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making work. (**Matthew 24:14; 28:19, 20**) By sharing with others the message of

salvation outlined in the Bible, we engage in a work that can result in our own salvation and in that of those who listen to us. (1 Timothy 4:16) As “God’s fellow workers,” we experience that “there is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving.” (1 Corinthians 3:9; Acts 20:35) This work adds meaning to our life and provides the Creator with an answer for his taunter, Satan the Devil. (Proverbs 27:11) Indeed, Jehovah has shown us that godly devotion brings genuine and lasting happiness.—1 Timothy 4:8.

### ***13 An important and effective training program.***

Gerhard serves as an elder in a congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses. Recalling his youth, he says: “As a young person, I had great problems speaking. When under pressure, I could scarcely articulate and would begin to stutter. I felt inferior and developed a complex. My parents arranged for me to take a speaking course, but their efforts were to no avail. My problem was psychological, not physical. There was, though, a wonderful provision from Jehovah—the Theocratic Ministry School. Enrolling in this school gave me renewed courage. I tried my best to practice what I learned. And it worked! I became freer, lost my complex, and became more courageous in the ministry. Now I even deliver public talks. I am truly grateful to Jehovah, who gave me a new life through this school.” Is not the way Jehovah trains us to do his work a reason to



be joyful?

**14 *A personal relationship with Jehovah and support from the united international brotherhood.*** Katrin, who lives in Germany, was greatly dismayed upon hearing reports of a severe earthquake and resultant tsunami in southeast Asia. Her daughter was visiting Thailand when the catastrophe hit. For 32 hours this mother did not know whether her daughter was alive or was among the casualties that mounted hour by hour. How relieved Katrin was finally to receive a telephone call that assured her of her daughter's safety!

**15** What helped Katrin during those hours of anxiety? She writes: "I spent almost all of this time in prayer to Jehovah. I noticed over and over again how much strength and peace of mind this gave me. Moreover, loving spiritual brothers visited me and stood by my side." (**Philippians 4:6, 7**) How much worse her situation would have been if she had had to spend those agonizing hours without the benefit of prayer to Jehovah and the comfort of a loving spiritual brotherhood! Our intimate relationship with Jehovah and his Son along with our close association with the Christian brotherhood is a unique blessing, too precious to be taken for granted.

**16 *The hope of seeing dead loved ones again.*** (**John 5:28, 29**) A young man named Matthias was raised as one of Jehovah's Witnesses. Unaware of his blessings, however, he drifted away from the Christian



congregation when he was a teenager. He now writes: “I never really had deep discussions with my father. Over the years, we had many arguments. Still, my father always wanted the best for me. He loved me dearly, something I failed to realize at the time. In 1996, as I sat at his bedside, holding his hand and crying bitterly, I told him how sorry I was for all that I had done and that I loved him so much. But he could not hear me. After a short illness, he slipped away in death. If I live to see my father in the resurrection, we will make up for the past. And he will surely be happy to hear that I now serve as an elder and that my wife and I are privileged to serve as pioneers.” What a blessing the resurrection hope is to us!

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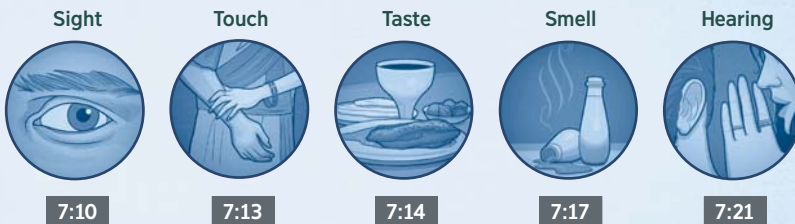
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Jehovah's standards can protect us. To benefit from them, however, we must treasure them in our heart. (Pr 7:3) When a servant of Jehovah allows his heart to turn aside, he becomes vulnerable to Satan's smooth and deceptive tactics. Proverbs chapter 7 describes a young man who allowed his heart to deceive him. What can we learn from his mistakes?



- Satan tries to draw us away from Jehovah by using our five senses to induce us to get involved in wrongdoing
- Wisdom and understanding will help us to perceive the devastating effects of wrongdoing and to stay far away from spiritual danger

baptism therefore means being fully dipped, or immersed, in water.

<sup>4</sup> Water baptism is a requirement for all who want to have a relationship with Jehovah God. Baptism publicly indicates your desire to serve God. It shows that you are delighted to do Jehovah's will. (Psalm 40:7, 8) To qualify for baptism, however, you must take definite steps.

### **KNOWLEDGE AND FAITH NEEDED**

<sup>5</sup> You have already begun to take the first step. How? By *taking in knowledge* of Jehovah God and Jesus Christ, perhaps by means of a systematic study of the Bible. (John 17:3) But there is more to learn. Christians want to be “filled with the accurate knowledge of [God's] will.” (Colossians 1:9) Attending the congregation meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses is a big help in this regard. It is important to attend such meetings. (Hebrews 10:24, 25) Regular meeting attendance will help you increase your knowledge of God.

**4. What does water baptism indicate?**

**5. (a) What is the first step in qualifying for baptism? (b) Why are Christian meetings important?**

<sup>6</sup> Of course, you do not need to know everything in the Bible in order to qualify for baptism. The Ethiopian court official had *some* knowledge, but he needed help to understand certain parts of the Scriptures. (Acts 8:30, 31) Likewise, you still have much to learn. In fact, you will never stop learning about God. (Ecclesiastes 3:11) Before you can be baptized, however, you need to know and accept at least the basic Bible teachings. (Hebrews 5:12) Such teachings include the truth about the condition of the dead and the importance of God's name and his Kingdom.

<sup>7</sup> Knowledge alone is not enough, though, for “without faith it is impossible to please [God] well.” (Hebrews 11:6) The Bible tells us that when some people in the ancient city of Corinth heard the Christian message, they “began to believe and be baptized.” (Acts 18:8) In a similar way, a study of the Bible should fill you with *faith* that it is the inspired Word of God. Bible study should help you

**6. How much Bible knowledge must you have in order to qualify for baptism?**

**7. What effect should a study of the Bible have on you?**

## *We Need Self-Control*

(Romans 7:14-25)

1. We love Jehovah with heart, mind, and soul;  
But since we are sinful, we need self-control.  
Minding the flesh brings trouble and strife.  
Minding the spirit means peace and life.
2. Satan's temptations confront us each day,  
And sin's law within us can lead us astray.  
Power of truth is greater than sin.  
Thanks to Jehovah, our minds can win.
3. Each word and action reflects on God's name,  
So we must endeavor to keep free from blame.  
In all we do, we make this our goal:  
Always maintaining our self-control.

- Song 32 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

## TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **"Do Not Let Your Heart Turn Aside":** (10 min.)  
Pr 7:6-12—Those lacking good sense often run into spiritual danger (w00 11/15 29-30)  
Pr 7:13-23—Poor decisions can lead to disaster (w00 11/15 30-31)  
Pr 7:4, 5, 24-27—Wisdom and understanding will safeguard us (w00 11/15 29, 31)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
Pr 9:7-9—What does our response to counsel reveal about us? (w01 5/15 29-30)

Pr 10:22—What does Jehovah's blessing include in our day? (w06 5/15 26-30 ¶13-16)

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) Pr 8:22-9:6

## APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) g16.5 cover  
—Invite the person to the weekend meeting.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) g16.5 cover  
—Invite the person to the weekend meeting.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) bh 176 ¶15-6  
—Invite the student to the meetings.

## LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 83
- **What Your Peers Say—Cell Phones (Pr 10:19):** (15 min.) Discussion. Begin by playing the video *What Your Peers Say—Cell Phones* (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY). Then discuss the accompanying jw.org article "What Should I Know About Texting?" Emphasize the points under the subheading "Texting Tips."
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)  
kr chap. 2 ¶13-22
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 152 and Prayer  
*Reminder:* Play the new song through once before singing.

## PROVERBS 7-11 | "Do Not Let Your Heart Turn Aside"

Jehovah's standards can protect us. To benefit from them, however, we must treasure them in our heart. (Pr 7:3) When a servant of Jehovah allows his heart to turn aside, he becomes vulnerable to Satan's smooth and deceptive tactics. Proverbs chapter 7 describes a young man who allowed his heart to deceive him. What can we learn from his mistakes?



- Satan tries to draw us away from Jehovah by using our five senses to induce us to get involved in wrongdoing
- Wisdom and understanding will help us to perceive the devastating effects of wrongdoing and to stay far away from spiritual danger



YOUNG PEOPLE ASK

## What Should I Know About Texting?

:-) Used wisely, texting can be a great way to stay in touch.

:-( Used carelessly, it can ruin your friendships—and your reputation.

This article will tell you what you need to know about

- [Whom you text](#)
- [What you text](#)
- [When you text](#)

Also in this article:

- [Texting tips](#)
- [Texting quiz](#)

## Whom you text

Many teenagers consider texting to be an indispensable way to communicate. Texting allows you to keep in touch with anyone and everyone on your contact list—that is, unless your parents object.

*“My dad doesn’t like it when my sister and I talk to boys. If we do, it has to be on the landline phone, in the living room, and with others present.”—Lenore.*

**What you should know:** If you give out your number to just anyone, you can get into trouble.

*“If you aren’t careful about who knows your number, you’re bound to receive messages or pictures you don’t want.”—Scott.*

*“If you regularly text a member of the opposite sex, you can get emotionally attached to that person very quickly.”—Steven.*

**The Bible says:** “Shrewd is the one that has seen the calamity and proceeds to conceal himself.” (Proverbs 22:3) By taking a few precautions, you can spare yourself a lot of grief.

**True story:** “A boy and I were friends, and we texted a lot. I reasoned that we were just really close. I didn’t think that was a problem until he told me that he had developed romantic feelings for me. Looking back, I realize that I shouldn’t have hung out with him—and texted him—as much as I did.” —Melinda.

**Consider:** How, do you think, would Melinda’s friendship with the boy be affected by his revelation?

**Rewrite the script!** What could Melinda have done differently so that she and the boy could have remained just friends and nothing more?

## What you text

Text messages are so easy to send—and fun to receive—that it’s easy to forget that people may read between the lines.

**What you should know:** Words conveyed via texting can be misinterpreted.

*“With texting you can’t sense emotions and tone of voice—even with emoticons or text symbols. It can cause misunderstandings.”—Briana.*

*“I know girls who have ruined their reputations and are known to be flirts because of what they have sent in a text to boys.”—Laura.*



**The Bible says:** “Good people think before they answer.” (Proverbs 15:28, Good News Translation)  
The lesson? Reread your message before you hit “Send”!

## When you text

By using common sense, you can develop your own rules of texting—texting etiquette, as some call it.

**What you should know:** If you don’t watch your texting manners, you’ll come off as rude and repel friends rather than attract them.

*“It’s easy to forget texting etiquette. I find myself in a conversation with someone or at the dinner table, and yet I’m texting at the same time.”—Allison.*

*“It’s dangerous to be texting and driving. If you take your eyes off the road, you risk getting into an accident.”—Anne.*

**The Bible says:** “For everything there is an appointed time, . . . a time to keep quiet and a time to speak.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 7) That applies to texting just as much as it does to talking!

## Texting tips

### Whom you text

;-) Obey your parents’ guidelines.—Colossians 3:20.

;-) Be selective about whom you give your number to. When you politely refuse to share private information—including your cell-phone number—you develop a skill that you’ll need as an adult.

;-) Don’t become overly familiar by sending flirtatious text messages. If romantic feelings grow, you’re only inviting frustration and heartache.

*“I’ve built up a good record with my parents regarding the use of my cell phone, so they trust me to make wise decisions about whose number I will put in my contact list.”—Briana.*

### What you text

;-) Before you start to type your message, ask yourself, ‘Is texting the right way to communicate in this situation?’ It might be better to make a phone call or wait to speak in person.

;-) Don’t text anything you wouldn’t say in person. “If it shouldn’t be said out loud, it shouldn’t be sent by text,” says 23-year-old Sarah.

*“If someone sends you provocative pictures, tell your parents. It will serve as a protection and will also build your parents’ trust in you.”—Sirvan.*

## When you text

- ;-) Decide in advance when your phone will be off-limits. “I don’t have my cell phone with me at the dinner table or while studying,” says a girl named Olivia. “I turn it off during Christian meetings so that I’m not tempted to look at it.”
- ;-) Be considerate. (Philippians 2:4) Don’t text while you’re trying to carry on a face-to-face conversation with someone.

*“I’ve set rules for myself, such as not texting people when I’m in a group of friends unless it’s necessary. I also don’t give out my number to people I’m not already close to.”—Janelly.*

### Texting quiz

#### Scenario 1

You’ve been dating for six months, but you now realize that the person just isn’t right for you. Which would be the better text message to send to the person?

- A. “We’re through.”
- B. “We need to talk. When can we get together?”

**Correct answer: B.** Unless circumstances make it inadvisable, it’s best to discuss in person the serious matter of breaking up.—Luke 6:31.

#### Scenario 2

You receive a text message that contains a lewd photo of a schoolmate. What is your best option?

- A. Delete the photo immediately.
- B. Forward the photo to all your friends.

**Correct answer: A.** “Sexting” degrades everyone involved. Refuse to be any part of it! —Ephesians 5:3, 4.

## Scenario 3

You're at the dinner table with your family and a familiar tone alerts you that you just received a text message. What is your best option?

- A. Check the incoming message and assume that your family will excuse the interruption.
- B. Wait until after dinner to check your message.

**Correct answer: B.** The text message can wait. Put family first.—Philippians 1:10.

Source: <http://www.jw.org/en/bible-teachings/family/teenagers/ask/know-about-texting>

commented: “Millions of people today find themselves free from the burden of fear, imposed upon them by the teachings of hell fire and other false doctrines . . . The tide of Truth, which began more than forty years ago, is still steadily rising and will continue to rise until it fills the whole earth; and its opponents might as well try to sweep back with an ordinary broom the waves of a mighty ocean as to prevent the Truth from spreading throughout the earth.”

<sup>13</sup> Consider this: Would people have been prepared for the beginning of Christ’s presence if they were not able to distinguish Jesus from his Father, Jehovah? Surely not! Nor would they have been prepared if they thought that immortality was the automatic possession of all and not a precious gift bestowed on only relatively few of Christ’s footstep followers; nor if they thought that God tormented people in hell-fire for all eternity with no hope of relief! Without doubt, the “messenger” prepared the way for the Messianic King!

**13, 14. (a) How did the “messenger” help to prepare the way for the Messianic King? (b) What can we learn from our brothers of more than a century ago?**

**14** And what about us today? What can we learn from our brothers of more than a century ago? We likewise need to be avid readers and students of God's Word. (John 17:3) As this materialistic world becomes emaciated, spiritually speaking, may our appetite for spiritual food grow ever stronger!—**Read 1 Timothy 4:15.**

### **“Get Out of Her, My People”**

**15** **The Bible Students taught that it was necessary to break away from worldly churches.** In 1879, the *Watch Tower* referred to the “Babylon church.” Was it talking about the papacy? The Roman Catholic Church? Protestant denominations had for centuries made such applications of Babylon as a prophetic type in Scripture. However, the Bible Students gradually came to the realization that *all* the churches of Christendom were included in modern-day “Babylon.” Why? Because they all taught doctrinal lies such as those discussed above.\*<sup>[2]</sup> In time, our

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\*<sup>[2]</sup> Although the Bible Students saw the need to withdraw from religious organizations that were friends of the world, for years they continued to view as Christian brothers individuals who, although not Bible Students, professed belief in the ransom and claimed to be dedicated to God.

**15. The Bible Students gradually came to what realization? (See also footnote.)**



Charles Russell with a group  
of early Bible Students in  
Copenhagen, Denmark,  
in 1909

publications became more and more direct about what honesthearted members of Babylon's churches should do.

<sup>16</sup> For example, in 1891, Volume III of *Millennial Dawn* discussed God's rejection of modern-day Babylon and noted: "The whole system—a system of systems—is rejected." It added that all those "not in sympathy with her false doctrines and practices are now called to separate themselves from her."

<sup>17</sup> In January 1900, the *Watch Tower* offered counsel to those who still kept their names on the denominational rolls of Christendom's churches and who rationalized their course, saying, "My sympathies are all with the truth, and I rarely attend other meetings." The article asked: "But is this right—to be half out and half in Babylon? Is this the obedience required . . . and pleasing and acceptable to God? Surely not. He [the church member] publicly entered into a *covenant* with the denomination when he joined it, and he should faithfully live up to all the conditions of that covenant until he . . . *publicly* renounces or

**16, 17. (a) How did Volume III of *Millennial Dawn* and the *Watch Tower* urge people to remove themselves from false religion? (b) What factor diluted such early warnings? (See footnote.)**

cancels his membership.” Over the years, that message became stronger.\*[3] Servants of Jehovah must renounce all ties with false religion.

18 If such warnings to get out of Babylon the Great had not been sounded regularly, would Christ as the newly installed King have had a body of prepared, anointed servants on earth? Surely not, for only Christians who are free from Babylon’s grip can worship Jehovah “with spirit and truth.” (John 4:24) Are we today likewise determined to keep free from false religion? Let us keep obeying the command: “Get out of her, my people”!—**Read Revelation 18:4.**

### **Gathering for Worship**

19 **The Bible Students taught that fellow believers should gather together for worship, where that was possible.** For genuine Christians, it is not enough to get out of

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\*[3] One factor that diluted the force of such early warnings was that they were applied mainly to Christ’s little flock of 144,000. We will see in Chapter 5 that prior to 1935, it was thought that the “great multitude,” as described at Revelation 7:9, 10 in the *King James Version*, would include countless members of the churches of Christendom and that they would be made a secondary heavenly class as a reward for siding with Christ at the very end.

**18. Why was it necessary for people to get out of Babylon the Great?**  
**19, 20. How did the *Watch Tower* encourage God’s people to gather together for worship?**



false religion. It is vital to take part in pure worship as well. From its early issues, the *Watch Tower* encouraged readers to gather together for worship. For example, in July 1880, Brother Russell reported on a speaking tour he had made, commenting on how encouraging the many meetings had been. He then urged readers to send in cards regarding their progress—some of which would be published in the journal’s pages. To what end? “Let us all know . . . how the Lord prospers you; whether you keep up your meetings with those of like precious faith.”

<sup>20</sup> In 1882, an article called “Assembling Together” appeared in the *Watch Tower*. The article exhorted Christians to hold meetings “for mutual edification, encouragement and strengthening.” It noted: “It matters not whether there is any one learned or talented among you. Let each one bring his own Bible, paper, and pencil, and avail yourselves of as many helps in the way of a Concordance, . . . as possible. Choose your subject; ask for the Spirit’s guidance in the understanding of it; then read, *think*, compare scripture with scripture and you will assuredly be guided into truth.”

<sup>21</sup> The Bible Students had their headquarters in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. There they set a fine example by gathering together in obedience to the inspired counsel recorded at **Hebrews 10:24, 25. (Read.)** Much later, an elderly brother named Charles Capen recalled attending those meetings as a boy. He wrote: “I still remember one of the scripture texts painted on the wall of the Society’s assembly hall. ‘One is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.’ That text has always stood out in my mind—there is no clergy-laity distinction among Jehovah’s people.” (Matt. 23:8) Brother Capen also recalled the stimulating meetings, the warm encouragement, and Brother Russell’s diligent efforts to shepherd every member of the congregation personally.

<sup>22</sup> Faithful people responded to this example and to the instruction given. Congregations formed in other states, such as Ohio and Michigan, and then all over North America and in other lands. Consider:

**21. The congregation in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, set what example regarding meetings and shepherding?**

**22. How did faithful people respond to the encouragement to attend Christian meetings, and what lesson may we learn from them?**

Would faithful people have truly been prepared for the presence of Christ if they had not been trained to obey the inspired counsel to meet together for worship? Surely not! What about us today? We need to be just as determined to attend Christian meetings faithfully, seeking every opportunity to worship together and be spiritually upbuilding to one another.

### **Zealous Preaching**

**<sup>23</sup> The Bible Students taught that all the anointed must be preachers of the truth.** In 1885, the *Watch Tower* commented: “We should not forget that every member of the anointed body is anointed to preach (Isa. 61:1), called to the ministry.” An 1888 issue contained this exhortation: “Our commission is plain . . . If we ignore it and excuse ourselves, we are certainly slothful servants, proving our unworthiness of the high position to which we are called.”

**<sup>24</sup> Brother Russell and his close associates did**  
**23. How did the *Watch Tower* make it plain that all anointed ones must be preachers of the truth?**  
**24, 25. (a) How did Russell and his close associates do more than encourage people to preach? (b) How did one colporteur describe his work in the “preautomobile days”?**

# *Our Strength, Our Hope, Our Confidence*

(Proverbs 14:26)

1. O Jehovah, you have given us  
a hope that we hold dear.  
It's a hope we find so thrilling  
we want the world to hear.  
But at times this life's anxieties  
are the cause of fears within,  
And the hope that burned so brightly  
has suddenly grown dim.

*(CHORUS)*

*You're our strength, you're our hope,  
you're our confidence.*

*Whatever we lack, you supply.  
When we preach, when we teach,  
we have confidence  
because it's on you we rely.*

2. So Jehovah, please instill in us  
a heart that won't forget,  
For you've always been our comfort  
when troubled times we've met.  
And these thoughts that lift and strengthen us  
can revive that dying flame,  
For they fill our hearts with courage  
to speak about your name.

*(Chorus)*

AUGUST 2016

# THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:  
SEPTEMBER 26–OCTOBER 23, 2016



COVER IMAGE:  
**HUNGARY**

What a pleasure it is to give a witness in the morning hours along the Danube River! These happy publishers are sharing the Kingdom message with an appreciative listener at Vigadó Square in Budapest, Hungary

PUBLISHERS  
**22,582**

PIONEERS  
**1,980**

BIBLE STUDIES  
**12,163**

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The origin of marriage, how it was regulated under the Mosaic Law, and the pattern Jesus set for Christian wedlock are matters discussed in the first article. The second article considers what the Scriptures say about the roles of husbands and wives.

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**Do You See the Need to Train Others?**

We rejoice in the advancement of the Kingdom-preaching work. But do we see how this sets before us opportunities for increased service to God? How can we ourselves make spiritual progress and at the same time help our Bible students to do so? Why is there a need to train others? Such important matters are discussed in these articles.

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**1. Move ahead, move ahead to maturity!**

It's the will of our God that we gain ability.  
Try your best to improve in your ministry,  
Then our God your work will bless.  
There's a place in the service for all.  
It's the work Jesus did, you'll recall.  
Look to God that you thus at no time may fall,  
Standing firm for righteousness.

**2. Move ahead, move ahead, boldly witnessing!**

Everlasting good news to all sorts of people bring.  
Join in praise to Jehovah, our God and King,  
As we preach from door to door.  
Wicked foes try to cause us to fear.  
Don't shrink back, but let ev'ryone hear  
Joyful news that the Kingdom of God is here.  
Teach the truth yet more and more.

**3. Move ahead, move ahead, always follow through,**

And improve in your skills  
for there's so much work to do.  
Let God's spirit keep on motivating you.  
Find the joy that is divine.  
Love the people you work hard to find.  
Keep returning to reach heart and mind.  
And assist all good progress each day to make,  
So the light of truth will shine.





# Do You See the Need to Make Spiritual Progress?

*“Continue applying yourself to public reading,  
to exhortation, to teaching.”—1 TIM. 4:13.*



# **Do You See the Need to Make Spiritual Progress?**

*“Continue applying yourself to public reading,  
to exhortation, to teaching.”—1 TIM. 4:13.*

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**SONGS: 45, 70**

**HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?**

**What can you do to make spiritual progress?**

**How can you progress spiritually without growing weary?**

**What adjustments might make you more effective in the ministry?**

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**“THE little one will become a thousand and the small one a mighty nation.” (Isa. 60:22) Those prophetic words are undergoing fulfillment in these last days. Why, during the 2015 service year, 8,220,105 Kingdom publishers have been active in the world field! The last part of that prophecy should affect all Christians personally, for**

**1, 2. (a) How has Isaiah 60:22 come true in this time of the end? (b) What needs now exist in the earthly part of Jehovah’s organization?**

our heavenly Father says: “I myself, Jehovah, will speed it up in its own time.” Like passengers in a vehicle gaining speed, we sense the increased momentum in the disciple-making work. How are we personally reacting to that acceleration? Are we doing all we can as zealous Kingdom publishers? Many brothers and sisters are applying to serve as regular or auxiliary pioneers. And do we not rejoice to see so many answer the call to serve where the need is greater or participate in other areas of theocratic activity?

2 At the same time, we see increased demands for more workers. Some 2,000 congregations are formed each year. If 5 elders were to serve in each new congregation, 10,000 ministerial servants would need to qualify as overseers each year. This means that it would be necessary for thousands of brothers to meet the qualifications needed in order to serve as ministerial servants. In ad-

dition to this, whether we are brothers or sisters, we certainly have “plenty to do in the work of the Lord.”—1 Cor. 15:58.

## **WHAT IT MEANS TO MAKE SPIRITUAL PROGRESS**

**3** Read 1 Timothy 3:1. The Greek verb translated “reaching out” means stretching to grasp something, perhaps something beyond your normal reach. In using that word, the apostle Paul stressed that spiritual progress requires effort. Imagine a brother thinking about his future in the congregation. He may not now be serving as a ministerial servant, but he realizes that he needs to cultivate spiritual qualities. First, he strives to qualify as a ministerial servant. In time, he hopes to be spiritually qualified to serve as an overseer. In each case, he works hard to meet the qualifications needed to care for added responsibility in the congregation.

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**3, 4.** What does making spiritual progress mean to you?

**4** In like manner, brothers and sisters who desire to serve as pioneers, as Bethelites, or as Kingdom Hall construction volunteers do well to stretch forward to attain their goals. Let us consider how God's Word encourages all to make progress in true worship.

## **STRIVE TO MAKE GREATER SPIRITUAL PROGRESS**

**5** Young people have the strength needed to accomplish much in Jehovah's service. (Read Proverbs 20:29.) Some young brothers in Bethel service have a part in printing and binding Bibles and Bible literature. Many young brothers and sisters share in the work of building and maintaining Kingdom Halls. When natural disasters strike, young people join more experienced Witnesses in carrying through with relief efforts. And many

---

**5.** How can young people use their strength in Kingdom service?

young pioneers help to take the good news to indigenous and foreign-language communities.

6 Very likely, you appreciate the importance of wholehearted service to God. But what if you feel the way a brother named Aaron once did? Although he grew up in a Christian family, he admitted, “I found the meetings and field service boring.” He wanted to serve God with joy but wondered why he was not happy. What did he do?

7 Aaron pursued a spiritual routine that included Bible reading, preparing for meetings, and commenting at them. He especially started praying regularly. As his love for Jehovah increased, he began to make fine spiritual progress. Since then, Aaron has enjoyed pioneering, working with others in connection with disaster relief, and preaching in a foreign land. Aaron now serves at Bethel

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6-8. (a) How did one young man change his view of God’s service, and with what result? (b) How can we “taste and see that Jehovah is good”?

and is an elder. How does he view the course he has taken? “I have ‘tasted and seen that Jehovah is good.’ Because of his blessing, I feel indebted to him and am moved to do more in his service, and this results in more blessings.”

8 The psalmist sang: “Those seeking Jehovah will lack nothing good.” (Read Psalm 34:8-10.) Indeed, Jehovah never disappoints those who zealously serve him. We personally “taste and see that Jehovah is good” as we do all we can in his service. And when we give God whole-souled worship, we experience happiness that has no equal.

## **PERSEVERE AND DO NOT GROW WEARY**

9 As you work toward your goals, show “a waiting attitude.” (Mic. 7:7) Jehovah always supports his faithful servants, even though he may allow them to wait for privileges or a favorable change

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9, 10. Why is it important for you to have “a waiting attitude”?

of circumstances. He promised Abraham a son, but the patriarch had to exercise faith and patience. (Heb. 6:12-15) Although he waited years for Isaac's birth, Abraham did not lose heart, and Jehovah did not disappoint him.—Gen. 15:3, 4; 21:5.

10 Waiting is not easy. (Prov. 13:12) If we were to brood over disappointments, we could become very discouraged. Instead, it is wise to use our time to improve our spiritual qualifications. Note three ways to do so.

11 *Develop spiritual qualities.* By reading God's Word and meditating on it, we can develop wisdom, insight, good judgment, knowledge, thinking ability, and soundness of mind. Such qualities are vital for those taking the lead in true worship. (Prov. 1:1-4; Titus 1:7-9) And as we read our Bible-based publications, we can discern

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11. What spiritual qualities can we work to develop, and why are they important?

## ARE YOU WILLING TO TRY A DIFFERENT METHOD?

VENECIA, a sister in Venezuela, said: “I could never imagine myself witnessing by phone.” But she called an acquaintance and made a brief presentation. The lady was eager to discuss the Bible, and Venecia began conducting a study with her. The student eventually got baptized. Now Venecia says: “Phone witnessing works!”

In Liberia, Peter customarily took our literature to school. Some classmates saw the tract *Youths—What Will You Do With Your Life?* and requested copies. Peter discussed the tract with them and asked: “What will you do with your life?” One young man said: “I want to use my life to serve God.” Peter began a Bible study with him.

Because of health problems, a married couple in Poland began to witness by letter. In his response, one man wrote: “I am very grateful for your comforting words. My wife died three years ago, and last year my son was killed in an accident.” In a delayed reply, a woman wrote: “Your letter helped me to learn the truth. After two years, I am writing back as your Christian sister.”



God's thinking on many matters. Daily, we face issues involving entertainment, dress and grooming, managing money, and getting along with others. By applying what we learn from the Bible, we can make decisions that please Jehovah.

**12 *Prove yourself trustworthy.*** Whether we are brothers or sisters, we need to do our best to care for any theocratic assignment we receive. As governor, Nehemiah had to fill positions of responsibility among God's people. Whom did he appoint? He used those who were God-fearing, trustworthy, and reliable. (Neh. 7:2; 13:12, 13) Today as well, "what is expected of stewards is that they be found faithful." (1 Cor. 4:2) Fine works do not go unnoticed.—Read 1 Timothy 5:25.

**13 *Let Jehovah refine you.*** What can you do if others treat you unfairly? Perhaps you can

**12.** How can members of the congregation prove themselves trustworthy?

**13.** How can you follow Joseph's example if others treat you unfairly?

straighten out the matter quickly. At times, though, by vigorously defending yourself, you make a problem worse. Joseph's brothers mistreated him, but he did not harbor resentment. Later, Joseph was falsely accused and unjustly imprisoned. However, he let Jehovah guide him through difficult times. The result? "The saying of Jehovah is what refined him." (Ps. 105:19) When those tests ended, Joseph qualified for a special assignment. (Gen. 41:37-44; 45:4-8) As you deal with thorny problems, pray for wisdom, act and speak with mildness, and look to God for strength. Jehovah will help you.—Read 1 Peter 5:10.

## **MAKE PROGRESS IN THE FIELD MINISTRY**

**14** Paul urged Timothy: "Continue applying

**14, 15.** (a) Why do we have to "pay constant attention" to the way we preach? (b) How might you adjust to changing conditions? (See opening picture of the standard edition and the box "Are You Willing to Try a Different Method?")

yourself to public reading, to exhortation, to teaching. Pay constant attention to yourself and to your teaching.” (1 Tim. 4:13, 16) Timothy was already an experienced Kingdom proclaimer. Yet, his ministry would be effective only if he would “pay constant attention” to his teaching. He could not take for granted that people would respond to his usual approach. To continue reaching their hearts, he had to adapt his teaching methods to their needs. As Kingdom proclaimers, we need to do the same.

15 We often find that people are not at home when we preach from door to door. In some areas, we cannot enter certain apartment buildings and gated communities. If that is true in your territory, why not consider different ways to preach the good news?

16 Public witnessing is one excellent method of

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16. How can public witnessing prove to be effective?

spreading the good news. Many Witnesses are having a very effective and rewarding share in such work. They set aside time to approach people at train and bus stations, in marketplaces and parks, and in other public areas. Using good judgment, a Witness may start a conversation with someone by commenting on the news, complimenting the person's children, or asking a question about his work. As the conversation moves along, the publisher brings up a Scriptural point and elicits a response. The person's comments often lead to a further discussion of the Bible.

17 If you find public witnessing challenging, do not give up. Eddie, a pioneer in New York City, was hesitant about conversing with people in public. In time, however, he gained confidence. What helped him? He says: "During our family wor-

17, 18. (a) How might you become more confident in public witnessing? (b) Why do you find David's spirit in praising Jehovah valuable as you engage in the ministry?

ship, my wife and I do research to find answers to objections and opinions people express. We also ask other Witnesses for suggestions.” Now Eddie looks forward to public witnessing.

18 As you gain skill and confidence in preaching the good news, your spiritual advancement will be evident. (Read 1 Timothy 4:15.) Moreover, you will undoubtedly laud our heavenly Father as did David, who sang: “I will praise Jehovah at all times; his praise will be on my lips constantly. I will boast in Jehovah; the meek will hear and rejoice.” (Ps. 34:1, 2) And it may well be that as a result of your ministry, meek ones will joyfully join you in true worship.

## **GLORIFY GOD BY MAKING SPIRITUAL PROGRESS**

19 David also sang: “All your works will glorify you, O Jehovah, and your loyal ones will praise

19. Why should a loyal servant of Jehovah be happy even if he or she lives in restrictive circumstances?

you. They will proclaim the glory of your kingship and speak about your mightiness, to make known to men your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingship.” (Ps. 145:10-12) Those words surely express the sentiments of all loyal Witnesses of Jehovah. But what if illness or advanced age somewhat limits your ministry? Always remember that as you share the good news with caregivers and others, your sacred service glorifies our wonderful God. If you are imprisoned because of your faith, you likely speak about the truth as circumstances permit, and that makes Jehovah’s heart rejoice. (Prov. 27:11) The same is true if you are in a religiously divided household but stick to your spiritual routine. (1 Pet. 3:1-4) Even under adverse circumstances, you can praise Jehovah and make spiritual progress.

20 Jehovah will certainly bless you if you con-  
20, 21. If you are entrusted with more work in Jehovah’s organization, how can you become a blessing to others?

tinue to make spiritual progress. Perhaps by making a few changes in your schedule or lifestyle, you can have a greater role in sharing God's precious truth with those who are in need of hope. Moreover, your spiritual progress and course of self-sacrifice can result in priceless benefits to your fellow believers. And because of your humble efforts in the congregation, you will be rewarded by receiving the affection, appreciation, and support of others who love Jehovah.

21 Whether we have enjoyed many years or just a few months in Jehovah's service, all of us can make progress in his worship. But how can mature Christians help newer ones to make spiritual advancement? We will discuss that subject in our next study.

*“Make Sure of the  
More Important Things”*  
(Philippians 1:10)

1. How great our need today for discernment,  
    To know the things that are true,  
    To know which things have greater importance,  
    To know which things we must do!  
Love what is good; Hate what is bad.  
    Make God’s heart glad;  
Find all the joy that it brings. Always pray;  
    Study each day.  
Yes, may we do these important things.
2. And what could be of greater importance  
    Than sharing Kingdom good news,  
    To find our Father’s lost little sheep,  
    And to help them his way to choose?  
They need to hear; They need to know.  
    Oh, may we show  
Love for our neighbors and help them to see,  
    Help them get free!  
Preaching is such an important thing.
3. If we take care to do what’s important,  
    Our faith will make us secure.  
We’ll know the peace beyond human thinking  
    And keep our hope ever sure.  
True friends we’ll find; True love we’ll know.  
    This love will grow.  
Oh, what rich blessings it brings when we learn,  
    When we discern,  
And when we do the important things!

(See also Ps. 97:10; Matt. 22:37; John 21:15-17; Acts 10:42.)