

- Song 127 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

- **“Are You a Physical Man or a Spiritual Man?”:** (10 min.)  
[Play the video *Introduction to 1 Corinthians.*]  
1Co 2:14—What does it mean to be “a physical man”? (w18.02 19 ¶4-5)  
1Co 2:15, 16—What does it mean to be a “spiritual man”? (w18.02 19 ¶6; 22 ¶15)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
1Co 1:20—How has God “made the wisdom of the world foolish”? (it-2 1193 ¶1)

1Co 2:3-5—How can Paul’s example help us? (w08 7/15 27 ¶6)

What has this week’s Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week’s Bible reading?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) 1Co 1:1-17 (10)

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **First Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Play and discuss the video.
- **First Return Visit:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (3)
- **First Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation, and introduce the *Teach Us* book. (11)

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 18
- **“Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Writing Good Letters”:** (8 min.) Discussion.
- **Memorial Campaign to Begin Saturday, March 23:** (7 min.) Discussion by the service overseer. Give everyone in the audience a copy of the invitation, and review it. Play and discuss the sample presentation. Outline local arrangements for covering the territory.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jj* chap. 59
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 51 and Prayer

1 CORINTHIANS 1-3 | Are You a Physical Man or a Spiritual Man?

**2:14-16**

Each of us needs to cultivate spirituality and keep growing as a spiritual person. (Eph 4:23, 24) In order to make progress, you must feed yourself spiritually, set spiritual goals, and cultivate the fruitage of the spirit.



- ✍ **How does your spirituality now compare with your spirituality a year ago, ten years ago, or when you got baptized?**



# The Sort of Person I Should Be

(2 Peter 3:11)

Db Bbm7 Gb Ebm7

How can I re-pay you, what gift can I give To

Gb/Ab Ab/Gb Db/F F7b9b13/A Bbm7 Eb13sus4 Eb7

thank you, Je-ho - vah, for the life that I live? I

Ebm Ab7/Eb Db/F Gb Ab Bbm9/11 Bbm

look in my heart with your Word as my mir - ror; The

Bridge

Gb Db/F Ebm11 Gb/Ab Ab7 Dbsus4 Db

per - son I see, may you help me see clear - er. My

# The Sort of Person I Should Be

Chords: G $\flat$ ma7, Ab/G $\flat$ , G $\flat$ ma7, Ab/G $\flat$ , Fm7, C $\flat$ /D $\flat$

life I have prom - ised in ser - vice to you, But

Chords: G $\flat$ ma7, Ab/G $\flat$ , G $\flat$ ma7, B $\flat$ m/G, C7sus4, C7, Fm

not from mere du - ty will I do what I do. Whole -

Chords: D $^{\circ}$ , E $\flat$ m11, E $\flat$ m, G $\flat$ m/A

souled and whole - heart - ed I serve you by

Chords: D $\flat$ /A $\flat$ , B $\flat$ m/G, G $\flat$ /A $\flat$ , Fm/A $\flat$

choice; May I be one more who makes you re - jice.

# The Sort of Person I Should Be

Ebm7/Ab Ab7 Db Bbm7 Gb Ebm7

Help me to ex - am - ine, and help me to see Just

Gb/Ab Ab/Gb Db/F F7b9b13/A Bbm7 Eb13sus4 Eb7

what sort of per - son you de - sire me to be. Those

Ebm Ab7/Eb Db/F Gb Ab Bbm9/11 Bbm

loy - al to you, you will loy - al - ly trea - sure; May

Gb Db/F Ebm11 Gb/Ab Ab7 Dbsus4 Db

I be a - mong those who bring your heart plea - sure.

<p>Warning against idolatry (14-22) Table of Jehovah, table of demons (21) Freedom and consideration for others (23-33) “Do all things for God’s glory” (31)</p> <p>11 “Become imitators of me” (1) Headship and head covering (2-16) Observing the Lord’s Evening Meal (17-34)</p> <p>12 Gifts of the spirit (1-11) One body, many members (12-31)</p> <p>13 Love—a surpassing way (1-13)</p> <p>14 Gifts of prophecy and tongues (1-25)</p>	<p>Orderly Christian meetings (26-40) Women’s position in congregation (34, 35)</p> <p>15 The resurrection of Christ (1-11) Resurrection the basis for faith (12-19) Christ’s resurrection a guarantee (20-34) The physical body, the spiritual body (35-49) Immortality and incorruption (50-57) Plenty to do in the Lord’s work (58)</p> <p>16 Collection for Jerusalem Christians (1-4) Paul’s travel plans (5-9) Planned visits of Timothy and Apollos (10-12) Exhortations and greetings (13-24)</p>
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**1** Paul, called to be an apostle<sup>a</sup> of Christ Jesus by God’s will, and Sos’the-nes our brother, **2** to the congregation of God that is in Corinth,<sup>b</sup> to you who have been sanctified in union with Christ Jesus,<sup>c</sup> called to be holy ones, together with all those everywhere who are calling on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>d</sup> their Lord and ours:

**3** May you have undeserved kindness and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**4** I always thank my God for you in view of the undeserved kindness of God given to you in Christ Jesus; **5** because in everything you have been enriched in him, in full ability to speak and in full knowledge,<sup>e</sup> **6** just as the witness about the Christ<sup>f</sup> has been made firm among you, **7** so that you do not lack in any gift at all, while you are eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>g</sup> **8** He will also make you firm to the end so that you may be open to no accusation in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>h</sup> **9** God is faithful,<sup>i</sup> by whom you

CHAP. 1

- a Ac 9:15  
b Ac 18:1  
c 1Co 6:11  
Heb 9:13, 14  
d Mt 12:18, 21  
Ac 4:12  
e Col 1:9  
f Ac 18:5  
g Lu 17:29, 30  
2Th 1:7  
1Pe 1:7  
h 1Co 4:5  
1Co 5:5  
Re 1:10  
i De 7:9

Second Col.

- a Ro 16:17  
b Ro 15:5, 6  
2Co 13:11  
Eph 4:1, 3  
Php 2:2  
c Ac 18:24  
1Co 3:4, 5  
1Co 3:21-23  
d Ac 18:8  
e Ro 16:23  
f 1Co 16:15

were called into fellowship\* with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**10** Now I urge you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you should all speak in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you,<sup>a</sup> but that you may be completely united in the same mind and in the same line of thought.<sup>b</sup> **11** For some from the house of Chlo’e have informed me regarding you, my brothers, that there are dissensions among you. **12** What I mean is this, that each one of you says: “I belong to Paul,” “But I to A-pol’los,”<sup>c</sup> “But I to Ce’phas,”\* “But I to Christ.” **13** Is the Christ divided? Paul was not executed on the stake for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? **14** I thank God that I baptized none of you except Cris’pus<sup>d</sup> and Ga’ius,<sup>e</sup> **15** so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. **16** Yes, I also baptized the household of Steph’anas.<sup>f</sup> As for the rest, I do not know whether I baptized anyone

**1:9** \*Or “a sharing.” **1:12** \*Also called Peter.

else. **17** For Christ sent me, not to baptize, but to declare the good news;<sup>a</sup> and not with wisdom of speech,\* so that the torture stake<sup>#</sup> of the Christ should not be made useless.

**18** For the speech about the torture stake<sup>#</sup> is foolishness to those who are perishing,<sup>b</sup> but to us who are being saved, it is God's power.<sup>c</sup> **19** For it is written: "I will make the wisdom of the wise men perish, and the intelligence of the intellectuals I will reject."<sup>\*d</sup> **20** Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe?<sup>\*</sup> Where is the debater of this system of things?<sup>#</sup> Has not God made the wisdom of the world foolish? **21** For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not get to know God<sup>e</sup> through its wisdom,<sup>f</sup> God was pleased through the foolishness<sup>g</sup> of what is preached to save those believing.

**22** For the Jews ask for signs<sup>h</sup> and the Greeks look for wisdom; **23** but we preach Christ executed on the stake, to the Jews a cause for stumbling but to the nations foolishness.<sup>i</sup> **24** However, to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.<sup>j</sup> **25** Because a foolish thing of God is wiser than men, and a weak thing of God is stronger than men.<sup>k</sup>

**26** For you see his calling of you, brothers, that there are not many wise in a fleshly way,<sup>l</sup> not many powerful, not many of noble birth,<sup>m</sup> **27** but God chose the foolish things of the world to put the wise men to shame; and God chose the weak things

1:17 \*Or "clever speech." 1:17, 18 #See Glossary. 1:19 \*Or "shove aside." 1:20 \*That is, an expert in the Law. 1:20; 2:6, 8 #Or "this age." See Glossary. 1:26 \*Or "by human standards." #Or "from important families."

## CHAP. 1

a Ac 9:15

b Ac 17:18  
1Co 2:14

c Ro 1:16

d Isa 29:14

e Lu 10:21

f Col 2:8

g 1Co 2:14  
1Co 3:18h Mt 12:38  
Lu 11:29

i Ac 17:32

j Col 2:3

k 2Co 13:4

l Ac 4:13

m Joh 7:48  
Jas 2:5

## Second Col.

a Mt 11:25

b 1Co 2:6

c Ro 10:4  
2Co 5:21d Joh 17:19  
Heb 10:10e Ro 3:24  
Col 1:13, 14f Jer 9:24  
2Co 10:17

## CHAP. 2

g 1Co 1:17

h Eph 3:5, 6  
Col 2:2

i Ga 6:14

j Ro 15:18, 19  
1Co 4:20  
1Th 1:5k 1Co 14:20  
Eph 4:13  
Heb 5:14

l 1Co 15:24

m Ro 16:25, 26  
Eph 3:8, 9n Joh 7:48  
Ac 13:27, 28

of the world to put the strong things to shame;<sup>a</sup> **28** and God chose the insignificant things of the world and the things looked down on, the things that are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,<sup>b</sup> **29** so that no one<sup>\*</sup> might boast in the sight of God. **30** But it is due to him that you are in union with Christ Jesus, who has become to us wisdom from God, also righteousness<sup>c</sup> and sanctification<sup>d</sup> and release by ransom,<sup>e</sup> **31** so that it may be just as it is written: "The one who boasts, let him boast in Jehovah."<sup>\*f</sup>

**2** So when I came to you, brothers, I did not come with extravagant speech<sup>g</sup> or wisdom declaring the sacred secret<sup>h</sup> of God to you. **2** For I decided not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ, and him executed on the stake.<sup>i</sup> **3** And I came to you in weakness and in fear and with much trembling; **4** and my speech and what I preached were not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of spirit and power.<sup>j</sup> **5** so that your faith might be, not in men's wisdom, but in God's power.

**6** Now we speak wisdom among those who are mature,<sup>k</sup> but not the wisdom of this system of things<sup>#</sup> nor that of the rulers of this system of things, who are to come to nothing.<sup>l</sup> **7** But we speak God's wisdom in a sacred secret,<sup>m</sup> the hidden wisdom, which God fore-ordained before the systems of things for our glory. **8** It is this wisdom that none of the rulers of this system of things<sup>#</sup> came to know,<sup>n</sup> for if they had known it, they would not have executed<sup>\*</sup> the glorious Lord. **9** But just as it is written: "Eye has not

1:29 \*Lit., "flesh." 1:31 \*See App. A5. 2:8 \*Or "executed on the stake."

seen and ear has not heard, nor have there been conceived in the heart of man the things that God has prepared for those who love him."<sup>a</sup> **10** For it is to us God has revealed them<sup>b</sup> through his spirit,<sup>c</sup> for the spirit searches into all things, even the deep things of God.<sup>d</sup>

**11** For who among men knows the things of a man except the man's spirit within him? So, too, no one has come to know the things of God except the spirit of God. **12** Now we received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit that is from God,<sup>e</sup> so that we might know the things that have been kindly given us by God. **13** These things we also speak, not with words taught by human wisdom,<sup>f</sup> but with those taught by the spirit,<sup>g</sup> as we explain\* spiritual matters with spiritual words.

**14** But a physical man does not accept\* the things of the spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot get to know them, because they are examined spiritually. **15** However, the spiritual man examines all things,<sup>h</sup> but he himself is not examined by any man. **16** For "who has come to know the mind of Jehovah,\* so that he may instruct him?"<sup>i</sup> But we do have the mind of Christ.<sup>j</sup>

**3** So, brothers, I was not able to speak to you as to spiritual men,<sup>k</sup> but as to fleshly men, as to infants<sup>l</sup> in Christ. **2** I fed you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet strong enough. In fact, neither are you strong enough now,<sup>m</sup> **3** for you are still fleshly.<sup>n</sup> Since there are jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly<sup>o</sup> and are you not walking as men do? **4** For when one says, "I belong to Paul," but

2:13 \*Or "combine." 2:14 \*Or "receive." 2:16 \*See App. A5.

## CHAP. 2

- a Isa 64:4  
b Mt 16:17  
Mr 4:11  
Eph 3:5  
2Ti 1:9,10  
1Pe 1:12  
c Joh 14:26  
1Jo 2:27  
d Ro 11:33  
e Joh 15:26  
f Col 2:8  
g Joh 16:13  
h Ro 8:5  
i Isa 40:13  
j Ro 15:5

## CHAP. 3

- k 1Co 2:15  
Col 1:9  
l 1Co 14:20  
m Heb 5:12-14  
n Ro 8:7,8  
o Ga 5:19,20

## Second Col.

- a Ac 18:24, 25  
b 2Co 3:5, 6  
Col 1:23  
1Ti 1:12  
c Ac 18:4  
d Ac 18:26-28  
Ac 19:1  
e Ro 9:16  
f Ro 2:6  
1Co 4:5  
Re 22:12  
g Eph 2:22  
1Pe 2:5  
h Ro 15:20  
Heb 6:1  
i Ps 118:22  
Isa 28:16  
Mt 21:42  
Eph 2:20  
1Pe 2:6  
j 1Pe 4:12  
k 2Co 6:16  
Eph 2:21  
1Pe 2:5  
l 1Co 6:19

another says, "I to A-pol'los,"<sup>a</sup> are you not acting like mere men?

**5** What, then, is A-pol'los? Yes, what is Paul? Ministers<sup>b</sup> through whom you became believers, just as the Lord granted each one. **6** I planted,<sup>c</sup> A-pol'los watered,<sup>d</sup> but God kept making it grow, **7** so that neither is the one who plants anything nor is the one who waters, but God who makes it grow.<sup>e</sup> **8** Now the one who plants and the one who waters are one,\* but each person will receive his own reward according to his own work.<sup>f</sup> **9** For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field under cultivation, God's building.<sup>g</sup>

**10** According to the undeserved kindness of God that was given to me, I laid a foundation<sup>h</sup> as a skilled master builder,\* but someone else is building on it. But let each one keep watching how he is building on it. **11** For no one can lay any other foundation than what is laid, which is Jesus Christ.<sup>i</sup> **12** Now if anyone builds on the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, **13** each one's work will be shown for what it is,\* for the day will show it up, because it will be revealed by means of fire,<sup>j</sup> and the fire itself will prove what sort of work each one has built. **14** If anyone's work that he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward; **15** if anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved; yet, if so, it will be as through fire.

**16** Do you not know that you yourselves are God's temple<sup>k</sup> and that the spirit of God dwells in you?<sup>l</sup> **17** If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will de-

3:8 \*Or "have one purpose." 3:10 \*Or "wise director of works." 3:13 \*Lit., "will be made manifest."

stroy him; for the temple of God is holy, and you are that temple.<sup>a</sup>

**18** Let no one deceive himself: If anyone among you thinks he is wise in this system of things,\* let him become a fool, so that he may become wise. **19** For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God, for it is written: "He catches the wise in their own cunning."<sup>b</sup> **20** And again: "Jehovah\* knows that the reasonings of the wise men are futile."<sup>c</sup> **21** So let no one boast in men; for all things belong to you, **22** whether Paul or A-pollos or Ce'phas\*<sup>d</sup> or the world or life or death or things now here or things to come, all things belong to you; **23** in turn you belong to Christ;<sup>e</sup> Christ, in turn, belongs to God.

**4** A man should regard us as attendants\* of Christ and stewards of God's sacred secrets.<sup>f</sup> **2** In this regard, what is expected of stewards is that they be found faithful. **3** Now to me it is of very little importance to be examined by you or by a human tribunal.\* In fact, I do not even examine myself. **4** For I am not conscious of anything against myself. But by this I am not proved righteous; the one who examines me is Jehovah.\*<sup>g</sup> **5** Therefore, do not judge<sup>h</sup> anything before the due time, until the Lord comes. He will bring the secret things of darkness to light and make known the intentions of the hearts, and then each one will receive his praise from God.<sup>i</sup>

**6** Now, brothers, these things I have applied\* to myself and A-pollos<sup>j</sup> for your good, that through us you may learn the rule: "Do not go beyond the things that are written," so that

3:18 \*Or "this age." See Glossary. 3:20; 4:4 \*See App. A5. 3:22 \*Also called Peter. 4:1 \*Or "subordinates." 4:3 \*Or "court." 4:6 \*Or "transferred."

## CHAP. 3

a 1Pe 2:5

b Job 5:13

c Ps 94:11

d 1Co 1:12

e Joh 17:9  
2Co 10:7

## CHAP. 4

f Mt 13:11  
Ro 16:25, 26g Pr 21:2  
Ro 14:10  
Heb 4:13

h Mt 7:1

i Pr 10:9  
2Co 10:18  
1Ti 5:24, 25

j 1Co 1:12

## Second Col.

a Ro 12:3  
2Co 12:20  
3Jo 9

b Joh 3:27

c Re 20:4, 6

d 2Ti 2:12  
Re 3:21e Ro 8:36  
1Co 15:32  
2Co 6:4, 9

f Heb 10:33

g 1Co 3:18

h Php 4:12

i 2Co 11:27

j Ac 14:19  
Ac 23:2  
2Co 11:24k Ac 18:3  
Ac 20:34  
1Th 2:9

l Ro 12:14

m 1Pe 3:9

n Mt 5:44

o 1Pe 2:23

p Ga 4:19

1Th 2:11

1Co 11:1

Php 3:17

1Th 1:6

you may not be puffed up with pride,<sup>a</sup> favoring one against the other. **7** For who makes you different from another? Indeed, what do you have that you did not receive?<sup>b</sup> If, in fact, you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not receive it?

**8** Are you already satisfied? Are you already rich? Have you begun ruling as kings<sup>c</sup> without us? I really wish that you had begun ruling as kings, so that we also might rule with you as kings.<sup>d</sup> **9** For it seems to me that God has put us the apostles last on exhibition as men condemned to death,<sup>e</sup> because we have become a theatrical spectacle to the world,<sup>f</sup> and to angels and to men. **10** We are fools<sup>g</sup> because of Christ, but you are discreet in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are held in honor, but we in dishonor. **11** Down to this very hour we continue to hunger<sup>h</sup> and thirst<sup>i</sup> and to be poorly clothed\* and to be beaten<sup>h</sup> and to be homeless **12** and to toil, working with our own hands.<sup>k</sup> When insulted, we bless;<sup>j</sup> when persecuted, we patiently endure;<sup>m</sup> **13** when slandered, we answer mildly;<sup>n</sup> we have become as the refuse<sup>o</sup> of the world, the offscouring of all things, until now.

**14** I am writing these things, not to put you to shame, but to admonish you as my beloved children. **15** For though you may have 10,000 guardians\* in Christ, you certainly do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus, I have become your father through the good news.<sup>o</sup> **16** I urge you, therefore, become imitators of me.<sup>p</sup> **17** That is why I am sending Timothy to you, because he is my beloved

4:11 \*Lit., "and being naked." #Or "knocked about." 4:13 \*Lit., "we entreat." #Or "garbage; rubbish." 4:15 \*Or "tutors."



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1Co 2:14—What does it mean to be “a physical man”? (w18.02 19 ¶4-5)  
1Co 2:15, 16—What does it mean to be a “spiritual man”? (w18.02 19 ¶6; 22 ¶15)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
1Co 1:20—How has God “made the wisdom of the world foolish”? (it-2 1193 ¶1)

1Co 2:3-5—How can Paul’s example help us? (w08 7/15 27 ¶6)

What has this week’s Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week’s Bible reading?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) 1Co 1:1-17 (10)

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

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**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 18
- **“Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Writing Good Letters”:** (8 min.) Discussion.
- **Memorial Campaign to Begin Saturday, March 23:** (7 min.) Discussion by the service overseer. Give everyone in the audience a copy of the invitation, and review it. Play and discuss the sample presentation. Outline local arrangements for covering the territory.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jj* chap. 59
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 51 and Prayer

1 CORINTHIANS 1-3 | Are You a Physical Man or a Spiritual Man?

**2:14-16**

Each of us needs to cultivate spirituality and keep growing as a spiritual person. (Eph 4:23, 24) In order to make progress, you must feed yourself spiritually, set spiritual goals, and cultivate the fruitage of the spirit.



- ✍ **How does your spirituality now compare with your spirituality a year ago, ten years ago, or when you got baptized?**



## An Introduction to First Corinthians

The Apostle Paul wrote this letter to the Christians living in the busy, cosmopolitan city of Corinth.

Paul stayed in Corinth during his second missionary journey and helped establish a congregation there.

During his third missionary journey, evidently while in Ephesus, Paul received a letter, as well as disturbing reports, about the congregation in Corinth.

It was about 55 C.E. when Paul wrote to the Corinthians to address these matters.

First Corinthians contains 16 chapters.

In chapters 1 to 4, Paul corrects the Corinthians' divisive thinking, and exhorts them to be united.

Paul reasons that it is unimportant who plants, or who waters, because God makes things grow.

In chapters 5 and 6, Paul addresses the serious matter of sexual immorality. There is an unrepentant wrongdoer among them. This man must be removed to protect the congregation. The congregation is urged to flee from sexual immorality.

Chapter 7 provides balanced counsel regarding both singleness and marriage.

In chapters 8 to 10, we learn that, sometimes, we should lovingly refrain from doing what we may have a right to do, so that we do not stumble others, or hinder people from accepting the good news.

**Did you know?** The Isthmian Games were held every two years near Corinth. Drawing on this familiar situation, Paul used the illustration of running a race to help the congregation in Corinth to understand the need for faithfulness and endurance.

## **An Introduction to First Corinthians**

In chapter 11, Paul gives direction concerning the Lord's Evening Meal.

In chapter 12, Paul likens the congregation to the human body, to show that each member is important. Jehovah is pleased when we cooperate with one another unitedly.

Chapter 13 describes how love acts, and how it does not act.

Chapter 14 explains that congregation meetings should be orderly and harmonious.

In chapter 15, we find confirmation that the resurrection hope is certain. Paul refers to fulfilled prophecy, as well as eyewitness accounts of Jesus' resurrection. He explains that victory over sin and death comes through the ransom sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

In chapter 16, Paul gives direction regarding the collection for the impoverished Christians in Jerusalem.

**As you read First Corinthians** note how true Christians should remain united; how the congregation should uphold Jehovah's moral standards; and how belief in the resurrection of Jesus is fundamental to our receiving kingdom blessings.

## March 18-24 / 1 Corinthians 1-3

### Treasures From God's Word

#### 1 Corinthians 2:14—What does it mean to be “a physical man”?

**1 Corinthians 2:14:** But a physical man does not accept the things of the spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot get to know them, because they are examined spiritually.

#### w18.02 19 paragraphs 4-5

4 Consider first the attitude of a physical individual. The world has a predominant attitude that centers on the flesh. Paul describes it as “the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.” (Ephesians 2:2) This spirit influences most humans to adopt a common attitude—simply follow the crowd. They are focused on the flesh. As a result, the majority of them do what feels right in their own eyes and make no effort to live up to God's standards. A physical, or fleshly-minded, person is often excessively concerned about prestige and material pursuits or about defending what he feels are his rights.

5 What else might identify a physical person? People who engage in any of “the works of the flesh” fall into that category. (Galatians 5:19-21) Paul's first letter to the Corinthian congregation identifies a number of other characteristics of those who have a fleshly attitude. These include: promoting divisions, taking sides, fostering dissensions, taking one another to court, showing a lack of appreciation for headship, and being self-indulgent in food and drink. When confronted with temptation, the fleshly-minded person weakens and gives in. (Proverbs 7:21, 22) Jude spoke of those who would deteriorate even to the point of “not having spirituality.”—Jude 18, 19.

#### 1 Corinthians 2:15, 16—What does it mean to be a “spiritual man”?

**1 Corinthians 2:15, 16:** However, the spiritual man examines all things, but he himself is not examined by any man. For “who has come to know the mind of Jehovah, so that he may instruct him?” But we do have the mind of Christ.

#### w18.02 19 paragraph 6

What, then, does it mean to be a “spiritual man”? A spiritual person is inclined toward God, the opposite of the physical person. Spiritually-minded individuals strive to “become imitators of God.” (Ephesians 5:1) This means that they make an effort to have Jehovah's thinking on matters and to look at things from his point of view. God is very real to them. In contrast with fleshly-minded individuals, they try to bring all their ways into harmony with Jehovah's standards. (Psalm 119:33; 143:10) Rather than focus on fleshly works, the spiritually-minded person endeavors to show “the fruitage of the spirit.” (Galatians 5:22, 23) To clarify the expression “spiritually-minded” further, think of this comparison: An individual who is skillful in commercial affairs is said to be business-minded. Similarly, someone who keenly values spiritual or religious interests is called spiritually-minded.

#### w18.02 22 paragraph 15

How can we personally imitate Christ? The Bible at 1 Corinthians 2:16 speaks of having “the mind of Christ.” And Romans 15:5 refers to having “the same mental attitude that Christ Jesus had.” Therefore, to be like Christ, we need to know his pattern of thinking and the full range of his personality. Then we need to follow in his footsteps. Jesus' mind is focused on his relationship with God. So being like Jesus makes us more like Jehovah. For these reasons, it becomes clear how important it is to learn to think as Jesus does.

## Digging for Spiritual Gems

### 1 Corinthians 1:20—How has God “made the wisdom of the world foolish”?

**1 Corinthians 1:20:** Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this system of things? Has not God made the wisdom of the world foolish?

#### *it-2* 1193 paragraph 1

So the world in its wisdom rejected God’s provision through Christ as foolishness; its rulers, though they may have been able and judicious administrators, even “impaled the glorious Lord.” (1 Corinthians 1:18; 2:7, 8) But God, in turn, was now proving the wisdom of the worldly wise to be foolishness, putting their wise men to shame by using what they considered “a foolish thing of God,” as well as persons they deemed ‘foolish, weak, and ignoble,’ to accomplish His invincible purpose. (1 Corinthians 1:19-28) Paul reminded the Corinthian Christians that “the wisdom of this system of things [and] that of the rulers of this system of things” would come to nothing; hence such wisdom was not part of the apostle’s spiritual message. (1 Corinthians 2:6, 13) He warned Christians in Colossae against being ensnared by “the philosophy [*philosophi’as*, literally, love of wisdom] and empty deception according to the tradition of men.”—Colossians 2:8; compare verses 20-23.

### 1 Corinthians 2:3-5—How can Paul’s example help us?

**1 Corinthians 2:3-5:** And I came to you in weakness and in fear and with much trembling; and my speech and what I preached were not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of spirit and power, so that your faith might be, not in men’s wisdom, but in God’s power.

#### *w08 7/15 27* paragraph 6

While witnessing in Corinth, a center of Greek philosophy and learning, Paul may have been concerned about whether he would be able to persuade his listeners. However, he did not allow any weakness or fear he might have had to interfere with the carrying out of his God-given ministry. Likewise, we should not permit unusual circumstances to hold us back from declaring the good news of God’s Kingdom. We can confidently look to Jehovah for help as did Paul.

What has this week’s Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week’s Bible reading?

• **Bible Reading:** (4 minutes or less) 1 Corinthians 1:1-17 (*th* study 10)

- Song 127 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

- **“Are You a Physical Man or a Spiritual Man?”:** (10 min.)  
[Play the video *Introduction to 1 Corinthians.*]  
1Co 2:14—What does it mean to be “a physical man”? (w18.02 19 ¶4-5)  
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- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) 1Co 1:1-17 (10)

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **First Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Play and discuss the video.
- **First Return Visit:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (3)
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**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 18
- **“Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Writing Good Letters”:** (8 min.) Discussion.
- **Memorial Campaign to Begin Saturday, March 23:** (7 min.) Discussion by the service overseer. Give everyone in the audience a copy of the invitation, and review it. Play and discuss the sample presentation. Outline local arrangements for covering the territory.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jy* chap. 59
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 51 and Prayer

1 CORINTHIANS 1-3 | Are You a Physical Man or a Spiritual Man?

**2:14-16**

Each of us needs to cultivate spirituality and keep growing as a spiritual person. (Eph 4:23, 24) In order to make progress, you must feed yourself spiritually, set spiritual goals, and cultivate the fruitage of the spirit.



- ✍ **How does your spirituality now compare with your spirituality a year ago, ten years ago, or when you got baptized?**



## Sample Conversations – March 2019

### First Return Visit

**Question:** How do we know that God will accomplish his purpose for humans?

**Scripture:** Isa 55:11

**Link:** What will life be like when God fulfils his purpose?

Elise (Publisher 1): Hi Tina, good to see you again.

Tina (Householder): Hi. Ah. Lisa, right?

Elise (Publisher 1): Close enough. Elise, and this is Morgan.

Tina (Householder): Oh, that's right. I'm sorry I didn't remember.

Morgan (Publisher2): That's okay, I forget names too.

Elise (Publisher 1): No problem. We're so glad to see you again. Last time we discussed that God's purpose was for the earth to be a paradise, and we left you with the question: "How can we be sure that God's purpose for humans here on earth will still be fulfilled?"

Tina (Householder): Umm. I'm not really sure.

Elise (Publisher 1): We find the Creator's assurance here at Isaiah 55:11. Tina, would you please read that for us?

Tina (Householder): Okay. "So my word that goes out of my mouth will be. It will not return to me without results, but it will certainly accomplish whatever is my delight, and it will have sure success in what I send it to do."

Elise (Publisher 1): Thank you. Now, since these are the words of God himself, how do we know that his purpose will be fulfilled?

Tina (Householder): Well, he says it will have sure success.

Morgan (Publisher2): Isn't that interesting? Our heavenly Father guarantees it.

Elise (Publisher 1): Absolutely. And looking again at this verse, God says that his word will accomplish whatever is his delight, so how does he feel about accomplishing his purpose?

Tina (Householder): He wants to accomplish it.

## Sample Conversations – March 2019

Elise (Publisher 1): Yes, he delights to. He's really looking forward to bringing mankind happiness. So we can be sure that he will fulfil his purpose for the earth.

Tina (Householder): That's very touching.

Elise (Publisher 1): We think so too, but what will life be like when God fulfils his purpose for humans? Let's discuss the bible's answer next time we talk.





# Our Christian Life and Ministry

## MEETING WORKBOOK

### Sample Conversations



#### INITIAL CALL

**Question:** What is God's purpose for humans?

**Scripture:** **Ge 1:28**

**Link:** How do we know that God will accomplish his purpose for humans?



#### FIRST RETURN VISIT

**Question:** How do we know that God will accomplish his purpose for humans?

**Scripture:** **Isa 55:11**

**Link:** What will life be like when God fulfills his purpose?



#### SECOND RETURN VISIT

**Question:** What will life be like when God fulfills his purpose?

**Scripture:** **Ps 37:10, 11**

**Link:** What must we do to benefit from God's promises?

Using a video to teach a Bible student in South Africa

### MEMORIAL INVITATION CAMPAIGN (March 23–April 19):

We want to invite you to a very important event. Here is your personal invitation. On Friday, April 19, millions around the world will gather to commemorate the death of Jesus Christ. This invitation shows the time and location of the

meeting being held in our area. We also invite you to a talk the week before entitled "Reach Out for the Real Life!"

**Link When Interest Is Shown:** Why did Jesus die?

# What Can the Bible Teach Us?

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## 18

## Grateful for the Ransom

(Luke 22:20)

*E<sub>b</sub>* *A<sub>b</sub>add9* *C<sub>m</sub>* *C<sub>m</sub>/B<sub>b</sub>* *G<sub>m</sub>/B<sub>b</sub>*

To - day, Je - ho - vah God, we stand be - fore your  
It was a will - ing sac - ri - fice that Je - sus

*A<sub>b</sub>* *E<sub>b</sub>add9/G* *F<sub>m</sub>* *D<sub>b</sub>* *A<sub>b</sub>* *F<sub>m</sub>7*

throne, For you showed the great - est love that could ev - er be  
made. Out of love, his per - fect life was the price that he

*B<sub>b</sub>sus4* *B<sub>b</sub>* *A<sub>b</sub>/B<sub>b</sub>* *B<sub>b</sub>7sus4* *B<sub>b</sub>* *E<sub>b</sub>* *A<sub>b</sub>*

shown. You gave the gift of your dear  
paid. We had no hope un - til he

*C<sub>m</sub>* *C<sub>m</sub>/B<sub>b</sub>* *G<sub>m</sub>/B<sub>b</sub>* *A<sub>b</sub>* *F<sub>m</sub>7* *B<sub>b</sub>* *C<sub>m</sub>* *G<sub>m</sub>*

Son, that we might live. No great - er sac - ri - fice than  
came to save man - kind. But now our hope is find - ing

# Grateful for the Ransom

## Chorus

Ab6 Ab/Bb Eb Ebsus4 Eb Ebma7/G

this could you ev - er give. He gave his  
life, leav - ing death be - hind.

Ab Fm7 Bbsus4 Bb Cm Eb/G Ab Fm7

life to set us free. His pre - cious blood pro - vides the

Bbsus4 Bb Cm Eb/Bb Ab Eb/G

key. With all our hearts, we'll go on thank - ing

Fm7 Ab/Bb Eb Ebsus4 Eb

you e - ter - nal - ly.

- Song 127 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

- **“Are You a Physical Man or a Spiritual Man?”:** (10 min.)  
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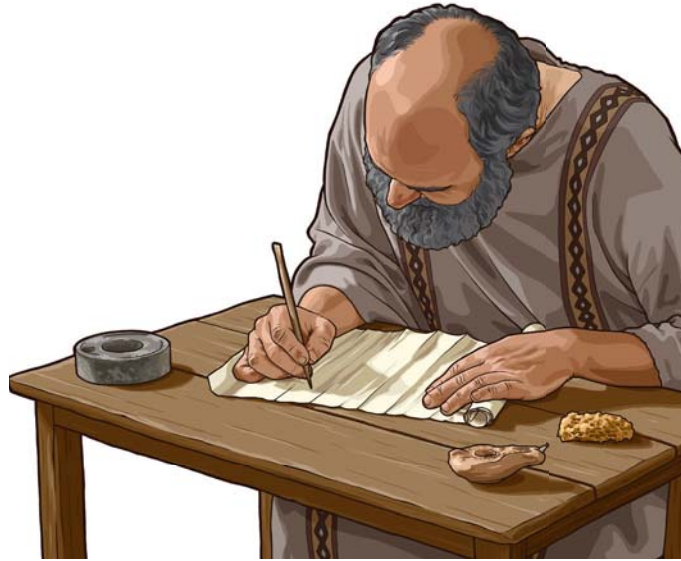
- ✎ **How does your spirituality now compare with your spirituality a year ago, ten years ago, or when you got baptized?**



## IMPROVING OUR SKILLS IN THE MINISTRY

### Writing Good Letters

**WHY IMPORTANT:** The book of 1 Corinthians is one of 14 letters written by the apostle Paul to encourage fellow Christians. A letter allows the writer to choose his words carefully, and it can be read repeatedly by the recipient. Letters are a good way to witness to relatives and acquaintances. They are also an effective means of giving a witness to those we are unable to speak to in person. For example, someone may have shown interest but is hard to find at home. Some in our territory may be difficult to reach because they live in high-security apartment buildings, gated communities, or isolated places. What are some things to keep in mind, especially when writing to a stranger?



#### HOW TO DO IT:

- Say what you would have said in person. Introduce yourself in the beginning of the letter, and state clearly why you are writing. Perhaps pose a question for the person to think about, and refer him to our website. Then tell him about the Online Bible Study Lessons, outline our home Bible study program, or cite some of the chapter titles from one of our study aids. Literature, such as a contact card, an invitation, or a tract, can be enclosed
- Be brief. Conclude your letter before the recipient might tire of reading it.—See the sample letter on page 8
- Proofread it for errors and legibility. Make sure it sounds friendly, tactful, and positive. Affix sufficient postage

## Sample Letter

- Use your own return address. If you feel that it would be unwise to give your own address, you may use the Kingdom Hall address if the elders give you permission to do so. However, you should NEVER use the address of the branch office as your return address.
- Use the person's name if you know it. This will avoid giving the impression that the letter is a commercial advertisement.
- Give attention to proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation. The letter should look neat, not messy. If it is handwritten, it should be easy to read. The wording should be neither too casual nor too formal.

---

**The included sample letter illustrates these points. It is not meant to be copied word for word each time you write someone in your territory. Tailor your letter according to its purpose and local circumstances and customs.**

[Your name]  
 [Your street address]  
 [Your city, state, postal code]  
 [Your e-mail address]  
 [Date]

Dear Mr. (or Mrs.) [Householder's Name]:

My husband and I live in your neighborhood. We have not been able to speak with you personally, but we have some important information that we want to share with you. A sample of it is contained in the enclosed tract.

Our work is not commercial and is done in over 200 lands. We volunteer to help people learn the Bible's answers to such important questions as: Why does God allow suffering? What is God's purpose for the earth? How can we make our family life happy?

We engage in this activity because we are genuinely interested in our neighbors. It is our hope that someday soon we will be able to talk to you personally. Please feel free to get in touch with us at the above address, or visit the official website of Jehovah's Witnesses, [www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org).

Sincerely,  
 [Signature]





- Song 127 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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- ✍ **How does your spirituality now compare with your spirituality a year ago, ten years ago, or when you got baptized?**



WHAT

A commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ.

WHY

To remember what he did in giving his life for us.

WHEN  
AND  
WHERE

See inside for the date, time, and location.

There is no admittance fee, and no collections will be taken.



Scan code or visit [jw.org](http://jw.org) to watch the brief video *Why Did Jesus Die?*

(Look under PUBLICATIONS > VIDEOS)



**You Are  
Welcome  
to Attend!**



© 2019 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania

On the night before he died, Jesus told his followers to commemorate his death. He said:

“Keep doing this in remembrance of me.”

—Luke 22:19.



In connection with this event, a special Bible talk will be given in thousands of locations around the world. The topic, date, time, and location will be:

**Reach Out for the Real Life!**

Please join us for the **annual commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ**. The date, time, and location will be:

**Friday, April 19, 2019**

FIND THE LOCATION OF  
A PUBLIC MEETING NEAR YOU

[www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org)

(Look under ABOUT US > MEETINGS)

FIND A LOCATION NEAR YOU

[www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org)

(Look under ABOUT US > MEMORIAL)

Scan code for  
additional locations



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**MEMORIAL INVITATION CAMPAIGN (March 23–April 19):**

**Link When Interest Is Shown:** Show the video: Why did Jesus die?

Ed (Publisher 1): Hello. We want to invite you to a very important event. Here is your personal invitation.

On Friday, April 19, millions around the world will gather to commemorate the death of Jesus Christ.

This invitation shows the time and location of the meeting being held in our area.

We'd also invite you to a talk the week before entitled "Reach Out for the Real Life!"

Householder: Thanks. How much does it cost to get in?

Ed (Publisher 1): It's free.

Householder: Oh!

[If someone shows interest, continue the conversation]

Ed (Publisher1): This minute and a half video explains the significance of this meeting.

Chris (Publisher 2): We hope you can come.

Householder: Thank you. I need to check with my family but maybe you will see me there.

Ed (Publisher 1): I'm Ed, and this is my friend Chris.

Householder: I'm Pete.

Publisher 1: Perhaps the next time we talk I can show you what the Bible says about why Jesus died. Are you usually home at this time?

## WHO IS THE SON OF MAN?

MATTHEW 16:13-27 MARK 8:22-38 LUKE 9:18-26

Jesus and his disciples arrive at Bethsaida. The people then bring a blind man to him and beg Jesus to touch the man to heal him.

Taking the man by the hand, Jesus leads him outside the village. After spitting on the man's eyes, Jesus asks him: "Do you see anything?" The man replies: "I see people, but they look like trees walking about." (Mark 8:23, 24) Laying his hands on the man's eyes, Jesus restores his sight. He then sends home the man who can now see clearly, instructing him not to enter into the village.

Next, Jesus and his disciples travel northward to the region of Caesarea Philippi. It is a long ascent, covering about 25 miles. The village is at an elevation of 1,150 feet above sea level, with snowcapped Mount Hermon rising to the northeast. The trip probably takes a couple of days.

At one point along the way, Jesus goes off to pray alone. Only about nine or ten months remain before his death, and Jesus is concerned about his disciples. Many have recently left off following him, and others apparently are confused or disappointed. They may be wondering why he rejected the people's efforts to make him king or why he would not provide a sign to show unquestionably who he really is.

When the disciples come to where he is praying, Jesus asks: "Who are men saying the Son of man is?" They reply: "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." Yes, people think that Jesus may actually be one of those men raised from the dead. To draw out their thinking, Jesus asks his disciples: "You, though, who do you say I am?" Peter quickly replies: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."—Matthew 16:13-16.

Jesus says that Peter can be happy that God revealed this to him, adding: "I say to you: You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my congregation, and the gates of the Grave will not overpower it." Jesus means that he himself will build a congregation and that even the Grave will not hold captive its members if they maintain a faithful course on earth. He promises Peter: "I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of the heavens."—Matthew 16:18, 19.

Jesus does not give Peter first place among the apostles, nor does Jesus make him the foundation of the congregation. Jesus himself is the Rock upon which his congregation will be built. (1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20) Peter, though, is to receive three keys. He will have the privilege of opening, as it were, the opportunity for groups of people to enter the Kingdom of the heavens.

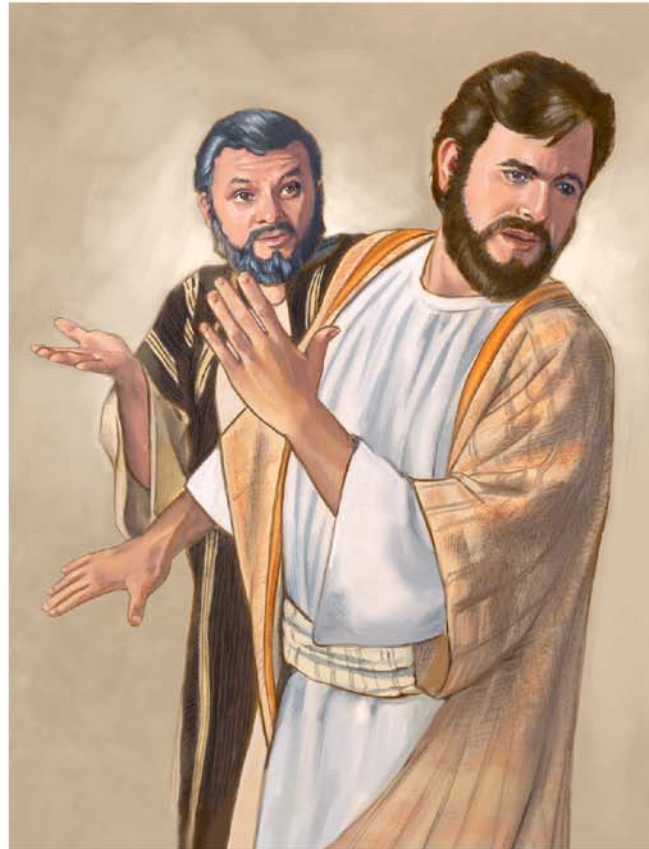


Peter would use the first key at Pentecost 33 C.E., showing repentant Jews and proselytes what they must do to be saved. He would use the second to open to believing Samaritans the opportunity to enter God's Kingdom. Then, in 36 C.E., Peter would use the third to extend that opportunity to uncircumcised Gentiles, Cornelius and others.—Acts 2:37, 38; 8:14-17; 10:44-48.

In this discussion, Jesus' apostles are troubled when he foretells the sufferings and death that he will soon face in Jerusalem. Not grasping that Jesus is to be resurrected to heavenly life, Peter takes him aside and rebukes him, saying: "Be kind to yourself, Lord; you will not have this happen to you at all." But Jesus turns his back and answers: "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me, because you think, not God's thoughts, but those of men."—Matthew 16:22, 23.

Jesus now calls others besides the apostles and explains that it will not be easy to be his follower. He says: "If anyone wants to come after me, let him disown himself and pick up his torture stake and keep following me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and for the sake of the good news will save it."—Mark 8:34, 35.

Yes, to prove worthy of Jesus' favor, his followers must be courageous and self-sacrificing. Jesus states: "Whoever becomes ashamed



of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." (Mark 8:38) Yes, when Jesus thus comes, "he will repay each one according to his behavior."—Matthew 16:27.

- 
- ◇ What views do some people have as to Jesus' identity? How do the apostles view him?
  - ◇ Peter receives what keys, and how are they to be used?
  - ◇ What correction does Peter receive, and why?

# To God We Are Dedicated!

(Matthew 16:24)

D Dma7/F# G A/C# D/F# Dma7/F#

To Christ, by our God, Je - ho - vah, we have been  
In prayer we have come be - fore Je - ho - vah to

G6 A7 Bm F#m/A Gma7 Em7 A7 D Em/D

drawn To be his dis - ci - ples from now on.  
say We'll serve him for - ev - er and o - bey.

Em/D D F/C G/C C

From Je - ho - vah's loft - y throne, How the  
It's a joy be - yond com - pare, One that

F/C G/C C Eb/Bb F/Bb

light of truth has shone. In our hearts, our faith has  
we are glad to share, As Je - ho - vah's name we

# To God We Are Dedicated!

B $\flat$  D/A E7/A Asus4 A Chorus

grown; Our lives we vow to dis - own.  
bear, And King - dom truth we de - clare. To

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The bottom staff is in bass clef. The music is in 4/4 time. The first line of music has a melodic line in the treble and a bass line in the bass. The second line of music continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are placed between the staves.

D Dma7/F# G A/G D/F# Bm7 D/A G Em7

God we are ded - i - cat - ed; This is our choice. In

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth lines of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. The bottom staff is in bass clef. The music continues with a melodic line and a bass line. The lyrics are placed between the staves. The word 'R.H.' is written above the final note of the bass line.

F#m7 Bm7 Em9 G/A A7 D

him and in Je - sus we now re - jice.

Detailed description: This system contains the fifth and sixth lines of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. The bottom staff is in bass clef. The music continues with a melodic line and a bass line. The lyrics are placed between the staves.



JANUARY 2019

# THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:  
MARCH 4–APRIL 7, 2019

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(Go to BIBLE TEACHINGS > MARRIAGE & FAMILY.)

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Millions of people around the world are welcomed to the Lord's Evening Meal (See study article 5, paragraphs 1-2)

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# We Guard Our Hearts

(Proverbs 4:23)

Eb
Ebma7
Eb
F#°
B7/F#
Eb/G

We guard our hearts, it means our life;  
 Pre - pared hearts in heart, we search for God  
 Our hearts we shield from harm - ful thoughts,

F#°
Bb7/F

We shun the path of sin.  
 By means of on ear - nest prayer.  
 We dwell on what is true.

Fm
Ab/Bb
Bb7
Bb7/D
Fm7
Bb7

God reads the heart, and there he finds  
 Each day we give him to praise and our thanks,  
 We love God's Word to touch our hearts,

Eb/G
B7/F#
Fm7
Bb7
Eb

The per - son deep with - in.  
 Re - veal - ing ev - 'ry care.  
 To strength - en and re - new.

# We Guard Our Hearts

Eb
Ebma7
Eb
F#°
B7/F#
Eb/G

Some - times the heart de - ceives the mind,  
 The things Je - ho - vah teach - es us,  
 Je - ho - vah loves his loy - al ones;

Eb
Eb/G
Bb7/F
Eb7
Ab
C7/G
Fm

And we be - gin to stray.  
 We glad - ly will o - bey.  
 On this we can de - pend.

Fm/Ab
A°
Eb6/Bb
Eb/G
Bbm/G
Bbm6/Db
C7

So may our mind di - rect our heart  
 We cul - ti - vate a loy - al heart,  
 We'll wor - ship him whole - heart - ed - ly

Fm
Fm7
Gm/Bb
Bb7
Eb

And keep Je - ho - vah's way.  
 To please him ev - 'ry day.  
 For - ev - er as his friend.

(See also Ps. 34:1; Phil. 4:8; 1 Pet. 3:4.)

**SONG 36**

We Guard Our Hearts

**PREVIEW**

Will we remain faithful to Jehovah, or will we allow Satan to lure us away from our God? The answer depends, not on how severely we are tested, but on how well we safeguard our heart. What is meant by the word “heart”? How does Satan try to corrupt our heart? And how can we safeguard it? This article will answer those important questions.

## How Can You Safeguard Your Heart?

*“Above all the things that you guard, safeguard your heart.”—PROV. 4:23.*

SOLOMON became king of Israel when he was just a young man. In the early part of his reign, Jehovah appeared to him in a dream and said: “Ask what you would like me to give you.” Solomon replied: “I am just a youth and I am inexperienced. . . . So grant your servant an obedient heart to judge your people.” (1 Ki. 3:5-10) “An obedient heart”—what a modest request that was! No wonder Jehovah loved Solomon! (2 Sam. 12:24) Our God was so pleased with the young king’s answer that he gave Solomon “a wise and understanding heart.”—1 Ki. 3:12.

<sup>2</sup> As long as he was faithful, Solomon enjoyed many blessings. He had the honor of building a temple “for the name of Jehovah the God of Israel.” (1 Ki. 8:20) He became famous for his God-given wisdom. And the things he said when he was inspired by God are recorded in three books of the Bible. One of these is the book of Proverbs.

<sup>3</sup> The heart is mentioned about a hundred times in the book of Proverbs. For example, at Proverbs 4:23, we read: “Above all the things that you guard, safeguard your heart.” In this verse, what does the word “heart” refer to? We will answer that question in this article. We will also consider the answers to two other questions: How does Satan try to infect, or corrupt, our heart? And what can we do to safeguard our heart? To remain faith-

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1-3. (a) Why did Jehovah love Solomon, and what blessings did Solomon receive? (b) What questions will we answer in this article?

ful to God, we need to understand the answers to those important questions.

#### “YOUR HEART”—WHAT IS IT?

<sup>4</sup> At Proverbs 4:23, the term “heart” is used to refer to “the inner person” or “secret self.” (Read Psalm 51:6 and footnote.) In other words, “heart” refers to our private thoughts, feelings, motives, and desires. It is who we really are on the inside, not just who we appear to be on the outside.

<sup>5</sup> Consider how our physical health illustrates the importance of who we are on the inside. First, to keep ourselves in good condition on the inside, we must choose a healthy diet, and we need to exercise regularly. Likewise, to keep ourselves in good spiritual condition, we must choose a healthy diet of spiritual food and regularly exercise our faith in Jehovah. That form of exercise in-

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4-5. (a) How does Psalm 51:6 help us to understand what the word “heart” refers to? (b) How does our physical health illustrate the importance of who we are on the inside?

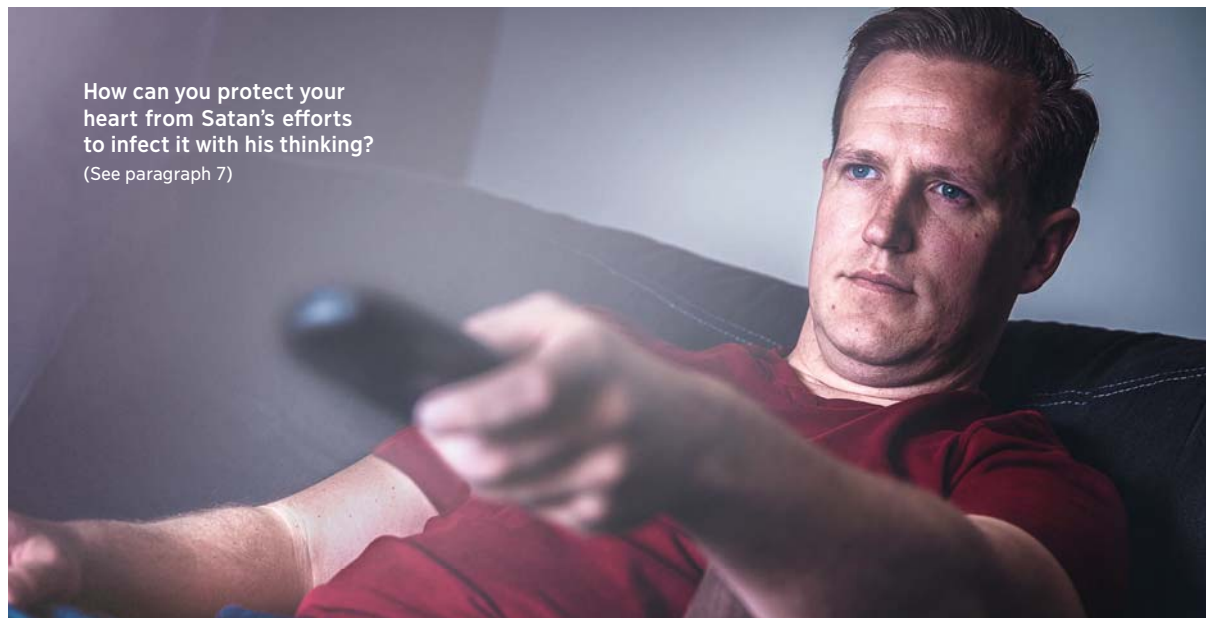
volves applying what we learn and speaking about our faith. (Rom. 10:8-10; Jas. 2:26) Second, based on outward appearance, we might think that we are healthy even though we are actually diseased on the inside. In a similar way, based on our theocratic routine, we may think that our faith is strong, but wrong desires could be growing in us. (1 Cor. 10:12; Jas. 1:14, 15) We must remember that Satan would like to infect us with his thinking. How, specifically, might he try to do that? And how can we protect ourselves?

#### HOW SATAN TRIES TO INFECT OUR HEART

<sup>6</sup> Satan wants us to become like him—a rebel who ignores Jehovah’s standards and is motivated by selfishness. Satan cannot force us to reason and act as he does. So he tries to achieve his goal in other ways. For example, he surrounds us with people who are already corrupted by him. (1 John 5:19) He

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6. What is Satan’s goal, and how does he try to achieve it?



How can you protect your heart from Satan’s efforts to infect it with his thinking?  
(See paragraph 7)

hopes that we will choose to spend time with them, even though we know that bad associations will “spoil” or “corrupt” the way we think and act. (1 Cor. 15:33; ftn.) That tactic worked with King Solomon. He married many pagan women, and they eventually “had a powerful influence over him” and “gradually inclined his heart” away from Jehovah. —1 Ki. 11:3; ftn.

<sup>7</sup> Satan uses movies and television shows to spread his way of thinking. He understands that storytelling does much more than entertain us; it teaches us how to think, feel, and act. Jesus made good use of this method of teaching. Take, for example, his parables of the neighborly Samaritan and of the son who left home and wasted his inher-

7. What else does Satan use to spread his way of thinking, and why do we need to be cautious about it?

itance. (Matt. 13:34; Luke 10:29-37; 15:11-32) However, those who are infected with Satan’s thinking can use storytelling to corrupt us. We need to be balanced. Movies and TV shows can entertain and educate us without contaminating our thinking. But we must be cautious. When choosing entertainment, we do well to ask ourselves, ‘Is this movie or TV show teaching me that it is all right to give in to my fleshly desires?’ (Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 2:1-3) What should you do if you detect that a program is promoting satanic thinking? Avoid it as you would a contagious disease!

<sup>8</sup> Parents, you have a special responsibility to safeguard your children from Satan’s efforts to infect their heart. You no doubt do all you can to protect your children from literal diseases. You keep

8. How can parents help their children to safeguard their heart?

Like watchmen and gatekeepers of old, stay alert and act so that corrupting influences do not enter into your heart  
(See paragraphs 10-11)



your home clean, and you throw out anything that might cause you or your children to get sick. In the same way, you need to protect your children from movies, TV shows, electronic games, and websites that are likely to infect them with Satan's thinking. Jehovah has given you the authority to care for the spiritual health of your children. (Prov. 1:8; Eph. 6:1, 4) So do not be afraid to set household rules that are based on Bible standards. Tell your young children what they can and cannot watch, and help them to understand the reasons for your decisions. (Matt. 5:37) As your children get older, train them to discern for themselves what is right and what is wrong according to Jehovah's standards. (Heb. 5:14) And remember, your children will learn a lot from what you say but even more from what you do.—Deut. 6:6, 7; Rom. 2:21.

<sup>9</sup> Satan also tries to infect our heart by getting us to trust human wisdom rather than Jehovah's thinking. (Col. 2:8) Consider just one idea promoted by Satan—that getting rich should be a primary goal in life. Those who think this way might become wealthy, or they might not. Either way, they are in danger. Why? Because they may become so focused on making money that they will sacrifice their health, their family relationships, and even their friendship with God just to reach their goal. (1 Tim. 6:10) We can be grateful that our wise heavenly Father helps us to have a balanced view of money.—Eccl. 7:12; Luke 12:15.

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9. What is one idea promoted by Satan, and why is it dangerous?

## HOW CAN WE SAFEGUARD OUR HEART?

<sup>10</sup> If we are to succeed in safeguarding our heart, we must be able to identify dangers and react quickly to protect ourselves. The word translated "safeguard" at Proverbs 4:23 reminds us of the work done by a watchman. In King Solomon's day, watchmen stood guard on the walls of a city and sounded an alarm if they saw danger approaching. That mental picture helps us understand what we must do to stop Satan from corrupting our thinking.

<sup>11</sup> In ancient times, watchmen worked closely with city gatekeepers. (2 Sam. 18:24-26) Together, they helped protect the city by making sure that the gates were closed whenever an enemy came near. (Neh. 7:1-3) Our Bible-trained conscience\* can act as our watchman and warn us when Satan tries to invade our heart—in other words, when he tries to influence our thoughts, feelings, motives, or desires. Whenever our conscience sounds the alarm, we need to listen and shut the gate, so to speak.

<sup>12</sup> Consider an example of how we can protect ourselves from being influenced by Satan's thinking. Jehovah has taught

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\* **EXPRESSION EXPLAINED:** Jehovah gave us the ability to examine our own thoughts, feelings, and actions and then to judge ourselves. The Bible calls that ability the conscience. (Rom. 2:15; 9:1) A **Bible-trained conscience** is one that uses Jehovah's standards, as explained in the Bible, to judge if what we think, do, or say is good or bad.

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10-11. (a) What must we be able to do to protect ourselves? (b) What did watchmen do in ancient times, and how can our conscience act as our watchman?

12-13. What might we be tempted to do, but how should we react?



us that “sexual immorality and every sort of uncleanness [should] not even be mentioned among [us].” (Eph. 5:3) But what will we do if peers at work or at school start talking about sexually immoral topics? We know that we should “reject ungodliness and worldly desires.” (Titus 2:12) The watchman, our conscience, might sound an alarm. (Rom. 2:15) But will we listen to it? We might be tempted, instead, to listen to our peers or to look at pictures they might be sharing. But this is the time to close the city gates, so to speak, by changing the conversation or by walking away.

<sup>13</sup> It takes courage to resist pressure from our peers to think about or to do wrong things. We can be sure that Jehovah sees the effort we make, and he will give us the strength and wisdom we need to resist satanic thinking. (2 Chron. 16:9; Isa. 40:29; Jas. 1:5) How, though, can we continue to do our part in safeguarding our heart?

### STAY ON GUARD

<sup>14</sup> To safeguard our heart, we must not only close it to wrong influences but also open it to positive influences. Think again about the illustration of a walled city. A gatekeeper closed the gates of the city to stop an enemy invasion, but at other times he opened the gates to allow food and other supplies to be brought in. If the gates were never open, the inhabitants of the city would starve. Similarly,

14-15. (a) To what do we need to open our heart, and how can we do so? (b) How does Proverbs 4:20-22 help us to get the most out of our Bible reading? (See also the box “How to Meditate.”)

we need to open our heart regularly to the influence of God’s thinking.

<sup>15</sup> The Bible contains Jehovah’s thinking, so each time we read it, we allow Jehovah’s thoughts to affect the way we think, feel, and act. How can we get the most from our Bible reading? Prayer is vital. One Christian sister says: “Before I read the Bible, I pray to Jehovah, asking that he help me ‘see clearly the wonderful things’ in his Word.” (Ps. 119:18) We also need to meditate on what we read. When we pray, read, and meditate, God’s Word reaches “deep within [our] heart,” and we come to love Jehovah’s thinking. —**Read Proverbs 4:20-22; Ps. 119:97.**

<sup>16</sup> Another way we allow God’s thinking to influence us is by watching the material available on JW Broadcasting®. One couple says: “The monthly programs have truly been an answer to our prayers! They have strengthened us and lifted us up when we feel sad or lonely. And the original songs are a constant feature in our house. We play them while cooking, cleaning, or just having tea.” These programs help us to safeguard our heart. They teach us to think the way Jehovah does and to resist the pressure to adopt Satan’s thinking.

<sup>17</sup> Each time we see the benefits of doing what is right, our faith grows stronger. (Jas. 1:2, 3) We feel good because we have made Jehovah proud to call us one of his children, and our

16. How have many benefited from viewing JW Broadcasting?

17-18. (a) What happens when we apply what we learn from Jehovah, as shown at 1 Kings 8:61? (b) What can we learn from King Hezekiah’s example? (c) In harmony with David’s prayer found at Psalm 139:23, 24, for what can we pray?

# How to Meditate

Answer these questions as you read your Bible:

- ▶ What does this tell me about Jehovah God?
- ▶ How does this section of the Scriptures contribute to the Bible's message?
- ▶ How can I apply this in my life?
- ▶ How can I use these verses to help others?

desire to please him becomes stronger. (Prov. 27:11) Each test becomes an opportunity to show that we are not halfhearted about serving our caring Father. (Ps. 119:113) Instead, we prove that we love Jehovah with a complete heart, one that is fully resolved to obey his commandments and to do his will.

—**Read 1 Kings 8:61.**

<sup>18</sup> Will we make mistakes? Yes; we are imperfect. If we do stumble, remember King Hezekiah's example. He made mistakes. But he repented and kept on serving Jehovah "with a complete heart." (Isa. 38:3-6; 2 Chron. 29:1, 2; 32:25, 26)

Let us, then, reject Satan's attempts to infect us with his thinking. Let us pray that we develop "an obedient heart." (1 Ki. 3:9; **read Psalm 139:23, 24.**) We can remain faithful to Jehovah if, above all else, we safeguard our heart.

**PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 15:** A baptized brother is watching television and an immoral scene comes on the screen. He must decide what to do next. **Page 16:** A watchman in ancient times sees danger outside the city. He calls out to the gatekeepers below, and they respond immediately by closing the city gates and locking them from the inside.

## HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- What can the term "heart" mean?
- How does Satan try to infect our heart?
- To safeguard our heart, to what should we close it and to what should we open it?

# "This Is the Way"

(Isaiah 30:20, 21)

*E $\flat$ /B $\flat$*  *B $\flat$ ma7*

There is a way of peace, The way you've  
 There is a way of love, No need to  
 There is a way of life, No need to

*E $\flat$ /B $\flat$*  *F/B $\flat$*  *E $\flat$ /B $\flat$*  *F/A* *Gm* *F*

come to know. It is the way you learned, The way of  
 look a - round. God's voice has shown the way He lets him -  
 look be - hind. Our God has prom - ised us: No bet - ter

*E $\flat$*  *B $\flat$ /D* *Cm*

long a - go, The way that Je - sus taught you When his  
 self be found. His love is full - and good; His love is  
 way we'll find, No high - er way to peace, No fin - er

*Dm* *E $\flat$*  *Cm7*

voice you heard. This is the way of peace, Found in Je -  
 warm and true. This is the way of love; It touch - es  
 way to love. This is the way to life, Thanks to our

*“This Is the Way”*

*Chorus*

Cm/F Dm/F Eb/F F Bb F/A

ho - vah's Word.  
all we do. This is the way to life; This is the  
God a - bove.

Gm Bb/F Dm/F Eb Bb/D

way. Don't look a - side; Not for a mo - ment

C7sus4 C7 Cm11 F7/C Bbadd9/D Bb/D

stray! God's voice is call - ing: 'This is the

Ebma7 Gm/E Bb/F Eb/F Bb

way; Do not look back, for yes, this is the way.'

