

- Song 22 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“God Will Be ‘All Things to Everyone’”:** (10 min.)
1Co 15:24, 25—The Messianic Kingdom will destroy all of God’s enemies (w98 7/1 21 ¶10)
1Co 15:26—Death will be brought to nothing (kr 237 ¶21)
1Co 15:27, 28—Christ will hand over the Kingdom to Jehovah (w12 9/15 12 ¶17)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
1Co 14:34, 35—Did the apostle Paul forbid women to speak? (w12 9/1 9, box)
- 1Co 15:53—What are immortality and incorruption? (it-1 1197-1198)

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 14:20-40 (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:** (5 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Introduce and discuss (but do not play) the video *Why Study the Bible?* (9)


LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 69
- **Local Needs:** (15 min.)
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *gy* chap. 63
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 103 and Prayer

1 CORINTHIANS 14-16 | God Will Be “All Things to Everyone”

15:24-28

A glorious future awaits those who prove faithful to Jehovah. His promises are impressed on our hearts when we speak enthusiastically about our hope to others. The apostle Paul encouraged fellow Christians to imagine the time at the close of Christ’s Thousand Year Reign when Jehovah will be “all things to everyone.”

 Which of the coming blessings appeals to you the most, and why?

What convinces you that God’s promises will be fulfilled?



The Kingdom Is in Place —Let It Come!

(Revelation 11:15; 12:10)

1. Jehovah, you always have been,
And always you will be.
You've given the throne to your Son;
He rules by your decree.
The Kingdom has been brought to birth;
His rulership will fill the earth.

(CHORUS)

*For now have come to pass
Salvation and kingdom and might.
The Kingdom is in place.
We pray: "Let it come, Let it come!"*

2. The time for the Devil is short;
We know what this will mean.
Though living in times of distress,
We see the things unseen.
The Kingdom has been brought to birth;
His rulership will fill the earth.

(Chorus)

3. The angels in heaven rejoice
And sing with joyful cries.
The heavens above are relieved
From Satan and his lies.
The Kingdom has been brought to birth;
His rulership will fill the earth.

(Chorus)

1 Corinthians 14-16

14 Pursue love, yet keep striving for the spiritual gifts, but preferably that you may prophesy. ² For the one who speaks in a tongue speaks, not to men, but to God, for no one listens, but he speaks sacred secrets by the spirit. ³ However, the one who prophesies builds up and encourages and consoles men by his speech. ⁴ The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up a congregation. ⁵ Now I would like for all of you to speak in tongues, but I prefer that you prophesy. Indeed, the one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the congregation may be built up. ⁶ But at this time, brothers, if I should come speaking to you in tongues, what good would I do you unless I spoke to you either with a revelation or with knowledge or with a prophecy or with a teaching?

⁷ It is the same with the inanimate things that produce sound, whether a flute or a harp. Unless there is an interval to the tones, how can what is being played on the flute or on the harp be recognized? ⁸ For if the trumpet sounds an indistinct call, who will get ready for battle? ⁹ In the same way, unless you with the tongue use speech that is easily understood, how will anyone know what is being said? You will, in fact, be speaking into the air. ¹⁰ It may be that there are many kinds of speech in the world, and yet no kind is without meaning. ¹¹ For if I do not understand the sense of the speech, I will be a foreigner to the one speaking, and the one speaking will be a foreigner to me. ¹² So also with you, since you eagerly desire the gifts of the spirit, seek to abound in gifts that will build up the congregation.

¹³ Therefore, let the one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴ For if I am praying in a tongue, it is my gift of the spirit that is praying, but my mind is unproductive. ¹⁵ What is to be done, then? I will pray with the gift of the spirit, but I will also pray with my mind. I will sing praise with the gift of the spirit, but I will also sing praise with my mind. ¹⁶ Otherwise, if you offer praise with a gift of the spirit, how will the ordinary person in your midst say "Amen" to your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying? ¹⁷ True, you are giving thanks in a fine way, but the other man is not being built up. ¹⁸ I thank God that I speak in more tongues than all of you do. ¹⁹ Nevertheless, in a congregation I would rather speak five words with my mind, that I might also instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

²⁰ Brothers, do not become young children in your understanding, but be young children as to badness; and become full-grown in your understanding. ²¹ In the Law it is written: "'With the tongues of foreigners and with the lips of strangers I will speak to this people, and even then they will refuse to listen to me,' says Jehovah." ²² Therefore, tongues are not a sign for the believers but for the unbelievers, whereas prophecy is not for the unbelievers but for the believers. ²³ So if the whole congregation comes together to one place and they all speak in tongues, but ordinary people or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you have lost your minds? ²⁴ But if you are all prophesying and an unbeliever or an ordinary person comes in, he will be reprov'd and closely examined by them all. ²⁵ The secrets of his heart then become evident, so that he will fall facedown and worship God, declaring: "God is really among you."

²⁶ What is to be done, then, brothers? When you come together, one has a psalm, another has a teaching, another has a revelation, another has a tongue, and another has an interpretation. Let all things take place for building up. ²⁷ And if someone speaks in a tongue, let it be limited to two or three at the most, and in turns, and someone must interpret. ²⁸ But if there is no interpreter, he must keep silent in the congregation and speak to himself and to God. ²⁹ Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others discern the meaning. ³⁰ But if another one receives a revelation while sitting there, let the first speaker keep silent. ³¹ For you can all prophesy one at a time, so that all may learn and all may be encouraged. ³² And gifts of the spirit of the prophets are to be controlled by the prophets. ³³ For God is a God not of disorder but of peace.

As in all the congregations of the holy ones, ³⁴ let the women keep silent in the congregations, for it is not permitted for them to speak. Rather, let them be in subjection, as the Law also says. ³⁵ If they want to learn something, let them ask their husbands at home, for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the congregation.

³⁶ Was it from you that the word of God originated, or did it reach only as far as you?

³⁷ If anyone thinks he is a prophet or is gifted with the spirit, he must acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are the Lord's commandment. ³⁸ But if anyone disregards this, he will be disregarded. ³⁹ So, my brothers, keep striving to prophesy, and yet do not forbid the speaking in tongues. ⁴⁰ But let all things take place decently and by arrangement.

15 Now I remind you, brothers, of the good news that I declared to you, which you also accepted, and for which you have taken your stand. ² Through it you are also being saved if you hold firmly to the good news I declared to you, unless you became believers for nothing.

³ For among the first things I handed on to you was what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; ⁴ and that he was buried, yes, that he was raised up on the third day according to the Scriptures; ⁵ and that he appeared to Ce'phas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that he appeared to more than 500 brothers at one time, most of whom are still with us, though some have fallen asleep in death. ⁷ After that he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ But last of all he appeared also to me as if to one born prematurely.

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, and I am not worthy of being called an apostle, because I persecuted the congregation of God. ¹⁰ But by God's undeserved kindness I am what I am. And his undeserved kindness to me was not in vain, but I labored more than all of them; yet it was not I, but the undeserved kindness of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether, then, it is I or they, this is the way we preach, and this is the way you believed.

¹² Now if it is being preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how is it that some among you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If, indeed, there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised up. ¹⁴ But if Christ has not been raised up, our preaching is certainly in vain, and your faith is also in vain. ¹⁵ Moreover, we are also found to be false witnesses of God, because we have given witness against God by saying that he raised

up the Christ, whom he did not raise up if the dead are really not to be raised up. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not to be raised up, neither has Christ been raised up. ¹⁷ Further, if Christ has not been raised up, your faith is useless; you remain in your sins. ¹⁸ Then also those who have fallen asleep in death in union with Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are to be pitied more than anyone.

²⁰ But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep in death. ²¹ For since death came through a man, resurrection of the dead also comes through a man. ²² For just as in Adam all are dying, so also in the Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each one in his own proper order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who belong to the Christ during his presence. ²⁴ Next, the end, when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father, when he has brought to nothing all government and all authority and power. ²⁵ For he must rule as king until God has put all enemies under his feet. ²⁶ And the last enemy, death, is to be brought to nothing. ²⁷ For God "subjected all things under his feet." But when he says that 'all things have been subjected,' it is evident that this does not include the One who subjected all things to him. ²⁸ But when all things will have been subjected to him, then the Son himself will also subject himself to the One who subjected all things to him, that God may be all things to everyone.

²⁹ Otherwise, what will they do who are being baptized for the purpose of being dead ones? If the dead are not to be raised up at all, why are they also being baptized for the purpose of being such? ³⁰ Why are we also in danger every hour? ³¹ Daily I face death. This is as sure as my exultation over you, brothers, which I have in Christ

Jesus our Lord. ³² If like other men, I have fought with wild beasts at Eph'e-sus, of what good is it to me? If the dead are not to be raised up, "let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we are to die." ³³ Do not be misled. Bad associations spoil useful habits. ³⁴ Come to your senses in a righteous way and do not practice sin, for some have no knowledge of God. I am speaking to move you to shame.

³⁵ Nevertheless, someone will say: "How are the dead to be raised up? Yes, with what sort of body are they coming?" ³⁶ You unreasonable person! What you sow is not made alive unless first it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you sow, not the body that will develop, but just a bare grain, whether of wheat or of some other kind of seed; ³⁸ but God gives it a body just as it has pleased him, and gives to each of the seeds its own body. ³⁹ Not all flesh is the same flesh, but there is one of mankind, there is another flesh of cattle, another flesh of birds, and another of fish. ⁴⁰ And there are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies; but the glory of the heavenly bodies is one sort, and that of the earthly bodies is a different sort. ⁴¹ The glory of the sun is one sort, and the glory of the moon is another, and the glory of the stars is another; in fact, one star differs from another star in glory.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised up in incorruption. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor; it is raised up in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised up in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body; it is raised up a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual one. ⁴⁵ So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living person." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ However, what is spiritual is not first. What is physical is first, and afterward what is spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first

man is from the earth and made of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ Like the one made of dust, so too are those made of dust; and like the heavenly one, so too are those who are heavenly. ⁴⁹ And just as we have borne the image of the one made of dust, we will bear also the image of the heavenly one.

⁵⁰ But I tell you this, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit God's Kingdom, nor does corruption inherit incorruption. ⁵¹ Look! I tell you a sacred secret: We will not all fall asleep in death, but we will all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the blink of an eye, during the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised up incorruptible, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this which is corruptible must put on incorruption, and this which is mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ But when this which is corruptible puts on incorruption and this which is mortal puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will take place: "Death is swallowed up forever." ⁵⁵ "Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?" ⁵⁶ The sting producing death is sin, and the power for sin is the Law. ⁵⁷ But thanks to God, for he gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always having plenty to do in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in connection with the Lord.

16 Now concerning the collection for the holy ones, you may follow the directions I gave to the congregations of Ga·la'ti·a. ² On the first day of every week, each of you should set something aside according to his own means, so that collections will not take place when I arrive. ³ But when I get there, I will send the men you approve of in your letters to take your kind gift to Jerusalem.

⁴ However, if it seems advisable for me to go there also, they will go there with me.

⁵ But I will come to you when I have gone through Mac·e·do'ni·a, for I will be going through Mac·e·do'ni·a; ⁶ and perhaps I will stay or even spend the winter with you, so that you may accompany me partway to where I may be going. ⁷ For I do not want to see you now just in passing, since I hope to spend some time with you, if Jehovah permits. ⁸ But I am remaining in Eph'e·sus until the Festival of Pentecost, ⁹ because a large door that leads to activity has been opened to me, but there are many opposers.

¹⁰ Now if Timothy arrives, make sure that he has nothing to fear while among you, for he is performing the work of Jehovah, just as I am. ¹¹ Therefore, let no one look down on him. Send him on his way in peace, so that he may come to me, for I am waiting for him together with the brothers.

¹² Now concerning A·pol'los our brother, I strongly urged him to come to you with the brothers. It was not his intention to come now, but he will come when he has the opportunity.

¹³ Stay awake, stand firm in the faith, carry on in a manly way, grow mighty. ¹⁴ Let everything you do be done with love.

¹⁵ Now I urge you, brothers: You know that the household of Steph'a·nas is the firstfruits of A·cha'ia and that they devoted themselves to ministering to the holy ones. ¹⁶ May you also keep submitting yourselves to people like that and to all those cooperating and working hard. ¹⁷ But I rejoice over the presence of Steph'a·nas and For·tu·na'tus and A·cha'i·cus, because they have

made up for your not being here. ¹⁸ For they have refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore, give recognition to men of that sort.

¹⁹ The congregations of Asia send you their greetings. Aq'ui·la and Pris'ca together with the congregation that is in their house greet you heartily in the Lord. ²⁰ All the brothers greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

²¹ Here is my greeting, Paul's, in my own hand.

²² If anyone has no affection for the Lord, let him be accursed. O our Lord, come! ²³ May the undeserved kindness of the Lord Jesus be with you. ²⁴ May my love be with all of you in union with Christ Jesus.

- Song 22 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“God Will Be ‘All Things to Everyone’”:** (10 min.)
1Co 15:24, 25—The Messianic Kingdom will destroy all of God’s enemies (w98 7/1 21 ¶10)
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- 1Co 15:53—What are immortality and incorruption? (it-1 1197-1198)

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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 69
- **Local Needs:** (15 min.)
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- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
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1 CORINTHIANS 14-16 | God Will Be “All Things to Everyone”

15:24-28

A glorious future awaits those who prove faithful to Jehovah. His promises are impressed on our hearts when we speak enthusiastically about our hope to others. The apostle Paul encouraged fellow Christians to imagine the time at the close of Christ’s Thousand Year Reign when Jehovah will be “all things to everyone.”

 Which of the coming blessings appeals to you the most, and why?

What convinces you that God’s promises will be fulfilled?



April 22-28 / 1 Corinthians 14-16

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- Opening Comments (3 minutes or less)

Treasures From God's Word

- **"God Will Be 'All Things to Everyone'":** (10 minutes)

God Will Be "All Things to Everyone"

1 Corinthians 15:24-28

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1 Corinthians 15:24, 25—The Messianic Kingdom will destroy all of God's enemies

1 Corinthians 15:24, 25: Next, the end, when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father, when he has brought to nothing all government and all authority and power. For he must rule as king until God has put all enemies under his feet.

w98 7/1 21 paragraph 10

“The end” is the end of the Thousand Year Reign of Christ, when Jesus humbly and loyally hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father. (Revelation 20:4) God’s purpose “to gather all things together again in the Christ” will have been fulfilled. (Ephesians 1:9, 10) First, though, Christ will have destroyed “all government and all authority and power” opposed to God’s Sovereign will. This involves more than the destruction wrought at Armageddon. (Revelation 16:16; 19:11-21) Paul says: “[Christ] must rule as king until God has put all enemies under his feet. As the last enemy, death is to be brought to nothing.” (1 Corinthians 15:25, 26) Yes, all traces of Adamic sin and death will have been removed. Of necessity, then, God will have emptied the “memorial tombs” by bringing the dead back to life.—John 5:28.

1 Corinthians 15:26—Death will be brought to nothing

1 Corinthians 15:26: And the last enemy, death, is to be brought to nothing.

kr 237 paragraph 21

What, though, of the common outcome of sickness, the inevitable result of sin—death? That is our “last enemy,” the one foe against which all imperfect humans sooner or later prove powerless. (1 Corinthians 15:26) But is death such a daunting adversary to Jehovah? Notice what Isaiah foretold: “He will swallow up death forever, and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears

from all faces.” (Isaiah 25:8) Can you picture that time? No more funerals, no more cemeteries, no more tears of grief! Quite the contrary—there will be tears of joy as Jehovah fulfills his thrilling promise to bring back the dead! (Read Isaiah 26:19.) At last, countless wounds inflicted by death will heal.

1 Corinthians 15:27, 28—Christ will hand over the Kingdom to Jehovah

1 Corinthians 15:27, 28: For God “subjected all things under his feet.” But when he says that ‘all things have been subjected,’ it is evident that this does not include the One who subjected all things to him. But when all things will have been subjected to him, then the Son himself will also subject himself to the One who subjected all things to him, that God may be all things to everyone.

w12 9/15 12 paragraph 17

There can be no better description of the grand climax than the words “that God may be all things to everyone.” What does that mean? Think back to the time in Eden when the perfect humans, Adam and Eve, were a part of Jehovah’s peaceful and harmonious universal family. Jehovah, the Universal Sovereign, ruled directly over all his creation, angelic and human. They were able to communicate with him personally, worship him, and be blessed by him. He was “all things to everyone.”

Digging for Spiritual Gems

1 Corinthians 14:34, 35—Did the apostle Paul forbid women to speak?

1 Corinthians 14:34, 35: let the women keep silent in the congregations, for it is not permitted for them to speak. Rather, let them be in subjection, as the Law also says. If they want to learn something, let them ask their husbands at home, for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the congregation.

w12 9/1 9, box

“Let the women *keep silent* in the congregations,” wrote the apostle Paul. (1 Corinthians 14:34) What did he mean? Was he belittling their intelligence? No. In fact, he often referred to the wholesome teaching of women. (2 Timothy 1:5; Titus 2:3-5) In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul advised not only women but also individuals who had the gift of tongues and prophecy to “keep silent” when another believer was speaking. (1 Corinthians 14:26-30, 33) Likely some Christian women were so enthusiastic about their newfound faith that they interrupted the speaker to ask questions, as was the custom in that part of the world. In order to avoid such disorder, Paul encouraged them to “question their own husbands at home.”—1 Corinthians 14:35.

1 Corinthians 15:53—What are immortality and incorruption?

1 Corinthians 15:53: For this which is corruptible must put on incorruption, and this which is mortal must put on immortality.

it-1 1197-1198

United with Jesus in the likeness of his resurrection, his joint heirs also are resurrected not merely to everlasting life as spirit creatures but to immortality and incorruption. Having lived, served faithfully, and died in corruptible human bodies, they now receive incorruptible spirit bodies, as Paul clearly states at 1 Corinthians 15:42-54. Immortality therefore evidently refers to the quality of the life they enjoy, its endlessness and indestructibility, whereas incorruption apparently relates to the organism or body that God gives them, one that is inherently beyond decay, ruin, or destruction. It therefore appears that God grants them the power to be self-sustaining, not dependent upon outside sources of energy as are his other creatures, fleshly and spirit. This is a stirring evidence of God's confidence in them. Such independent and indestructible existence, however, does not remove them from God's control; and they, like their Head Christ Jesus, continue subject to their Father's will and directions.—1 Corinthians 15:23-28; see immortality; soul.

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Bible Reading: (4 minutes or less) 1 Corinthians 14:20-40 (*th study 10*)

Apply Yourself to the Field Ministry

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Living as Christians

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First Return Visit

Question: Why did Jesus die?

Scripture: Mt 20:28

Link: How can we show our appreciation for Jesus' ransom sacrifice?

Jim (Publisher): The last time we spoke, I left you with the question: Why did Jesus die? How would you answer that question?

George (Householder): I've been thinking about it. I don't really know.

Jim (Publisher): That's OK. It's a question that has puzzled a lot of people throughout history. Thankfully, the Bible can help us find the answer. Notice what it says here at Matthew chapter 20 verse 28. Would you like to read that out loud.

George (Householder): Sure. "Just as the Son of man came, not to be ministered to, but to minister and to give his life as a ransom in exchange for many."

Jim (Publisher): Thank you. Looking again at the verse, do you notice the reason Jesus gave his life?

George (Householder): As a ransom?

Jim (Publisher): Exactly. Jesus gave his life to buy back the lives of others. And not just a few, but many. Really, Jesus gave his life for everyone who sincerely wants to benefit from that sacrifice, including you and me. He also taught us how we can show our appreciation for it. Let's consider what he said about that the next time I'm here.

George (Householder): That sounds great.



Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Conversations

<p>●○○</p> <p>INITIAL CALL</p> <p>→</p>	<p>○○○</p> <p>FIRST RETURN VISIT</p> <p>→</p>	<p>○○●</p> <p>SECOND RETURN VISIT</p>
<p>Question: Who was Jesus?</p> <p>Scripture: Mt 16:16</p> <p>Link: Why did Jesus die?</p>	<p>Question: Why did Jesus die?</p> <p>Scripture: Mt 20:28</p> <p>Link: How can we show our appreciation for Jesus' ransom sacrifice?</p>	<p>Question: How can we show our appreciation for Jesus' ransom sacrifice?</p> <p>Scripture: Joh 17:3</p> <p>Link: What happens at meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses?</p>

▲ Welcoming a new one to the Memorial

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?

Go Forward in Preaching the Kingdom!

(2 Timothy 4:5)

1. Go forward in preaching the Kingdom
To people in ev'ry land.
With love in your hearts for your neighbor,
Help meek ones to take their stand.
Our service to God is a priv'lege;
His word we are glad to proclaim.
Go out in the field and keep preaching;
Give witness to God's holy name.

(CHORUS)

*Forward, boldly preach the
Kingdom message ever far and wide.
Forward, faithful, loyally remaining
on Jehovah's side.*

2. Together we press ever forward,
Anointed and other sheep.
The old and the young men and women
In step with the truth do keep.
The good news of God's coming Kingdom
Is something that all need to hear.
We preach in the strength of Jehovah;
With him there is nothing to fear!

(Chorus)

- Song 22 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“God Will Be ‘All Things to Everyone’”:** (10 min.)
1Co 15:24, 25—The Messianic Kingdom will destroy all of God’s enemies (w98 7/1 21 ¶10)
1Co 15:26—Death will be brought to nothing (kr 237 ¶21)
1Co 15:27, 28—Christ will hand over the Kingdom to Jehovah (w12 9/15 12 ¶17)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
1Co 14:34, 35—Did the apostle Paul forbid women to speak? (w12 9/1 9, box)
- 1Co 15:53—What are immortality and incorruption? (it-1 1197-1198)

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 14:20-40 (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:** (5 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Introduce and discuss (but do not play) the video *Why Study the Bible?* (9)


LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 69
- **Local Needs:** (15 min.)
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *gy* chap. 63
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 103 and Prayer

1 CORINTHIANS 14-16 | God Will Be “All Things to Everyone”

15:24-28

A glorious future awaits those who prove faithful to Jehovah. His promises are impressed on our hearts when we speak enthusiastically about our hope to others. The apostle Paul encouraged fellow Christians to imagine the time at the close of Christ’s Thousand Year Reign when Jehovah will be “all things to everyone.”

 Which of the coming blessings appeals to you the most, and why?

What convinces you that God’s promises will be fulfilled?



63

JESUS OFFERS COUNSEL ABOUT STUMBLING AND SIN

MATTHEW 18:6-20 MARK 9:38-50 LUKE 9:49, 50

- COUNSEL ABOUT STUMBLING
 - IF A BROTHER COMMITS A SIN
-

Jesus has just illustrated the attitude that his followers should have. They should view themselves as children, lowly and without status. The disciples should ‘receive such young children on the basis of his name and thus receive Jesus also.’—Matthew 18:5.

The apostles had recently been arguing over who is the greatest, so they may take Jesus’ words as a reproof. Now the apostle John brings up something else that has just happened: “We saw someone expelling demons by using your name, and we tried to prevent him, because he is not following with us.”—Luke 9:49.

Does John view the apostles as the only ones who are authorized to heal others or to expel demons?



If so, how is it that this Jewish man is successful in casting out wicked spirits? John seems to feel that the man should not be performing powerful works because he is not accompanying Jesus and the apostles.

To John's surprise, Jesus says: "Do not try to prevent him, for there is no one who will do a powerful work on the basis of my name who will quickly be able to say anything bad about me. For whoever is not against us is for us. And whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, I tell you truly, he will by no means lose his reward."—Mark 9:39-41.

No, at this time the man does not need to accompany Christ in order to be on Jesus' side. The Christian congregation is yet to be formed, so the fact that the man is not traveling with Jesus does not mean that he is an opposer or promoting a false religion. The man obviously has faith in Jesus' name, and what Jesus says indicates that the man will not lose his reward.

On the other hand, it would be serious if the man was stumbled by the words and actions of the



apostles. Jesus observes: “Whoever stumbles one of these little ones who have faith, it would be better for him if a millstone that is turned by a donkey were put around his neck and he were pitched into the sea.” (Mark 9:42) Jesus then says that his followers should remove even something as precious as a hand, a foot, or an eye if that causes them to stumble. It is better to be without such a cherished thing and enter into God’s Kingdom than to hold on to it and end up in Gehenna (Valley of Hinnom). The apostles have likely seen this valley near Jerusalem where refuse is burned, so they can understand it as representing permanent destruction.

Jesus also warns: “See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my Father.” How precious are such “little ones” to his Father? Jesus tells of a man who has 100 sheep but loses one. The man leaves the 99 to search for that lost one, and on finding it he rejoices more over it than over the 99. Jesus adds: “It is not a desirable thing to my Father who is in heaven for even one of these little ones to perish.”—Matthew 18:10, 14.

Perhaps thinking of his apostles' arguing about who would be greatest, Jesus urges them: "Have salt in yourselves, and keep peace with one another." (Mark 9:50) Salt makes foods more palatable. Figurative salt makes what one says easier to accept and thus can help to preserve peace, which arguing does not do.—Colossians 4:6.

At times, serious issues will arise, and Jesus tells how to handle them. "If your brother commits a sin," Jesus says, "go and reveal his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother." What if he does not listen? "Take along with you one or two more," Jesus advises, "so that on the testimony of two or three witnesses every matter may be established." If that does not resolve the matter, they are to speak to "the congregation," that is, to responsible elders who can render a decision. What if the sinner still does not listen? "Let him be to you just as a man of the nations and as a tax collector," people with whom Jews would not fellowship.—Matthew 18:15-17.

Congregation overseers need to adhere to God’s Word. If they find a sinner guilty and needing discipline, their judgment ‘will already be bound in heaven.’ But when they find one innocent, it will have been “loosened in heaven.” These guidelines will prove helpful once the Christian congregation is formed. In such serious deliberations, Jesus says: “Where there are two or three gathered together in my name, there I am in their midst.”—Matthew 18: 18-20.

- ◇ Why is the man casting out demons not to be viewed as an opposer?
- ◇ How serious is the matter of stumbling a little one, and how does Jesus illustrate the importance of such little ones?
- ◇ What guidance does Jesus provide about the course to follow if a brother commits a sin?

103 *Shepherds—Gifts in Men*

(Ephesians 4:8)

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

(CHORUS)

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

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

(Chorus)

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

(Chorus)

FEBRUARY 2019

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



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APRIL 8–MAY 5, 2019

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COVER PICTURE: Jehovah wanted children to feel safe and secure as they were lovingly raised and taught by their parents (See article 9, paragraphs 7-8)

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

The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) February 2019 is published by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; L. Weaver, Jr., President; G. F. Simonis, Secretary-Treasurer; 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299, and by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada, PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L7G 4Y4. © 2018 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. Printed in Canada.

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We Thank You, Jehovah

(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

1. We thank you, Jehovah, each day and each night,
That you shed upon us your precious light.
We thank you that we have the priv'lege of prayer,
That we can approach you with ev'ry care.
2. We thank you, Jehovah, for your loving Son,
Who conquered the world; by his faith he won.
We thank you for guidance in doing your will.
You lovingly help us our vows fulfill.
3. We thank you, our God, for the honor to preach
About your great name and the truth to teach.
We thank you that soon all earth's woes will be past,
While your Kingdom blessings forever last.

Why Express Appreciation?

“Show yourselves thankful.”—COL. 3:15.

SONG 46

We Thank You, Jehovah

PREVIEW

What can we learn from Jehovah, Jesus, and a Samaritan leper about showing appreciation? This article will consider those examples and more. We will discuss why it is so important to express gratitude and review some specific ways that we can do it.

THE ten men were desperate. They had leprosy, and the future looked bleak. But one day, they saw Jesus, the Great Teacher, from a distance. They had heard that Jesus healed all sorts of sicknesses, and they were convinced that he could heal them too. So they cried out: “Jesus, Instructor, have mercy on us!” The ten men were completely cured. No doubt all of them were grateful for Jesus’ kindness. One of them, however, did more than *feel* gratitude—he *expressed* his appreciation* to Jesus. That healed man, a Samaritan, felt compelled to glorify God “with a loud voice.”—Luke 17:12-19.

² Like the Samaritan, we want to express our gratitude to those who are kind. But on occasion, we may forget to put our feelings of appreciation into words or actions.

³ In this article, we will consider why it is important for us to express appreciation by what we say and do. We will learn from the examples of some Bible characters who were grateful and others who were not. Then we will discuss specific ways in which we can express appreciation.

* **EXPRESSION EXPLAINED:** To **appreciate** someone or something means to recognize the value of that person or that thing. The word can refer to feelings of heartfelt gratitude.

1. How did a Samaritan whom Jesus healed show appreciation?
- 2-3. (a) Why might we fail to show appreciation? (b) What will we consider in this article?

WHY SHOULD WE EXPRESS APPRECIATION?

⁴ Jehovah sets the example for us in expressing appreciation. One way he does this is by rewarding those who please him. (2 Sam. 22:21; Ps. 13:6; Matt. 10:40, 41) And the Scriptures encourage us to “become imitators of God, as beloved children.” (Eph. 5:1) So a key reason why we should express appreciation is that we want to follow Jehovah’s example.

⁵ Consider another reason why we want to express appreciation to others. Appreciation is like a good meal—it is more enjoyable when shared. When we *feel* appreciated, we are happy. When we *express* our appreciation, we make *others* happy. The person who receives our gratitude knows that his efforts to help us, or to give us something we need, were worthwhile. As a result, the bonds of friendship between us and that person are strengthened.

⁶ Our expressions of gratitude are valuable. The Bible states: “Like apples of gold in silver carvings is a word spoken at the right time.” (Prov. 25:11) Imagine how beautiful an apple made of gold and set in silver would look! And just think how valuable it would be! How would you feel if you received such a gift? Well,

4-5. Why should we express appreciation?

6. What are some similarities between words of appreciation and apples made of gold?

the words of gratitude you express to others can be just as valuable. And consider this fact: An apple made of gold could last indefinitely. Likewise, your expressions of appreciation may be remembered and treasured by the recipient for the rest of his life.

THEY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION

⁷ Many of God's servants in the past showed gratitude. One of them was David. (Read Psalm 27:4.) He deeply appreciated pure worship and expressed his feelings in a tangible way. He contributed a fortune toward the construction of the temple. Asaph's descendants expressed appreciation by writing psalms, or songs of praise. In one song, they gave thanks to God and declared their admiration for Jehovah's "wondrous works." (Ps. 75:1) Clearly, David and Asaph's descendants wanted to show Jehovah how much they appreciated all the blessings they had received from him. Can you think of ways that you can imitate those psalmists?

⁸ The apostle Paul appreciated his brothers and sisters and showed it in the way he talked about them. He always thanked God for them in his private prayers. He

7. How did David, as seen at Psalm 27:4, and other writers of psalms express their appreciation?

8-9. How did the apostle Paul show appreciation for his brothers and sisters, and what no doubt was the result?

also expressed his appreciation when writing to them. In the first 15 verses of Romans 16, Paul mentions 27 fellow Christians by name. Paul specifically recalled that Prisca and Aquila “risked their own necks” for him, and he described Phoebe as “a defender of many,” including Paul. He commended those beloved, hard-working brothers and sisters.—Rom. 16:1-15.

⁹ Paul was aware that his brothers and sisters were imperfect, but in closing his letter to the Romans, he chose to focus on their good qualities. Imagine how encouraged those brothers and sisters must have been to hear Paul’s comments read aloud to the congregation! As a result, their bond of friendship with Paul no doubt

What does Paul’s letter to the Romans teach us about expressing appreciation?

(See paragraphs 8-9)



grew stronger. Do you regularly express appreciation for the good things that members of your congregation say and do?

¹⁰ In his messages to certain congregations of Asia Minor, Jesus expressed appreciation for the work his followers did. For example, he began his message to the congregation in Thyatira by saying: “I know your deeds, and your love and faith and ministry and endurance, and that your deeds of late are more than those you did at first.” (Rev. 2:19) Jesus not only mentioned their increased activity but also commended them for the qualities that motivated their good deeds. Although Jesus needed to counsel some in Thyatira, he still began and ended his message with encouragement. (Rev. 2:25-28) Think of the authority Jesus has as head of all the congregations. He does not have to thank us for the work we do for him. Even so, he makes a point of expressing appreciation. What an excellent example he sets for elders!

THEY SHOWED A LACK OF APPRECIATION

¹¹ Sadly, some Bible characters displayed a lack of appreciation. For example, although Esau was raised

10. What can we learn from the way that Jesus expressed appreciation for his followers?

11. As shown at Hebrews 12:16, what attitude did Esau have regarding sacred things?

by parents who loved and respected Jehovah, he lacked appreciation for sacred things. (Read Hebrews 12:16.) How did his ungrateful attitude become evident? Esau rashly sold his birthright to his younger brother, Jacob, for a mere bowl of stew. (Gen. 25:30-34) Later, Esau bitterly regretted the choice he had made. But he had been ungrateful for what he had, so he had no basis for complaining when he did not receive the birthright blessing.

¹² The Israelites had many reasons for showing appreciation. They were freed from slavery after Jehovah brought the Ten Plagues on Egypt. Then God saved them from disaster by destroying the entire Egyptian army in the Red Sea. The Israelites were so grateful that they sang a victory song of praises to Jehovah. But did they remain grateful?

¹³ When the Israelites encountered new challenges, they soon forgot about all the good things Jehovah had done for them. They then revealed their lack of appreciation. (Ps. 106:7) How? “The entire assembly of the Israelites began to murmur against Moses and Aaron”—in reality, murmuring against Jehovah. (Ex. 16: 2, 8) He was disappointed with the ungrateful attitude his people showed. He later foretold that this entire generation of Israelites would perish in the wilderness,

12-13. How did the Israelites reveal a lack of appreciation, and what was the result?

with the exception of Joshua and Caleb. (Num. 14:22-24; 26:65) Let us see how we can avoid following these bad examples and imitate the good ones.

EXPRESS APPRECIATION TODAY

14 In the family. The entire family benefits when each member expresses appreciation. The more marriage mates show gratitude to each other, the closer they become. They also find it easier to forgive each other's mistakes. A husband who appreciates his wife not only notices the good things she says and does but also "rises up and praises her." (Prov. 31:10, 28) And a wise wife lets her husband know specifically what she appreciates about him.

15 Parents, how can you teach your children to show appreciation? Remember that your children will imitate what you say and do. So set a good example by saying thank you when your children do things for you. In addition, teach your children to say thank you when people do things for them. Help your children understand that expressing gratitude comes from the heart and that their words can do much good. For example, a young woman named Clary says: "At 32 years of age, my mother was suddenly left with three children to

14-15. (a) How can marriage mates show that they appreciate each other? (b) How can parents teach their children to show appreciation?



Teach your children
to express appreciation
(See paragraph 15)

raise on her own. When I turned 32, I thought about how difficult it must have been for her at that age. So I told her how much I appreciate all that she sacrificed to raise my brothers and me. Recently, she told me that my words are very dear to her heart, that she often reflects on them, and that they always brighten her day.”

16 In the congregation. When we express appreciation to our brothers and sisters, we encourage them. For example, Jorge, a 28-year-old elder, became seriously ill. He could not attend meetings for a month. Even after returning to the meetings, he was still not able to handle parts on the program. Jorge admits: “I felt worthless because of my limitations and my inability to handle congregation responsibilities. But after one meeting, a brother told me: ‘I want to thank you

16. Give an example of how expressing appreciation can encourage others.

for the fine example you have set for my family. You have no idea how much we have enjoyed your talks during the past few years. They have helped us to grow spiritually.’ I choked up, and my eyes filled with tears. His words were exactly what I needed to hear.”

17 To our generous God. Jehovah has given us an abundance of spiritual food. For example, we receive helpful instruction through our meetings, our magazines, and our websites. Have you ever heard a talk, read an article, or watched a broadcast and thought, ‘That is just what I needed’? How can we show our appreciation to Jehovah? (Read Colossians 3:15.) One way is by regularly thanking him in our prayers for these good gifts.—Jas. 1:17.

18 We also express appreciation to Jehovah when we keep our place of worship clean and tidy. We share regularly in cleaning and maintaining our Kingdom Halls, and those who handle electronic equipment used by the congregation do so carefully. When we maintain our Kingdom Halls properly, they will last longer and will need fewer major repairs. That way, we make more money available to build and renovate other Kingdom Halls around the world.

17. As mentioned at Colossians 3:15, how can we show appreciation to Jehovah for his generosity?

18. In what ways might we show appreciation for our Kingdom Hall?



Assisting in Kingdom Hall cleaning
is an excellent way to show our appreciation
(See paragraph 18)

19 To those who work hard for us. When we express appreciation, our words might change the way a person feels about challenges that he or she faces. Consider the experience of one circuit overseer and his wife. After a long winter's day in the ministry, they returned to their accommodations exhausted. It was so cold that the wife slept in her winter coat. In the morning, she told her husband that she felt unable to continue in the traveling work. Later that very morning, a letter from the branch office arrived, and it was addressed to her. The letter warmly commended her for her ministry and endurance. It acknowledged how difficult it can be to move from one accommodation to

19. What did you learn from the experience of one circuit overseer and his wife?

the next every week. Her husband says: “She was so touched by that commendation that she never again spoke of leaving the traveling work. In fact, several times she encouraged me to continue when I thought of quitting.” That couple remained in the traveling work for almost 40 years.

²⁰ May we try each day to show ourselves thankful by what we say and do. Our heartfelt words or actions may be just what another person needs to make it through one more day in this unthankful world. And our expressions of thanks will build bonds of friendship that can last forever. Most important, we will be imitating our generous, appreciative Father, Jehovah.

20. What should we try to do each day, and why?

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 31: Paul’s letter is read to the Roman congregation; Aquila, Priscilla, Phoebe, and others are delighted to hear their names mentioned. **Page 35:** A mother helps her daughter express appreciation for the good example set by an elderly sister.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- Why should we express appreciation to others?
- What Bible examples show genuine appreciation in action?
- How can we show heartfelt appreciation today?

SONG 20

You Gave Your Precious Son



20 *You Gave Your Precious Son*

(1 John 4:9)

1. Jehovah, dear Father,
 There seemed no hope for us.
The ransom has given
 Hope to ev'ryone!
We give our lives to you,
 Our best in all we do.
And we'll tell others too,
 That your will might be done.

(CHORUS)

*You gave your precious Son,
And now we sing as one,
A song we'll sing forever,
for giving us your precious Son.*

2. Your kindness, your mercy,
 They draw us close to you.
Your great name, your friendship,
 These we've come to love.
But something more than this
 Is your most precious gift.
He died that we might live.
 You sent him from above.

(Chorus)

(ENDING)

Jehovah, dear Father, we pray in gratitude.
 We offer our thanks for giving us your precious Son.

