

- Song 128 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD**

- **“We Do Not Give Up”:** (10 min.)  
 2Co 4:16—Jehovah renews us “from day to day” (w04 8/15 25 ¶16-17)  
 2Co 4:17—Present suffering is “momentary and light” (it-1 724-725)  
 2Co 4:18—We should focus on future Kingdom blessings
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
 2Co 4:7—What is “this treasure in earthen vessels”? (w12 2/1 28-29)

2Co 6:13—How can we obey the admonition to “open [our] hearts wide”? (w09 11/15 21 ¶7)

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) 2Co 4:1-15 (12)

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Apply Yourself to Reading and Teaching:** (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Accurate Reading*, and then discuss study 5 of the *Teaching* brochure.
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) w04 7/1 30-31—Theme: Should a Baptized Christian Pursue a Courtship With a Publisher Who Is Not Baptized? (7)

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 143
- **Doing the Very Best I Can:** (8 min.) Play the video (video category INTERVIEWS AND EXPERIENCES). Then ask the audience the following questions: How did Brother Foster give his all to Jehovah when he was young and strong? How did his circumstances change? How is he giving Jehovah his all in his changed circumstances? What lessons have you learned from his experience?
- **Local Needs:** (7 min.)
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) jy chap. 65
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 65 and Prayer

2 CORINTHIANS 4-6 | “We Do Not Give Up”

**4:16-18**

Imagine two families living in the same dilapidated apartment building. One family is understandably in despair. Strangely, the other family is happy. Why? The second family will soon move to a beautiful new home.

Although “all creation keeps on groaning together and being in pain together until now,” God’s servants have a hope that sustains them. (Ro 8:22) We know that our present troubles, even those that have plagued us for decades, are “momentary and light” when compared to an eternity in God’s new world. Focusing on future Kingdom blessings will help us have a measure of joy and not give up.



1. God's Word and all its promises  
Give reason to endure.  
The things you've learned and come to love  
Are all well-founded and sure.  
  
Be stabilized in holy faith,  
Keeping God's day close in mind.  
Stand firm in your integrity;  
By tests you will be refined.
2. Maintain the love you had at first,  
Which somehow could be lost.  
Despite the trials you will meet,  
Endure no matter the cost.  
  
Whatever test may come your way,  
Never yield to doubt or fear.  
Jehovah will provide escape,  
Our God ever will be near.
3. All those enduring to the end  
Are those who will be saved.  
The book of life will list their names,  
A record clearly engraved.  
  
So let endurance be your aim;  
Let it have its work complete.  
Jehovah's favor you will know;  
With joy you will be replete.

## 2 Corinthians 4-6

**4** Therefore, since we have this ministry through the mercy that was shown us, we do not give up. <sup>2</sup> But we have renounced the shameful, underhanded things, not walking with cunning or adulterating the word of God; but by making the truth manifest, we recommend ourselves to every human conscience in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup> If, in fact, the good news we declare is veiled, it is veiled among those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup> among whom the god of this system of things has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, so that the illumination of the glorious good news about the Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine through. <sup>5</sup> For we are preaching, not about ourselves, but about Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God is the one who said: "Let the light shine out of darkness," and he has shone on our hearts to illuminate them with the glorious knowledge of God by the face of Christ.

<sup>7</sup> However, we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the power beyond what is normal may be God's and not from us. <sup>8</sup> We are hard-pressed in every way, but not cramped beyond movement; we are perplexed, but not absolutely with no way out; <sup>9</sup> we are persecuted, but not abandoned; we are knocked down, but not destroyed. <sup>10</sup> Always we endure in our body the death-dealing treatment that Jesus suffered, that the life of Jesus may also be made manifest in our body. <sup>11</sup> For we who live are ever being brought face-to-face with death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may also be made manifest in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup> So death is at work in us, but life in you.

<sup>13</sup> Now because we have the same spirit of faith as that of which it is written: "I exercised faith, therefore I spoke"; we too exercise faith and therefore we speak, <sup>14</sup> knowing that the One who raised Jesus up will raise us up also with Jesus and will present us

together with you. <sup>15</sup> For all these things are for your sake, so that the increase of the undeserved kindness should abound even more because many more are offering thanksgiving to the glory of God.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, we do not give up, but even if the man we are outside is wasting away, certainly the man we are inside is being renewed from day to day. <sup>17</sup> For though the tribulation is momentary and light, it works out for us a glory that is of more and more surpassing greatness and is everlasting; <sup>18</sup> while we keep our eyes, not on the things seen, but on the things unseen. For the things seen are temporary, but the things unseen are everlasting.

**5** For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, should be torn down, we are to have a building from God, a house not made with hands, everlasting in the heavens. <sup>2</sup> For in this house we do indeed groan, earnestly desiring to put on the one for us from heaven, <sup>3</sup> so that when we do put it on, we will not be found naked. <sup>4</sup> In fact, we who are in this tent groan, being weighed down, because we do not want to put this one off, but we want to put the other on, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup> Now the one who prepared us for this very thing is God, who gave us the spirit as a token of what is to come.

<sup>6</sup> So we are always of good courage and know that while we have our home in the body, we are absent from the Lord, <sup>7</sup> for we are walking by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup> But we are of good courage and would prefer to be absent from the body and to make our home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup> So whether at home with him or absent from him, we make it our aim to be acceptable to him. <sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of the Christ, so that each one may be repaid according to the things he has practiced while in the body, whether good or bad.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, since we know the fear of the Lord, we keep persuading men, but we are well-known to God. However, I hope that we are well-known also to your consciences. <sup>12</sup> We are not recommending ourselves to you again but giving you an incentive to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast over the outward appearance but not over what is in the heart. <sup>13</sup> For if we were out of our mind, it was for God; if we are sound in mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup> For the love the Christ has compels us, because this is what we have concluded, that one man died for all; so, then, all had died. <sup>15</sup> And he died for all so that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for him who died for them and was raised up.

<sup>16</sup> So from now on we know no man from a fleshly viewpoint. Even if we once knew Christ according to the flesh, we certainly no longer know him in that way. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in union with Christ, he is a new creation; the old things passed away; look! new things have come into existence. <sup>18</sup> But all things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of the reconciliation, <sup>19</sup> namely, that God was by means of Christ reconciling a world to himself, not counting their offenses against them, and he entrusted to us the message of the reconciliation.

<sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors substituting for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us. As substitutes for Christ, we beg: "Become reconciled to God." <sup>21</sup> The one who did not know sin, he made to be sin for us, so that by means of him we might become God's righteousness.

**6** Working together with him, we also urge you not to accept the undeserved kindness of God and miss its purpose. <sup>2</sup> For he says: "In an acceptable time I heard you, and in a day of salvation I helped you." Look! Now is the especially acceptable time. Look! Now is the day of salvation.

<sup>3</sup> In no way are we giving any cause for stumbling, so that no fault may be found with our ministry; <sup>4</sup> but in every way we recommend ourselves as God's ministers, by the endurance of much, by tribulations, by times of need, by difficulties, <sup>5</sup> by beatings, by imprisonments, by riots, by hard work, by sleepless nights, by times without food; <sup>6</sup> by purity, by knowledge, by patience, by kindness, by holy spirit, by love free from hypocrisy, <sup>7</sup> by truthful speech, by God's power; through the weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left, <sup>8</sup> through glory and dishonor, through bad report and good report. We are regarded as deceivers and yet we are truthful, <sup>9</sup> as unknown and yet we are recognized, as dying and yet look! we live, as punished and yet not handed over to death, <sup>10</sup> as sorrowing but ever rejoicing, as poor but making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing all things.

<sup>11</sup> We have opened our mouth to speak to you, Corinthians, and we have opened wide our heart. <sup>12</sup> We are not restricted in our affections for you, but you are restricted in your own tender affections for us. <sup>13</sup> So in response—I speak as to my children—you too open your hearts wide.

<sup>14</sup> Do not become unevenly yoked with unbelievers. For what fellowship do righteousness and lawlessness have? Or what sharing does light have with darkness? <sup>15</sup> Further, what harmony is there between Christ and Be'li-al? Or what does a believer share in common with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup> And what agreement does God's temple have with idols? For we are a temple of a living God; just as God said: "I will reside among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." <sup>17</sup> "Therefore, get out from among them, and separate yourselves," says Jehovah, 'and quit touching the unclean thing'; "and I will take you in." <sup>18</sup> "And I will become a father to you, and you will become sons and daughters to me," says Jehovah, the Almighty."

- Song 128 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD**

- **“We Do Not Give Up”:** (10 min.)  
 2Co 4:16—Jehovah renews us “from day to day” (w04 8/15 25 ¶16-17)  
 2Co 4:17—Present suffering is “momentary and light” (it-1 724-725)  
 2Co 4:18—We should focus on future Kingdom blessings
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
 2Co 4:7—What is “this treasure in earthen vessels”? (w12 2/1 28-29)

2Co 6:13—How can we obey the admonition to “open [our] hearts wide”? (w09 11/15 21 ¶7)

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) 2Co 4:1-15 (12)

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Apply Yourself to Reading and Teaching:** (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Accurate Reading*, and then discuss study 5 of the *Teaching* brochure.
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) w04 7/1 30-31—Theme: Should a Baptized Christian Pursue a Courtship With a Publisher Who Is Not Baptized? (7)

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 143
- **Doing the Very Best I Can:** (8 min.) Play the video (video category INTERVIEWS AND EXPERIENCES). Then ask the audience the following questions: How did Brother Foster give his all to Jehovah when he was young and strong? How did his circumstances change? How is he giving Jehovah his all in his changed circumstances? What lessons have you learned from his experience?
- **Local Needs:** (7 min.)
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) jy chap. 65
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 65 and Prayer

2 CORINTHIANS 4-6 | “We Do Not Give Up”

**4:16-18**

Imagine two families living in the same dilapidated apartment building. One family is understandably in despair. Strangely, the other family is happy. Why? The second family will soon move to a beautiful new home.

Although “all creation keeps on groaning together and being in pain together until now,” God’s servants have a hope that sustains them. (Ro 8:22) We know that our present troubles, even those that have plagued us for decades, are “momentary and light” when compared to an eternity in God’s new world. Focusing on future Kingdom blessings will help us have a measure of joy and not give up.



## **May 6-12 / 2 Corinthians 4-6**

- Song 128 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 minutes or less)

### **Treasures From God's Word**

- **"We Do Not Give Up"**: (10 minutes)

#### **"We Do Not Give Up"**

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Imagine two families living in the same dilapidated apartment building. One family is understandably in despair. Strangely, the other family is happy. Why? The second family will soon move to a beautiful new home.

Although "all creation keeps on groaning together and being in pain together until now," God's servants have a hope that sustains them. (Romans 8:22) We know that our present troubles, even those that have plagued us for decades, are "momentary and light" when compared to an eternity in God's new world. Focusing on future Kingdom blessings will help us have a measure of joy and not give up.

#### **2 Corinthians 4:16—Jehovah renews us "from day to day"**

**2 Corinthians 4:16:** Therefore, we do not give up, but even if the man we are outside is wasting away, certainly the man we are inside is being renewed from day to day.



## **w04 8/15 25 paragraphs 16-17**

16 Caring for our spiritual health is, of course, highly important. When we have an intimate relationship with Jehovah God, we may get physically tired, but never will we tire of worshiping him. Jehovah is the one “giving to the tired one power; and to the one without dynamic energy he makes full might abound.” (Isaiah 40:28, 29) The apostle Paul, who personally experienced the truthfulness of these words, wrote: “We do not give up, but even if the man we are outside is wasting away, certainly the man we are inside is being renewed from day to day.”—2 Corinthians 4:16.

17 Notice the expression “from day to day.” This implies availing ourselves of Jehovah’s provisions on a daily basis. A missionary who faithfully served for 43 years had to face periods of physical tiredness and discouragement. But she did not tire out. She says: “I have made it a practice to rise early so that before starting any work, I can spend time in prayer to Jehovah and read his Word. This daily routine has helped me to endure until now.” We can indeed count on Jehovah’s sustaining power if we regularly, yes “from day to day,” pray to him and meditate on his lofty qualities and his promises.

## **2 Corinthians 4:17—Present suffering is “momentary and light”**

**2 Corinthians 4:17:** For though the tribulation is momentary and light, it works out for us a glory that is of more and more surpassing greatness and is everlasting;

## ***it-1 724-725***

It is also important never to lose sight of the Christian hope, eternal life in a sinless state. Not even death at the hands of persecutors can nullify this hope. (Romans 5:4, 5; 1 Thessalonians 1:3; Revelation 2:10) The suffering of the present will pale into insignificance when compared with the fulfillment of that grand hope. (Romans 8:18-25) Against the backdrop of eternity, any suffering, though intense at the time, is “momentary and light.” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18) A person’s remembering the temporary nature of trials and holding fast to the Christian hope can prevent his giving in to despair and becoming unfaithful to Jehovah God.

### **2 Corinthians 4:18—We should focus on future Kingdom blessings**

**2 Corinthians 4:18:** while we keep our eyes, not on the things seen, but on the things unseen. For the things seen are temporary, but the things unseen are everlasting. [End of inserted scripture.]

### **Digging for Spiritual Gems**

#### **2 Corinthians 4:7—What is “this treasure in earthen vessels”?**

**2 Corinthians 4:7:** However, we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the power beyond what is normal may be God’s and not from us.

## **w12 2/1 28-29**

David Splane of the Governing Body examined that Scriptural theme. (2 Corinthians 4:7) What is the treasure? Is it knowledge or wisdom? “No,” answered the speaker. “The treasure that the apostle Paul spoke of is ‘this ministry’ of ‘making the truth manifest.’” (2 Corinthians 4:1, 2, 5) Brother Splane reminded the students that the five months they had spent studying was in preparation for a special assignment in the ministry. That assignment is something to be highly esteemed.

The speaker explained that the “earthen vessels” refer to our fleshly bodies. He contrasted a vessel made of earth with one made of gold. Vessels of gold are not used often. Vessels made of earth, on the other hand, are meant for work. If we placed a treasure in a vessel of gold, we might focus as much on the vessel as on the treasure it contains. “You students don’t want to draw attention to yourselves,” said Brother Splane. “As missionaries, you want to direct people to Jehovah. You are modest earthen vessels.”

## **2 Corinthians 6:13—How can we obey the admonition to “open [our] hearts wide”?**

**2 Corinthians 6:13:** So in response—I speak as to my children—you too open your hearts wide.

## **w09 11/15 21 paragraph 7**

What about us? How can we “widen out” in displaying brotherly love? Individuals in the same age bracket or of the same ethnic

background may naturally be attracted to one another. And those with similar preferences in recreation often spend much time together. But if the interests that we share with some Christians separate us from others, we need to “widen out.” It would be wise to ask ourselves: ‘Do I seldom share in the ministry or social activities with brothers and sisters outside my intimate group? At the Kingdom Hall, do I limit my contact with those newly associated because I believe that they have to earn my friendship over time? Do I greet both older and younger ones in the congregation?’

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) 2 Corinthians 4:1-15 (*th*  
study 12)

- Song 128 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD**

- **“We Do Not Give Up”:** (10 min.)  
 2Co 4:16—Jehovah renews us “from day to day” (w04 8/15 25 ¶16-17)  
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**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Apply Yourself to Reading and Teaching:** (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Accurate Reading*, and then discuss study 5 of the *Teaching* brochure.
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) w04 7/1 30-31—Theme: Should a Baptized Christian Pursue a Courtship With a Publisher Who Is Not Baptized? (7)

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 143
- **Doing the Very Best I Can:** (8 min.) Play the video (video category INTERVIEWS AND EXPERIENCES). Then ask the audience the following questions: How did Brother Foster give his all to Jehovah when he was young and strong? How did his circumstances change? How is he giving Jehovah his all in his changed circumstances? What lessons have you learned from his experience?
- **Local Needs:** (7 min.)
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- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
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2 CORINTHIANS 4-6 | “We Do Not Give Up”

**4:16-18**

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# 5

## Accurate Reading

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1 Timothy 4:13

**SUMMARY:** Read aloud exactly what is on the page.

### HOW TO DO IT:

- **Prepare well.** Determine why the passage was written. Practice reading word groupings, not just individual words. Beware of inserting, skipping over, or substituting words. Observe all punctuation marks.
  - 💡 Ask a friend to monitor your reading and to point out any words that you read inaccurately.
- **Pronounce each word correctly.** If you do not know how to pronounce a word, look it up in a dictionary, listen to an audio recording of the publication, or ask a good reader for help.
- **Speak clearly.** Enunciate carefully, holding your head high and opening your mouth wide. Make an effort to pronounce each syllable.
  - 💡 Do not enunciate so precisely that your reading becomes unnatural.

## Apply Yourself to the Field Ministry

- **Apply Yourself to Reading and Teaching:** (10 minutes)

Discussion. Play the video *Accurate Reading*, and then discuss study 5 of the *Teaching* brochure.

- **Talk:** (5 minutes or less) *w04 7/1 30-31*—Theme: Should a Baptized Christian Pursue a Courtship With a Publisher Who Is Not Baptized? (*th* study 7)

### Questions From Readers

At 2 Corinthians 6:14, to whom is Paul referring when he uses the term “unbelievers”?

At 2 Corinthians 6:14, we read: “Do not become unevenly yoked with unbelievers.” If we look at the context, it is evident that Paul is speaking of individuals who are clearly no part of the Christian congregation. This understanding is supported by other Bible verses that record Paul’s use of the term “unbeliever” or “unbelievers.”

For example, Paul reprimands Christians for going to court “before unbelievers.” (1 Corinthians 6:6) Here, the unbelievers are judges serving in the court system of Corinth. In his second letter, Paul states that Satan “has blinded the minds of the unbelievers.” The eyes of such unbelievers are ‘veiled’ from the good news. These unbelievers have made no move toward serving Jehovah, since Paul earlier explained: “When there is a turning to Jehovah, the veil is taken away.”—2 Corinthians 3:16; 4:4.

Some unbelievers are involved in lawlessness or idolatry. (2 Corinthians 6:15, 16) However, not all are opposed to Jehovah's servants. Some show an interest in the truth. Many have Christian mates and are happy to stay with them. (1 Corinthians 7:12-14; 10:27; 14:22-25; 1 Peter 3:1, 2) However, Paul consistently applies the term "unbeliever" to individuals who, as mentioned above, are no part of the Christian congregation, which is made up of "believers in the Lord."—Acts 2:41; 5:14; 8:12, 13.

The principle found at 2 Corinthians 6:14 is a valuable guide for Christians in all areas of life and has often been quoted as providing wise counsel for Christians seeking a marriage mate. Matthew 19:4-6) A dedicated, baptized Christian wisely does not seek a marriage mate among those who are unbelievers, since the values, goals, and beliefs of unbelievers are so different from those of a true Christian.

What, though, of individuals who study the Bible and associate with the Christian congregation? What of those who are unbaptized publishers? Are they unbelievers? No. Individuals who have accepted the truth of the good news and are progressing steadily toward baptism should not be called unbelievers. (Romans 10:10; 2 Corinthians 4:13) Before his baptism Cornelius was called "a devout man and one fearing God."—Acts 10:2.

Would it be wise, then, for a dedicated Christian to pursue courtship and marriage with someone who has been accepted as an unbaptized publisher, since, strictly speaking, Paul's counsel recorded at 2 Corinthians 6:14 could not apply in that case? No, that is not wise. Why not? Because of the direct counsel Paul gave regarding Christian widows. Paul wrote: "She is free to be married



to whom she wants, *only in the Lord.*" (1 Corinthians 7:39) In harmony with that counsel, dedicated Christians are urged to seek marriage mates only among those who are "in the Lord."

What is the meaning of the expression "in the Lord" and the related expression "in Christ"? Paul speaks of individuals who were "in Christ" or "in the Lord" at Romans 16:8-10 and Colossians 4:7. If you read those verses, you will see that such ones are 'fellow workers,' 'approved ones,' 'beloved brothers,' 'faithful ministers,' and 'fellow slaves.'

When does one become a "slave in the Lord"? That happens when he willingly does what a slave has to do and disowns himself. Jesus explains: "If anyone wants to come after me, let him disown himself and pick up his torture stake and continually follow me." (Matthew 16:24) A person begins to follow Christ and fully subject himself to the will of God when he dedicates himself to God. Thereafter, he offers himself for baptism and becomes an ordained minister with an approved standing before Jehovah God. \* So, then, to 'marry in the Lord' means to marry someone who has demonstrated that he is truly a believer, a dedicated "slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ."—James 1:1.

[Footnote.] \* For the anointed Christians to whom Paul was writing in the first instance, being a "slave in the Lord" also involved receiving their anointing as sons of God and brothers of Christ. [End of Footnote.]

A person who is studying the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses and who is making fine spiritual progress is to be commended. However, he has not yet dedicated himself to Jehovah and

committed himself to a life of service and sacrifice. He is still making necessary changes. He needs to complete the major changes involved in becoming a dedicated, baptized Christian before contemplating another major life change, such as marriage.

Would it be advisable for a Christian to pursue courtship with someone who seems to be making good progress in his Bible study—perhaps with the intention of waiting until he gets baptized before marrying him? No. The motives of a Bible student could well become confused if he is aware that a dedicated Christian wants to marry him but will not do so until he is baptized.

For the most part, an individual is an unbaptized publisher only for a limited period of time, until he progresses to the point of baptism. So the above counsel to marry only in the Lord is not unreasonable. What, though, if someone is of marriageable age, has been brought up in a Christian family, has been active in the congregation for a number of years, and serves as an unbaptized publisher? Well, what has held him back from giving his life to Jehovah in dedication? Why does he hesitate? Does he have doubts? While he is not an unbeliever, he cannot be spoken of as being “in the Lord.”

Paul’s counsel on marriage is for our benefit. (Isaiah 48:17) When both prospective mates have dedicated themselves to Jehovah, their commitment to each other in marriage has a solid, spiritual foundation. They share the same values and the same goals. This greatly contributes to a happy union. Moreover, by ‘marrying in the Lord,’ one shows loyalty to Jehovah, and that leads to enduring blessings, for “with someone loyal [Jehovah] will act in loyalty.”—Psalm 18:25.

# 143 *Keep Working, Watching, and Waiting*

(Romans 8:20-25)

1. The God of times and of seasons,  
Whose name alone is Jehovah—  
The time for his vindication  
Is near by signs we can see.

*(CHORUS)*

*Keep on working and watching and waiting,  
Joyfully anticipating,  
Life as God meant it to be.*

2. The time has long been appointed;  
His Son is ready to conquer,  
Defeating all who oppose him.  
His sword will bring victory.

*(Chorus)*

3. Though all creation is groaning,  
In faith we're eagerly waiting.  
Jehovah's day is approaching,  
The time for setting us free.

*(Chorus)*

- Song 128 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD**

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 2Co 4:16—Jehovah renews us “from day to day” (w04 8/15 25 ¶16-17)  
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- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) 2Co 4:1-15 (12)

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Apply Yourself to Reading and Teaching:** (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Accurate Reading*, and then discuss study 5 of the *Teaching* brochure.
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) w04 7/1 30-31—Theme: Should a Baptized Christian Pursue a Courtship With a Publisher Who Is Not Baptized? (7)

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 143
- **Doing the Very Best I Can:** (8 min.) Play the video (video category INTERVIEWS AND EXPERIENCES). Then ask the audience the following questions: How did Brother Foster give his all to Jehovah when he was young and strong? How did his circumstances change? How is he giving Jehovah his all in his changed circumstances? What lessons have you learned from his experience?
- **Local Needs:** (7 min.)
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) jy chap. 65
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 65 and Prayer

2 CORINTHIANS 4-6 | “We Do Not Give Up”

**4:16-18**

Imagine two families living in the same dilapidated apartment building. One family is understandably in despair. Strangely, the other family is happy. Why? The second family will soon move to a beautiful new home.

Although “all creation keeps on groaning together and being in pain together until now,” God’s servants have a hope that sustains them. (Ro 8:22) We know that our present troubles, even those that have plagued us for decades, are “momentary and light” when compared to an eternity in God’s new world. Focusing on future Kingdom blessings will help us have a measure of joy and not give up.



**65****TEACHING WHILE  
TRAVELING TO JERUSALEM**MATTHEW 8:19-22 LUKE 9:51-62 JOHN 7:2-10

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- HOW JESUS' BROTHERS VIEW HIM
  - HOW IMPORTANT IS KINGDOM SERVICE?
- 

For some time, Jesus has confined his activity mainly to Galilee, where he has found a better response than in Judea. Besides, when he was in Jerusalem and healed a man on the Sabbath, “the Jews began seeking all the more to kill him.”—John 5:18; 7:1.

It is now the autumn of 32 C.E., and the Festival of Tabernacles (or, Booths) is near. This festival is celebrated for seven days, followed by a solemn assembly on the eighth day. The festival marks the end of the agricultural year and is a time of great rejoicing and thanksgiving.

Jesus' half brothers—James, Simon, Joseph, and Judas—urge him: “Leave here and go into Judea.” Jerusalem is the religious center of the country. During the three annual festivals, the city is



crowded. Jesus' brothers reason: "No one does anything in secret when he seeks to be known publicly. If you are doing these things, show yourself to the world."—John 7:3, 4.

Actually, these four brothers are "not exercising faith in him" as the Messiah. Yet, they want those gathered at the festival to see him do some powerful works. Jesus, aware of the danger, tells them: "The world has no reason to hate you, but it hates me, because I bear witness about it that its works are wicked. You go up to the festival; I am not yet going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come."—John 7:5-8.

Some days after Jesus' brothers depart with the main body of travelers, Jesus and his disciples go secretly, out of the public eye. They take the more direct route through Samaria, rather than the common one near the Jordan River. Jesus and his disciples will need accommodations in Samaria, so he sends messengers ahead to make preparations. The people in one place refuse to welcome them or show ordinary hospitality because Jesus is heading for Jerusalem for the Jewish festival. James and

John angrily ask: “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven and annihilate them?” (Luke 9: 54) Jesus rebukes them for even suggesting that, and they travel on.

While on the road, a scribe says to Jesus: “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.” Jesus responds: “Foxes have dens and birds of heaven have nests, but the Son of man has nowhere to lay down his head.” (Matthew 8:19, 20) He is pointing out that the scribe will experience hardship if he becomes Jesus’ follower. And it seems that the scribe is too proud to accept this mode of life. Each of us, thus, can ask, ‘How willing am I to follow Jesus?’

To another man, Jesus says: “Be my follower.” The man replies: “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.” Knowing the man’s circumstances, Jesus says: “Let the dead bury their dead, but you go and declare abroad the Kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:59, 60) The father evidently has not yet died. If he had, it is unlikely that his son would be here talking with Jesus. The son is not prepared to put the Kingdom of God first in his life.



As they move down the road toward Jerusalem, another man tells Jesus: “I will follow you, Lord, but first permit me to say good-bye to those in my household.” Jesus answers: “No man who has put his hand to a plow and looks at the things behind is well-suited for the Kingdom of God.”—Luke 9: 61, 62.

Those who want to be Jesus’ true disciples must have their eyes focused on Kingdom service. If the plowman does not keep looking straight ahead, a furrow will likely become crooked. If he sets the plow down in order to see what is behind, the work in the field will fall behind. Similarly, anyone who looks behind at this old system of things may well stumble off the road leading to eternal life.

- ◇ How do Jesus’ four half brothers feel about him?
- ◇ Why do the Samaritans turn Jesus away, and what do James and John want to do?
- ◇ What three conversations does Jesus have on the road, and what is he emphasizing about service to God?

## *Move Ahead!*

(Hebrews 6:1)

1. Move ahead, move ahead to maturity!  
Shine the light of the truth so that all may plainly see.  
Try your best to improve in your ministry;  
Trust in God for true success.  
There's a place in the service for all.  
It's the work Jesus did, you'll recall.  
Look to God for support that you may not fall,  
Standing firm for righteousness.
2. Move ahead, move ahead, boldly witnessing!  
Everlasting good news to all sorts of people bring.  
Join in praise to Jehovah, our God and King,  
As we preach from door to door.  
Though opposers would like us to fear,  
Don't hold back, but let ev'ryone hear.  
Tell the news that the Kingdom of God is here.  
Teach the truth yet more and more.
3. Move ahead, move ahead, always follow through,  
And improve in your skills,  
for there's so much work to do.  
Let the spirit of God keep on leading you.  
Find the joy that is divine.  
Love the people you work hard to find.  
Keep returning to reach heart and mind.  
And assist them to grow and to be refined,  
So the light of truth will shine.

MARCH 2019

THE  **WATCHTOWER**  
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:  
MAY 6–JUNE 2, 2019

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Study Article 10: May 6-12	2
<b>What Prevents Me From Getting Baptized?</b>	

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Study Article 11: May 13-19	16
<b>Listen to Jehovah's Voice</b>	

---

Study Article 12: May 20-26	29
<b>Show Concern for the Feelings of Others</b>	

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Study Article 13: May 27–June 2	42
<b>Show Fellow Feeling in Your Ministry</b>	

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<b>Goodness—How Can You Cultivate It?</b>	56
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## COVER PICTURE:

Away from the crowd, Jesus compassionately heals a deaf man  
(See study article 12, paragraph 11)

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1. Because Jehovah created  
The universe so grand,  
To him belong the earth and sky,  
The works of his own hand.  
The breath of life he has given  
And to his creatures shown  
That worthy is he to have the praise,  
The worship of all his own.
2. In water Jesus was baptized  
To righteousness fulfill.  
In solemn prayer he said to God:  
'I've come to do your will.'  
When he came up from the Jordan  
As God's anointed Son,  
Obedient and loyal he would pray:  
'My Father, your will be done.'
3. We come before you, Jehovah,  
To praise your name so great.  
Disowning self, with humble hearts,  
Our lives we dedicate.  
You gave your only begotten,  
Who paid the price so high.  
No longer as living for ourselves,  
For you we will live or die.

# What Prevents Me From Getting Baptized?

*“Philip and the eunuch went down into the water,  
and he baptized him.”—ACTS 8:38.*

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## SONG 52

Christian Dedication

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## PREVIEW

The most important decision you will ever make is whether you will get baptized or not. Why is that decision so important? This article will answer that question. It will also help those who are thinking about getting baptized to overcome challenges that might be holding them back.

**WHO do you think should set the standards for what is good and what is bad? When Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and bad, they sent a clear message: They did not trust Jehovah and his standards. They chose to set their own standards of good and bad. (Gen. 3:22) But look at what they lost. They lost their friendship with Jehovah. They also lost the opportunity to live forever, and they passed sin and death on to their children. (Rom. 5:12) Adam and Eve's choice led to misery.**

**<sup>2</sup> Compare the way Adam and Eve behaved with the way that the Ethiopian eunuch responded when Philip preached to him. The eunuch appreciated so much what Jehovah and Jesus had done for him that he immediately got baptized. (Acts 8:34-38) When we dedicate ourselves to God and, like that eunuch, get baptized, we send a clear message. We show that we appreciate what Jehovah and Jesus have done for us. We also show that we trust Jehovah and recognize that he is the one who should set the standard of good and bad.**

- 
- 1. What did Adam and Eve lose, and with what result?**
  - 2-3. (a) How did the Ethiopian eunuch respond when Philip preached to him? (b) What blessings do we receive by getting baptized, and what questions will we consider?**

**<sup>3</sup> Think of the blessings we receive when we serve Jehovah! For one thing, we have the prospect of eventually gaining all that Adam and Eve lost, including the opportunity to live forever. Because of our faith in Jesus Christ, Jehovah forgives our mistakes and gives us a clean conscience. (Matt. 20:28; Acts 10:43) We also become part of Jehovah's family of approved servants with a blessed future ahead of us. (John 10:14-16; Rom.**

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After he accepted Jesus, the Ethiopian eunuch wanted to get baptized as soon as possible  
(See paragraphs 2-3)





8:20, 21) Despite these obvious benefits, though, some who have come to know Jehovah hesitate to follow the example of the Ethiopian eunuch. What might prevent them from getting baptized? And how can they overcome those challenges?

## **CHALLENGES THAT PREVENT SOME FROM GETTING BAPTIZED**

<sup>4</sup> **Lack of confidence.** Avery's parents are Jehovah's Witnesses. His father has an excellent reputation as a caring father and an effective elder. Yet, Avery held back from getting baptized. Why? "I did not think that I would be able to live up to my father's reputation," he says. Avery also lacked confidence that he would be able to handle responsibilities that he might be given in the future. "I worried about being asked to pray in public, to give talks, or to lead a group in the field service."

<sup>5</sup> Hannah, aged 18, suffered from a severe lack of confidence. She was raised by parents who serve Jehovah. Even so, she doubted that she could live by Jehovah's standards. Why? Hannah

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4-5. What challenges did a young man named Avery and a young woman named Hannah face?

had developed a very low opinion of herself. At times, she felt so bad that she would deliberately injure herself, which only made things worse. “I never told anyone about what I did, not even my parents,” she says, “and I imagined that Jehovah would never want me because of what I was doing to myself.”

**6 Influence of friends.** Vanessa, aged 22, says, “I had a really good friend whom I had known for almost a decade.” However, Vanessa’s friend did not support Vanessa in her goal of getting baptized. That hurt Vanessa, and she says, “I find it hard to make friends, and I was worried that if I ended that relationship, I would never have another close friend.”

**7 Fear of failure.** Makayla was five years old when her brother was disfellowshipped. As she grew up, she saw the impact that her brother’s actions had on her parents. “I was afraid that if I got baptized,” says Makayla, “I would make a mistake, be disfellowshipped, and bring even more sadness to my parents.”

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6. What held Vanessa back from getting baptized?

7. A young woman named Makayla was afraid of what, and why?

**<sup>8</sup> Fear of opposition.** Miles' father and step-mother serve Jehovah, but his mother is not a Witness. "I lived with my mother for 18 years," says Miles, "and I was afraid to tell her that I wanted to get baptized. I had seen the way she reacted when my father became a Witness. I was afraid that she would cause trouble for me."

## **HOW CAN YOU OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES?**

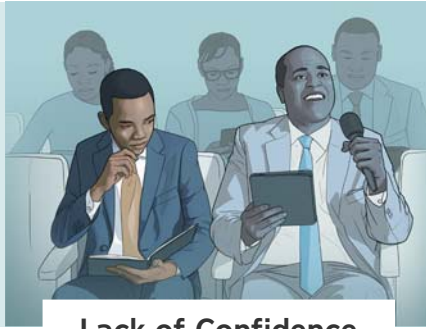
**<sup>9</sup> Adam and Eve** chose not to serve Jehovah because they failed to develop a strong love for him. Even so, Jehovah allowed them to live long enough to have children and to set their own standards for raising those children. The results of Adam and Eve's decision to be independent of Jehovah soon made it clear how foolish they had been. Their oldest son murdered his innocent brother, and in time violence and selfishness dominated the human family. (Gen. 4:8; 6:11-13) All the while, Jehovah had a means to save all of Adam and Eve's children who want to serve him. (John 6:38-40, 57,

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**8.** What did a young man named Miles fear?

**9.** What will likely happen when you learn how loving and patient Jehovah is?

Challenges  
some face before  
choosing to get  
baptized  
(See paragraphs 4-8)



Lack of Confidence



Influence of Friends

How you can  
overcome these  
challenges  
(See paragraphs 9-16)



58) As you learn more about how patient and loving Jehovah is, your love for him will likely grow. You will want to reject the course that Adam and Eve chose and dedicate yourself to Jehovah.

<sup>10</sup> **Continue learning about Jehovah.** The more you learn about Jehovah, the more confident you will become that you can serve him successfully. Avery, mentioned earlier, says: “I gained confidence by reading about and meditating on the promise found at Psalm 19:7.” (Read.) When Avery saw how Jehovah fulfilled that assurance, his

10. Why can meditating on Psalm 19:7 help you to serve Jehovah?



Fear of Failure



Fear of Opposition



love for God grew stronger. Love not only builds confidence but also helps us to focus on Jehovah and on what he wants. Hannah, mentioned earlier, says: “Through my personal Bible reading and study, I came to realize that when I hurt myself, I hurt Jehovah as well.” (1 Pet. 5:7) Hannah became a ‘doer of God’s word.’ (Jas. 1:22) With what result? She says: “When I saw how obeying Jehovah benefited me, I developed a strong love for him. Now I’m sure that Jehovah will always guide me when I need his help.” Hannah was able to overcome the urge to hurt herself. She dedicated herself to Jehovah and got baptized.

**<sup>11</sup> Choose your friends wisely.** Vanessa, mentioned earlier, eventually realized that her friend was holding her back from serving Jehovah. So she ended the friendship. But Vanessa did more. She worked hard to make new friends, inside the congregation. She says that the example set by Noah and his family helped her. “They were surrounded by people who didn’t love Jehovah,” she says, “but they had good association with one another.” After she got baptized, Vanessa became a pioneer. She now says, “This has helped me to make good friends not only in my own congregation but also in other congregations.” You too can make good friends by being as involved as possible in the work that Jehovah has assigned us to do. —Matt. 24:14.

**<sup>12</sup> Have a balanced view of fear.** Some kinds of fear are good for us. For example, we need to have a healthy fear of displeasing Jehovah. (Ps. 111:10) If Adam and Eve had developed that type of fear, they would not have rebelled against Jehovah. But they did rebel. After they did so, their eyes were

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**11.** What did Vanessa do to make good friends, and what can we learn from this?

**12.** What kind of fear did Adam and Eve lack, and with what result?

opened in that they became fully aware that they were sinners. They could only pass sin and death on to their children. Because they could see, or understand, their condition, they became ashamed of their nakedness and covered themselves.—Gen. 3:7, 21.

<sup>13</sup> While we need to have a healthy fear of Jehovah, we do not need to have a morbid fear of death. Jehovah has made a way for us to gain everlasting life. If we commit a sin but are genuinely repentant, Jehovah will overlook our mistakes. He will forgive us in line with our faith in the ransom sacrifice of his Son. A primary way we show faith is by dedicating our life to God and getting baptized.—Read 1 Peter 3:21.

<sup>14</sup> We have many reasons to love Jehovah. Not only does he supply the good things we enjoy each day but he also teaches us the truth about himself and his purposes. (John 8:31, 32) He has given us the Christian congregation to guide and support us. He helps us carry our burdens now, and he offers us the hope of living forever in perfect

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13-14. (a) In line with 1 Peter 3:21, why do we not need to have a morbid fear of death? (b) What reasons do we have to love Jehovah?

conditions in the future. (Ps. 68:19; Rev. 21:3, 4) When we meditate on how much Jehovah has already done to show that he loves us, we are drawn to love him. And when we love Jehovah, we gain a balanced view of fear. We fear hurting the One we have come to love so much.

<sup>15</sup> Makayla, mentioned earlier, overcame her fear of failure when she understood just how forgiving Jehovah is. “I realized that we are all imperfect and will make mistakes. But I also came to understand that Jehovah loves us and will forgive us on the basis of the ransom.” Her love for Jehovah moved her to dedicate herself to him and get baptized.

<sup>16</sup> Miles, who was afraid that his mother would oppose his decision to get baptized, sought help from the circuit overseer. “He too had grown up in a religiously divided household,” says Miles. “He helped me to think about what I could say to convince my mother that it was my decision to get baptized and that my father was not pushing me to do so.” Miles’ mother did not react well. Eventually, he had to move out of her home, but he

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15. How did Makayla overcome her fear of failure?

16. How was Miles helped to overcome his fear of opposition?





We can show that we appreciate what God has done for us  
(See paragraph 17)

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stuck to his decision. “Learning about the good things that Jehovah has done for me touched my heart,” he says. “When I thought deeply about the ransom sacrifice of Jesus, I came to realize just how much Jehovah loves me. That thought moved me to dedicate myself to Jehovah and get baptized.”

## STICK TO YOUR DECISION

<sup>17</sup> When Eve ate of the fruit from that tree in Eden, she rejected her Father. When Adam joined her, he displayed a callous lack of appreciation for all the good that Jehovah had done for him. We all have the opportunity to show just how much we disagree with the decision that Adam and Eve made. By getting baptized, we show Jehovah that we believe that he has the authority to set the standard of what is right and what is wrong for us. We prove that we love our Father and trust in him.

<sup>18</sup> The challenge we face after baptism is to live each day by Jehovah's standards, not our own. Millions of people are living that way each year. You can be like them if you continue to deepen your understanding of God's Word, the Bible; associate regularly with your brothers and sisters; and zealously share what you have learned about your loving Father. (Heb. 10:24, 25) When you make decisions, listen to the advice Jehovah gives you through his Word and his organization. (Isa. 30:21) Then all you do will be successful. —Prov. 16:3, 20.

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17. What opportunity do we have?

18. How can you succeed in serving Jehovah?

**19** When you continue to recognize how much you benefit from Jehovah's guidance, your love for him and his standards will grow. Then nothing Satan offers you will entice you away from serving Jehovah. Imagine yourself a thousand years from now. You will look back on your decision to get baptized as the best decision you ever made!

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**19.** What should you continue to recognize, and why?

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**PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Pages 8-9: Confidence:** A young man is nervous about commenting, so he enhances his personal study.

**Friends:** A young Witness with a bad associate is embarrassed when she sees fellow Witnesses. She learns to be proud to be a Witness.

**Failure:** When her brother is disfellowshipped and leaves home, a young girl is concerned that she too might fail. But she makes the truth her own and gets baptized. **Opposition:** A boy is nervous about praying while his unbelieving mother looks on. Later, he courageously explains his beliefs to her.

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### HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- What do we gain by getting baptized?
- What challenges do some face?
- What will help us to succeed in serving Jehovah?

# 28 *Gaining Jehovah's Friendship* (Psalm 15)

1. Who is your friend, O God?

Who in your tent may dwell?

Who gains your friendship? Who gains your trust?

Who really knows you well?

All who embrace your Word,

All who have faith in you,

All who are loyal, all who are just,

Living the truth for you.

2. Who is your friend, O God?

Who may approach your throne?

Who brings delight and makes you rejoice?

Whose name to you is known?

All who exalt your name,

All who your Word obey,

All who are faithful, honest in heart,

Truthful in all they say.

3. Throwing our cares on you,

Baring our hearts in prayer,

Drawing us closer, bonding in love,

Feeling your daily care,

We yearn to be your friend.

Long may our friendship grow.

No greater Friend could we ever gain,

No greater Friend we'll know.

