

- Song 33 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD**

- **“Do Not Be Anxious Over Anything”:** (10 min.)  
[Play the video *Introduction to Philippians.*]  
Php 4:6—Turn your worries into prayers (*w17.08 10 ¶10*)

Php 4:7—Let “the peace of God” safeguard you (*w17.08 10 ¶7; 12 ¶16*)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
Php 2:17—How was the apostle Paul “being poured out like a drink offering”? (*it-2 528 ¶5*)

Php 3:11—What is “the earlier resurrection”? (*w07 1/1 26-27 ¶5*)

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) Php 4:10-23 (5)

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Second Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Play and discuss the video.
- **Second Return Visit:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (4)
- **Bible Study:** (5 min. or less) *fg* lesson 6 ¶3-4 (8)

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 45
- **Who’s in Control—You or Your Devices?:** (5 min.) Play the video (video category *TEENAGERS*). Then answer the following questions: How are electronic devices helpful? What negative effects can addiction to electronic devices have? How can you find out if you are addicted to them? What are some practical ways to “make sure of the more important things”? (Php 1:10)
- **“Choose Your Entertainment Wisely”:** (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *What Entertainment Should I Choose?* (video category *FAMILY*).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jy* chap. 72
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 76 and Prayer

PHILIPPIANS 1-4 | “Do Not Be Anxious Over Anything”



**4:6, 7**

- Prayer is the antidote to worry
- If we pray in faith, Jehovah will give us peace that “surpasses all understanding”
- Although we may not see a way out of our problems, Jehovah can help us to endure. He may even do the unexpected.—1Co 10:13



What are causes of anxiety in my life?

How can I show greater trust in Jehovah?



# Throw Your Burden on Jehovah

(Psalm 55)

Eb Eb/G Abma7 Fm/Ab Eb/Bb Bb Ebsus4 Eb  
 "Lis - ten to my prayer," Je - ho - vah.  
 Had I wings just as a dove has,  
 Com - fort from our God, Je - ho - vah,

Ab Bb/Ab Eb/G Fm/Bb Bb Ab/Eb Bb7/Eb Eb  
 Let your - self be found by me.  
 Far from dan - ger I would fly,  
 Al - ways brings us peace of mind.

Eb Fm/D G7 Cm G7/B Eb/Bb F/A  
 Feel the an - guish deep in - side me;  
 Safe from those who seek to hurt me,  
 He will help us bear our bur - den.

Eb/Bb Eb/G Abma7 Fm/Ab Eb/Bb Bb7 Ebsus4 Eb  
 Help me un - a - fraid to be.  
 Shel - tered from their hate - ful cry.  
 He is lov - ing; he is kind.

# Throw Your Burden on Jehovah

Chorus

B B<sup>o</sup> C#m7 F# B/D# F#7sus4 F#7 E/B B C#m/B B

Throw your bur - den on Je - ho - vah;

Ema7 F#9/E B/D# F#7sus4 F#7 Bsus4 B Bb7sus4 Bb7

Trust in him to sus - tain and save you.

Eb Abma7 Bb/Ab Eb/G Bb7/F Eb Fm7 Fm6

He will al - ways give pro - tec - tion.

Eb/G Abma7 Fm/Ab Eb/Bb Bb7 Eb

He is loy - al; he is true.

of faith,<sup>a</sup> with which you will be able to extinguish all the wicked one's burning arrows.<sup>\*b</sup> **17** Also, accept the helmet of salvation,<sup>c</sup> and the sword of the spirit, that is, God's word,<sup>d</sup> **18** while with every form of prayer<sup>e</sup> and supplication you carry on prayer on every occasion in spirit.<sup>f</sup> And to that end stay awake, constantly making supplication in behalf of all the holy ones. **19** Pray also for me, that the words may be given to me when I open my mouth, so that I may be able to speak boldly in making known the sacred secret of the good news,<sup>g</sup> **20** for which I am acting as an

6:16 \*Or "missiles; darts."

## CHAP. 6

a 1Jo 5:4

b 1Pe 5:8, 9

c Isa 59:17  
1Th 5:8

d Heb 4:12

e Col 4:2

f Jude 20

g Col 4:3

## Second Col.

a 2Co 5:20

b 2Ti 4:12  
Tit 3:12

c Col 4:7, 8

ambassador<sup>a</sup> in chains, and that I may speak about it with boldness, as I ought to speak.

**21** Now so that you may also know about me and how I am doing, Tych'i-cus,<sup>b</sup> a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you.<sup>c</sup> **22** I am sending him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know how we are and that he may comfort your hearts.

**23** May the brothers have peace and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **24** May the undeserved kindness be with all those loving our Lord Jesus Christ in incorruptness.

## TO THE

## PHILIPPIANS

## OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1</b> Greetings (1, 2)<br/>Thanks to God; Paul's prayer (3-11)<br/>Good news advances despite trouble (12-20)<br/>To live is Christ, to die is gain (21-26)<br/>Behave in manner worthy of the good news (27-30)</p> <p><b>2</b> Christian humility (1-4)<br/>Christ's humility and exaltation (5-11)<br/>Work out your own salvation (12-18)<br/>Shining as illuminators (15)<br/>Sending Timothy and Epaphroditus (19-30)</p> | <p><b>3</b> Not basing confidence in the flesh (1-11)<br/>All things loss on account of Christ (7-9)<br/>Stretching forward to the goal (12-21)<br/>Citizenship in the heavens (20)</p> <p><b>4</b> Unity, rejoicing, proper thoughts (1-9)<br/>Do not be anxious over anything (6, 7)<br/>Appreciation for Philippians' gifts (10-20)<br/>Final greetings (21-23)</p> |
|---|--|

**1** Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus, to all the holy ones in union with Christ Jesus who are in Phi-lip'pi,<sup>a</sup> along with overseers and ministerial servants:<sup>b</sup>

## CHAP. 1

a Ac 16:12

b 1Ti 3:1, 8

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

**3** I thank my God always when I remember you **4** in every sup-

plication of mine for all of you. I offer each supplication with joy,<sup>a</sup> **5** because of the contribution you have made to\* the good news from the first day until this moment. **6** For I am confident of this very thing, that the one who started a good work in you will bring it to completion<sup>b</sup> until the day of Christ Jesus.<sup>c</sup> **7** It is only right for me to think this regarding all of you, since I have you in my heart, you who are sharers with me in the undeserved kindness both in my prison bonds<sup>d</sup> and in the defending and legally establishing of the good news.<sup>e</sup>

**8** For God is my witness of how I am longing for all of you with such tender affection as Christ Jesus has. **9** And this is what I continue praying, that your love may abound still more and more<sup>f</sup> with accurate knowledge<sup>g</sup> and full discernment;<sup>h</sup> **10** that you may make sure of the more important things,<sup>i</sup> so that you may be flawless and not stumbling others<sup>j</sup> up to the day of Christ; **11** and that you may be filled with righteous fruit, which is through Jesus Christ,<sup>k</sup> to God's glory and praise.

**12** Now I want you to know, brothers, that my situation has actually turned out for the advancement of the good news, **13** so that my prison bonds<sup>l</sup> for the sake of Christ have become public knowledge<sup>m</sup> among all the Prae-to'ri-an Guard and all the rest. **14** Now most of the brothers in the Lord have gained confidence because of my prison bonds, and they are showing all the more courage to speak the word of God fearlessly.

**15** True, some are preaching the Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.

**1:5** \*Or "because of your participation in furthering."

CHAP. 1

a 1Th 1:2

b Php 2:13

c 1Co 1:8

d Eph 3:1  
Php 1:13  
Col 4:18  
2Ti 1:8  
Phm 13

e Ac 24:10, 14  
Ac 25:10-12

f 1Th 3:12

g Joh 17:3

h Heb 5:14

i Ro 12:2

j Ro 14:13, 21

k Joh 15:5

l Eph 3:1

m Ac 28:30, 31

Second Col.

a Php 1:7

b 2Co 1:11

c Joh 15:26

d Ro 14:8  
1Pe 4:16

e Ga 2:20

f 1Th 4:14  
2Ti 4:8  
Re 14:13

g 2Ti 4:6

h 2Co 5:6, 8

i Eph 4:1, 3  
Col 1:10

**16** The latter are proclaiming the Christ out of love, for they know that I have been appointed to defend the good news;<sup>a</sup> **17** but the former do it out of contentiousness, not with a pure motive, for they are intending to create trouble for me in my prison bonds. **18** With what result? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is being proclaimed, and I rejoice over this. In fact, I will also keep on rejoicing, **19** for I know that this will result in my salvation through your supplication<sup>b</sup> and with the support of the spirit of Jesus Christ.<sup>c</sup> **20** This is in harmony with my eager expectation and hope that I will not be ashamed in any respect, but that with all freeness of speech Christ will now, as always before, be magnified by means of my body, whether through life or through death.<sup>d</sup>

**21** For in my case, to live is Christ<sup>e</sup> and to die is gain.<sup>f</sup> **22** Now if I am to live on in the flesh, this is a fruitage of my work; yet what I would choose, I do not make known. **23** I am torn between these two things, for I do desire the releasing and the being with Christ,<sup>g</sup> which is, to be sure, far better.<sup>h</sup> **24** However, it is more necessary for me to remain in the flesh for your sakes. **25** So, being confident of this, I know I will remain and continue with all of you for your advancement and your joy in the faith, **26** so that your exultation may overflow in Christ Jesus because of me when I am again present with you.

**27** Only behave\* in a manner worthy of the good news about the Christ,<sup>i</sup> so that whether I come and see you or I am absent, I may hear about you and learn that you are standing firm

**1:27** \*Or "carry on as citizens."

in one spirit, with one soul,\*<sup>a</sup> striving side by side for the faith of the good news, **28** and in no way being frightened by your opponents. This very thing is a proof of destruction<sup>b</sup> for them, but of salvation for you;<sup>c</sup> and this is from God. **29** For you have been given the privilege in behalf of Christ, not only to put your faith in him but also to suffer in his behalf.<sup>d</sup> **30** For you are facing the same struggle that you saw me face,<sup>e</sup> which you now hear that I am still facing.

**2** If, then, there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any spiritual fellowship,\* if any tender affection and compassion, **2** make my joy full by being of the same mind and having the same love, being completely united,\* having the one thought in mind.<sup>f</sup> **3** Do nothing out of contentiousness<sup>g</sup> or out of egotism,<sup>h</sup> but with humility\* consider others superior to you,<sup>i</sup> **4** as you look out not only for your own interests,<sup>j</sup> but also for the interests of others.<sup>k</sup>

**5** Keep this mental attitude in you that was also in Christ Jesus,<sup>l</sup> **6** who, although he was existing in God's form,<sup>m</sup> gave no consideration to a seizure, namely, that he should be equal to God.<sup>n</sup> **7** No, but he emptied himself and took a slave's form<sup>o</sup> and became human.\*<sup>p</sup> **8** More than that, when he came as a man,\* he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death,<sup>q</sup> yes, death on a torture stake.<sup>r</sup> **9** For this very reason, God exalted him to a su-

1:27 \*Or "with one accord." 2:1 \*Lit., "any sharing of spirit." 2:2 \*Or "being joined together in soul." 2:3 \*Or "lowliness of mind." 2:7 \*Lit., "came to be in the likeness of men." 2:8 \*Lit., "when he was found in appearance as a man." <sup>a</sup>See Glossary.

## CHAP. 1

- a Ro 15:5, 6  
1Co 1:10  
b 2Th 1:6  
c Lu 21:19  
2Th 1:4, 5  
d Ac 5:41  
e Ac 16:22, 23  
1Th 2:2

## CHAP. 2

- f 1Co 1:10  
2Co 13:11  
1Pe 3:8  
g Php 1:15, 17  
Jas 3:14, 16  
h Ga 5:26  
i Mt 23:11  
Eph 4:1, 2  
Eph 5:21  
j 1Co 13:4, 5  
k 1Co 10:24  
1Co 10:32, 33  
l Mt 11:29  
Joh 13:14, 15  
m Col 1:15  
Heb 1:3  
n Joh 14:28  
o Isa 53:2, 3  
p Joh 1:14  
q Joh 10:17  
Heb 2:9  
Heb 5:8  
r Ga 3:13

## Second Col.

- a Isa 52:13  
Ac 2:32, 33  
b Ac 4:12  
Eph 1:20, 21  
c Joh 5:22, 23  
d Ro 10:9  
e 1Co 10:10  
1Pe 4:9  
f 1Ti 2:8  
g Eph 5:1  
h De 32:5  
i Mt 5:14  
Eph 5:8, 9  
1Pe 2:9, 12  
j Joh 6:68  
Heb 4:12  
k Nu 28:6, 7  
2Co 12:15  
2Ti 4:6  
l Heb 13:15  
1Pe 2:5  
m 1Co 4:17  
1Co 16:10

perior position<sup>a</sup> and kindly gave him the name that is above every other name,<sup>b</sup> **10** so that in the name of Jesus every knee should bend—of those in heaven and those on earth and those under the ground<sup>c</sup>— **11** and every tongue should openly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord<sup>d</sup> to the glory of God the Father.

**12** Consequently, my beloved ones, just as you have always obeyed, not only during my presence but now much more readily during my absence, keep working out your own salvation with fear and trembling. **13** For God is the one who for the sake of his good pleasure energizes you, giving you both the desire and the power to act. **14** Keep doing all things free from murmuring<sup>e</sup> and arguments,<sup>f</sup> **15** so that you may come to be blameless and innocent, children of God<sup>g</sup> without a blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation,<sup>h</sup> among whom you are shining as illuminators in the world,<sup>i</sup> **16** keeping a tight grip on the word of life.<sup>j</sup> Then I may have reason for rejoicing in Christ's day, knowing that I did not run in vain or work hard in vain. **17** However, even if I am being poured out like a drink offering<sup>k</sup> on the sacrifice<sup>l</sup> and the holy service\* to which your faith has led you, I am glad and I rejoice with all of you. **18** In the same way, you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

**19** Now I am hoping in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy<sup>m</sup> to you shortly, so that I may be encouraged when I receive news about you. **20** For I have no one else of a disposition like his who will genuinely care for your concerns. **21** For all the others are seeking their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

2:17 \*Or "the public service."

**22** But you know the proof he gave of himself, that like a child<sup>a</sup> with a father he slaved with me to advance the good news. **23** Therefore, he is the one I am hoping to send just as soon as I see how things turn out for me. **24** Indeed, I am confident in the Lord that I myself will also come soon.<sup>b</sup>

**25** But for now I consider it necessary to send to you E-paphro-di'tus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your envoy and personal servant for my need,<sup>c</sup> **26** since he is longing to see all of you and is depressed because you heard he had fallen sick. **27** Indeed, he did fall sick nearly to the point of death; but God had mercy on him, in fact, not only on him but also on me, so that I should not have one grief after another. **28** Therefore, I am sending him with the greatest urgency, so that when you see him you may again rejoice and I may also be less anxious. **29** So give him the customary welcome in the Lord with all joy, and keep holding men of that sort dear,<sup>d</sup> **30** because he nearly died on account of the work of Christ,<sup>e</sup> risking his life<sup>f</sup> in order to make up for your not being here to render personal service to me.<sup>g</sup>

**3** Finally, my brothers, continue rejoicing in the Lord.<sup>f</sup> It is not troublesome for me to write the same things to you, and it is for your safety.

**2** Look out for the dogs; look out for those who cause injury; look out for those who mutilate the flesh.<sup>g</sup> **3** For we are those with the real circumcision,<sup>h</sup> we who are rendering sacred service by God's spirit and boasting in Christ Jesus<sup>i</sup> and who do

**2:30** \*Or possibly, "of the Lord's work."  
<sup>a</sup>Or "exposing his soul to danger."

## CHAP. 2

a 2Ti 1:2

b Phm 22

c Php 4:18

d 1Co 16:18

1Th 5:12, 13

e Phm 10, 13

## CHAP. 3

f 2Co 13:11

Php 4:4

1Th 5:16

g Ga 5:2

h Jer 4:4

Ro 2:29

Col 2:11

i Ga 6:14

Heb 9:13, 14

## Second Col.

a Ge 17:12

Le 12:3

b 2Co 11:22

c Ac 23:6

Ac 26:4, 5

d Ac 8:3

Ac 9:1, 2

Ga 1:13

e Mt 13:44

f Ro 4:5

g Ga 2:15, 16

h Ro 3:20-22

i 1Co 15:22

2Co 13:4

j Ro 8:17

2Co 4:10

Col 1:24

k Ro 6:5

l 1Th 4:16

Re 20:6

m Lu 13:24

n 1Ti 6:12

not base our confidence in the flesh, **4** though I, if anyone, do have grounds for confidence in the flesh.

If any other man thinks he has grounds for confidence in the flesh, I have more: **5** circumcised the eighth day,<sup>a</sup> of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born from Hebrews;<sup>b</sup> regarding law, a Pharisee;<sup>c</sup> **6** regarding zeal, persecuting the congregation;<sup>d</sup> regarding righteousness based on law, one who proved himself blameless. **7** Yet, the things that were gains to me, I have considered loss\* on account of the Christ.<sup>e</sup> **8** What is more, I do indeed also consider all things to be loss on account of the excelling value of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have taken the loss of all things and I consider them as a lot of refuse,<sup>f</sup> that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in union with him, not because of my own righteousness from following the Law, but because of the righteousness that is through faith<sup>g</sup> in Christ,<sup>g</sup> the righteousness from God based on faith.<sup>h</sup> **10** My aim is to know him and the power of his resurrection<sup>i</sup> and to share in his sufferings,<sup>j</sup> submitting myself to a death like his,<sup>k</sup> **11** to see if at all possible I may attain to the earlier resurrection from the dead.<sup>l</sup>

**12** Not that I have already received it or am already made perfect, but I am pressing on<sup>m</sup> to see if I may also lay hold on that for which Christ Jesus selected me.<sup>n</sup> **13** Brothers, I do not yet consider myself as having taken hold of it; but one thing is certain: Forgetting the

**3:7** \*Or possibly, "have willingly abandoned."  
**3:8** \*Or "garbage; rubbish."  
**3:12** \*Lit., "laid hold on me."

things behind<sup>a</sup> and stretching forward to the things ahead,<sup>b</sup>

**14** I am pressing on toward the goal for the prize<sup>c</sup> of the upward call<sup>d</sup> of God by means of Christ Jesus. **15** Therefore, let those of us who are mature<sup>e</sup> be of this mental attitude, and if you are mentally inclined otherwise in any respect, God will reveal the above attitude to you. **16** At any rate, to the extent we have made progress, let us go on walking orderly in this same course.

**17** Unitedly become imitators of me,<sup>f</sup> brothers, and keep your eye on those who are walking in a way that is in harmony with the example we set for you. **18** For there are many—I used to mention them often but now I mention them also with weeping—who are walking as enemies of the torture stake\* of the Christ. **19** Their end is destruction, and their god is their belly, and their glory is really their shame, and they have their minds on earthly things.<sup>g</sup> **20** But our citizenship<sup>h</sup> exists in the heavens,<sup>i</sup> and we are eagerly waiting for a savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>j</sup> **21** who will transform our humble body to be like\* his glorious body<sup>k</sup> by his great power that enables him to subject all things to himself.<sup>l</sup>

**4** Consequently, my brothers whom I love and long for, my joy and crown,<sup>m</sup> stand firm<sup>n</sup> in this way in the Lord, my beloved ones.

**2** I urge Eu-o'di-a and I urge Syn'ty-che to be of the same mind in the Lord.<sup>o</sup> **3** Yes, I request you also, as a true fellow worker,\* to keep assisting these women who have striven<sup>p</sup> side

**3:18** \*See Glossary. **3:21** \*Lit., "to be conformed to." **4:3** \*Lit., "genuine yokefellow." #Or "who have struggled hard."

## CHAP. 3

a Lu 9:62

b 1Co 9:24

c 2Ti 4:8

Heb 12:1

d Heb 3:1

e 1Co 14:20

Heb 5:14

f 1Co 4:16

2Th 3:9

g Ro 8:5

Jas 3:15

h Eph 2:19

i Joh 18:36

Eph 2:6

Col 3:1

j 1Co 1:7

1Th 1:10

Tit 2:13

Heb 9:28

k 1Co 15:42, 49

l 1Co 15:27

Heb 2:8

## CHAP. 4

m 1Th 2:19

n Php 1:27

o Ro 15:5, 6

1Co 1:10

2Co 13:11

Php 2:2

1Pe 3:8

## Second Col.

a Ps 69:28

Lu 10:20

b Ps 64:10

1Th 5:16

c Tit 3:2

Jas 3:17

d Mt 6:25

Lu 12:22

e Joh 16:23

Ro 12:12

1Pe 5:6, 7

f Joh 16:33

Ro 5:1

g Col 3:15

h Col 3:2

i Php 3:17

j 2Co 11:8, 9

k 1Ti 6:6, 8

Heb 13:5

l 1Co 4:11

2Co 6:4, 10

2Co 11:27

by side with me for the good news, along with Clement as well as the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.<sup>a</sup>

**4** Always rejoice in the Lord. Again I will say, Rejoice!<sup>b</sup> **5** Let your reasonableness<sup>c</sup> become known to all men. The Lord is near. **6** Do not be anxious over anything,<sup>d</sup> but in everything by prayer and supplication along with thanksgiving, let your petitions be made known to God;<sup>e</sup> **7** and the peace<sup>f</sup> of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts<sup>g</sup> and your mental powers\* by means of Christ Jesus.

**8** Finally, brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are of serious concern, whatever things are righteous, whatever things are chaste,\* whatever things are lovable, whatever things are well-spoken-of, whatever things are virtuous, and whatever things are praiseworthy, continue considering<sup>#</sup> these things.<sup>h</sup> **9** The things that you learned as well as accepted and heard and saw in connection with me, practice these,<sup>i</sup> and the God of peace will be with you.

**10** I rejoice greatly in the Lord that now at last you have renewed your concern for me.<sup>j</sup> Though you were concerned about me, you lacked opportunity to show it. **11** Not that I am saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be self-sufficient\* regardless of my circumstances.<sup>k</sup> **12** I know how to be low on provisions<sup>l</sup> and how to have an abundance. In everything and in all circumstances I have learned the secret of both how to be full and how to hun-

**4:7** \*Or "your minds; your thoughts."

**4:8** \*Or "pure." #Or "thinking about; meditating on." **4:11** \*Or "content."



ger, both how to have an abundance and how to do without. **13** For all things I have the strength through the one who gives me power.<sup>a</sup>

**14** Nevertheless, you did well to share with me in my tribulation. **15** In fact, you Phi-lip'pi-ans also know that after you first learned the good news, when I departed from Mac-e-do'ni-a, not a congregation shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you alone;<sup>b</sup> **16** for while I was in Thes-sa-lo-ni'ca, you sent something to me for my need not just once but twice. **17** Not that I am looking for a gift, but I want the fruitage that brings more credit to your account. **18** However, I have everything I need

CHAP. 4  
a Isa 40:29  
2Co 4:7  
2Co 12:9,10

b 2Co 11:8, 9

Second Col.  
a Php 2:25

b Ex 29:18

c 2Co 9:8

d Php 1:12,13

and even more. I am fully supplied, now that I have received from E-paph-ro-di'tus<sup>a</sup> what you sent, a sweet fragrance,<sup>b</sup> an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. **19** In turn my God will fully supply all your need<sup>c</sup> according to his riches in glory by means of Christ Jesus. **20** Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**21** Give my greetings to every holy one in union with Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me send you their greetings. **22** All the holy ones, but especially those of the household of Caesar,<sup>d</sup> send you their greetings.

**23** The undeserved kindness of the Lord Jesus Christ be with the spirit you show.

## TO THE COLOSSIANS

### OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Greetings (1, 2)<br/>Thanks for the Colossians' faith (3-8)<br/>Prayer for spiritual growth (9-12)<br/>Christ's central role (13-23)<br/>Paul's hard work for the congregation (24-29)</p> <p>2 Sacred secret of God, Christ (1-5)<br/>Watch out for deceivers (6-15)<br/>Reality belongs to Christ (16-23)</p> | <p>3 The old and the new personality (1-17)<br/>Deaden body members (5)<br/>Love, a perfect bond of union (14)<br/>Advice to Christian households (18-25)</p> <p>4 Advice to masters (1)<br/>"Persevere in prayer" (2-4)<br/>Walking in wisdom toward outsiders (5, 6)<br/>Final greetings (7-18)</p> |
|--|---|

**1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through God's will, and Timothy<sup>a</sup> our brother, **2** to the holy ones and faithful brothers in union with Christ at Co-los'sae:

CHAP. 1  
a 1Co 4:17

May you have undeserved kindness and peace from God our Father.

**3** We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, **4** since

- Song 33 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD**

- **“Do Not Be Anxious Over Anything”:** (10 min.)  
[Play the video *Introduction to Philippians.*]  
Php 4:6—Turn your worries into prayers (*w17.08 10 ¶10*)

Php 4:7—Let “the peace of God” safeguard you (*w17.08 10 ¶7; 12 ¶16*)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
Php 2:17—How was the apostle Paul “being poured out like a drink offering”? (*it-2 528 ¶5*)

Php 3:11—What is “the earlier resurrection”? (*w07 1/1 26-27 ¶5*)

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) Php 4:10-23 (5)

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Second Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Play and discuss the video.
- **Second Return Visit:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (4)
- **Bible Study:** (5 min. or less) *fg* lesson 6 ¶3-4 (8)

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 45
- **Who’s in Control—You or Your Devices?:** (5 min.) Play the video (video category *TEENAGERS*). Then answer the following questions: How are electronic devices helpful? What negative effects can addiction to electronic devices have? How can you find out if you are addicted to them? What are some practical ways to “make sure of the more important things”? (Php 1:10)
- **“Choose Your Entertainment Wisely”:** (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *What Entertainment Should I Choose?* (video category *FAMILY*).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jy* chap. 72
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 76 and Prayer

PHILIPPIANS 1-4 | “Do Not Be Anxious Over Anything”



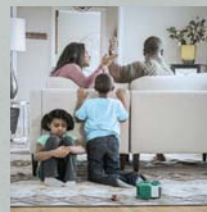
**4:6, 7**

- Prayer is the antidote to worry
- If we pray in faith, Jehovah will give us peace that “surpasses all understanding”
- Although we may not see a way out of our problems, Jehovah can help us to endure. He may even do the unexpected.—1Co 10:13



What are causes of anxiety in my life?

How can I show greater trust in Jehovah?



## June 24-30 / Philippians 1-4

- Song 33 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 minutes or less)

### Treasures From God's Word

**"Do Not Be Anxious Over Anything":** (10 minutes)

#### **Philippians 4:6—Turn your worries into prayers**

**Philippians 4:6:** Do not be anxious over anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication along with thanksgiving, let your petitions be made known to God;

#### **w17.08 10 paragraph 10**

What can help us not to be anxious over anything and to experience "the peace of God"? Paul's words to the Philippians show us that the antidote to worry is prayer. So when we are anxious, we need to turn our worries into prayers. (Read 1 Peter 5:6, 7.) Pray to Jehovah in full faith, knowing that he cares for you. Pray to him "with thanksgiving," remembering your blessings. Our confidence in him will be strengthened when we keep in mind that he can "do more than superabundantly beyond all the things we ask or conceive."—Ephesians 3:20.

#### **Philippians 4:7—Let "the peace of God" safeguard you**

**Philippians 4:7:** and the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your mental powers by means of Christ Jesus.

#### **w17.08 10 paragraph 7**

No doubt when the brothers in Philippi read Paul's letter to them, they remembered what had happened to him and how none of them had expected Jehovah to take action in the way that he did. What lesson was Paul teaching them? Basically: Do not worry. Pray, and then you will receive the peace of God. But notice that "the peace of God . . . surpasses all understanding." What does that mean? Some translators render this expression "surpasses all our dreams" or "excels all human planning." Paul was, in effect, saying that "the peace of God" is more wonderful than can be imagined. So although from a human viewpoint we may not see a way out of our problems, Jehovah does, and he can do the unexpected.—Read 2 Peter 2:9.

#### **w17.08 12 paragraph 16**

What results when we receive this "peace of God that surpasses all understanding"? The Scriptures answer by saying that it 'will guard our hearts and our mental powers by means of Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 4:7) The original-language word for "guard" was a military expression. It referred to a garrison of troops that was

assigned to guard a fortified city in ancient times. Philippi was such a city. The inhabitants of Philippi slept soundly at night, knowing that soldiers were guarding the gates of their city. In a similar manner, when we have "the peace of God," our hearts and minds remain at rest. We know that Jehovah cares for us and wants us to succeed. (1 Peter 5:10) That knowledge guards us from becoming overwhelmed by anxiety or discouragement.

## Digging for Spiritual Gems

**Philippians 2:17—How was the apostle Paul "being poured out like a drink offering"?**

**Philippians 2:17:** However, even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and the holy service to which your faith has led you, I am glad and I rejoice with all of you.

*it-2* 528 paragraph 5

*Drink offerings.* Drink offerings were presented along with most of the other offerings, especially after the Israelites had settled in the Promised Land. (Numbers 15:2, 5, 8-10) This consisted of wine ("intoxicating liquor") and was poured out on the altar. (Numbers 28:7, 14; compare Exodus 30:9; Numbers 15:10.) The apostle Paul wrote to the Christians at Philippi: "If I am being poured out like a drink offering upon the sacrifice and public service to which faith has led you, I am glad." Here he used the figure of a drink offering, expressing his willingness to expend himself in behalf of fellow Christians. (Philippians 2:17) Shortly before his death, he wrote to Timothy: "I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the due time for my releasing is imminent."—2 Timothy 4:6.

**Philippians 3:11—What is "the earlier resurrection"?**

**Philippians 3:11:** to see if at all possible I may attain to the earlier resurrection from the dead.

*w07* 1/1 26-27 paragraph 5

Next, anointed members of "the Israel of God" must join the Lord Jesus Christ in heavenly glory, where they will "always be with the Lord." (Galatians 6:16; 1 Thessalonians 4:17) That event is called "the earlier resurrection" or "the first resurrection." (Philippians 3:10, 11; Revelation 20:6) When that resurrection is completed, the time will be at hand for millions to be resurrected back to the earth with the prospect of gaining everlasting life in Paradise. Hence, whether our hope is heavenly or earthly, we have a keen interest in "the first resurrection." What kind of resurrection is it? When does it occur?

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) Philippians 4:10-23 (*th* study 5)

- Song 33 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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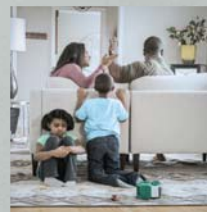
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What are causes of anxiety in my life?

How can I show greater trust in Jehovah?





# Our Christian Life and Ministry

## MEETING WORKBOOK

### Sample Conversations



#### INITIAL CALL

**Question:** Are we living in the last days?

**Scripture:** 2Ti 3:1-5

**Link:** What will happen after the last days?



#### FIRST RETURN VISIT

**Question:** What will happen after the last days?

**Scripture:** Re 21:3, 4

**Link:** How can we enjoy the future God has promised?



#### SECOND RETURN VISIT

**Question:** How can we enjoy the future God has promised?

**Scripture:** Joh 3:16

**Link:** What does it mean to exercise faith?






# 6


## What Hope Is There for the Dead?



### 1. What is the good news about the dead?

When Jesus arrived at Bethany near Jerusalem, his friend Lazarus had been dead for four days. Jesus went to the burial place with Martha and Mary, sisters of the deceased man. Soon, a crowd gathered. Can you imagine the joy of Martha and Mary when Jesus raised Lazarus back to life?


 Read *John 11:21-24, 38-44*.

Martha was already aware of the good news about the dead. She knew that Jehovah will resurrect the dead to live on earth again.  Read *Job 14:14, 15*.



### 2. What is the condition of the dead?

Humans are made from dust. (Genesis 2:7; 3:19) We are not spirits living in a body of flesh. We are physical creatures, so no part of us survives death. When we die, our brain dies too, and our thoughts perish. Thus, Lazarus said nothing about his experience of death because the dead are unconscious.

 Read *Psalm 146:4; Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10*.

Does God torment people with fire after death? Since the Bible shows that the dead are unconscious, hellfire is clearly a false teaching that slanders God. The very idea of tormenting people with fire disgusts him.

 Read *Jeremiah 7:31*.

---

God told Adam:  
“Dust you are and  
to dust you will  
return.”—GENESIS 3:19.

# The Meditation of My Heart

(Psalm 19:14)

C Fm6/C C

The med - i - ta - tion of my heart, The  
 What - ev - er things are chaste and true, What -

C Gm/Bb A7sus4 A7

thoughts I pon - der through the day— May  
 ev - er vir - tue there may be, What -

Dm Gm/Bb A7+5 Dm

they be pleas - ing to you, Lord, And keep me  
 ev - er things well - spo - ken - of— May thoughts of

Am7 D7 Dm11 G7 C Gm/Bb

stead - fast in your way. When wor - ries weigh up - on my  
 these bring peace to me. How pre - cious are your thoughts, O



# The Meditation of My Heart

A7sus4      A7      Dm      Gm/B♭      A7+5      Dm

mind God!      And Be - yond      make me rest - less in the night,      Then So

D#°      C/E      F/A      Fm/A♭

may I med - i - tate on you      And things I  
may I pon - der your own words,      Ab - sorbed in

C/G      G7sus4      G7      C

know them      to may be I      be - come.      up - right.

R.H.

- Song 33 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD**

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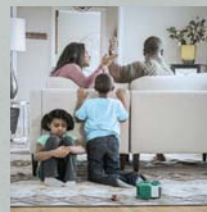
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What are causes of anxiety in my life?

How can I show greater trust in Jehovah?



## Choose Your Entertainment Wisely

Why must we choose our entertainment wisely? Because when we select a movie to watch, a song to listen to, a website to visit, a book to read, or a video game to play, we are choosing what to fill our mind with. Our choices affect our behavior. Sadly, much of the entertainment available today contains elements of things that Jehovah condemns. (Ps 11:5; Ga 5:19-21) For this reason, the Bible urges us to continue considering things that honor Jehovah.—Php 4:8.

### ACTIVE OR PASSIVE ENTERTAINMENT?

Much of today’s popular entertainment teaches a person to be passive rather than active. Movies, books, and television programs present another person’s creative ideas, not your own. While there is a place for *passive* entertainment, many have found *active* entertainment to be more rewarding. For instance, some enjoy playing a musical instrument or drawing a picture. Others enjoy outdoor recreation, such as playing sports or hiking or camping. Whatever entertainment we choose, let us “do all things for God’s glory.”—1Co 10:31.

WATCH THE VIDEO *WHAT ENTERTAINMENT SHOULD I CHOOSE? AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:*

- How are the ancient Roman gladiatorial games similar to some modern entertainment?

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- How can members of the congregation help younger ones to choose entertainment wisely?

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- How should Romans 12:9 affect our choice of entertainment?

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- What are some examples of wholesome entertainment in your area?

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## JESUS SENDS 70 DISCIPLES TO PREACH

LUKE 10:1-24

It is now late in the year 32 C.E., about three years since Jesus' baptism. He and his disciples recently were at the Festival of Tabernacles in Jerusalem. They likely are still nearby. (Luke 10:38; John 11:1) In fact, Jesus spends most of the remaining six months of his ministry in Judea or across the Jordan River in the district of Perea. Preaching is needed in these areas too.

Earlier, after the Passover of 30 C.E., Jesus spent some months preaching in Judea and traveling through Samaria. Then about the time of the Passover of 31 C.E., Jews in Jerusalem tried to kill him. For the next year and a half, Jesus taught mainly up north, in Galilee. During that time, many became his followers. In Galilee, Jesus trained his apostles and then sent them out with the instruction: "Preach, saying: 'The Kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.'" (Matthew 10:5-7) Now he organizes a witnessing campaign in Judea.

To start this campaign, Jesus chooses 70 disciples and sends them out by twos. Thus, there are 35 teams of Kingdom preachers in the territory, where "the harvest is great, but the workers are few." (Luke 10:2) They are to go in advance into places where Jesus might follow. The 70 are to cure the sick and spread the same message that Jesus has been proclaiming.

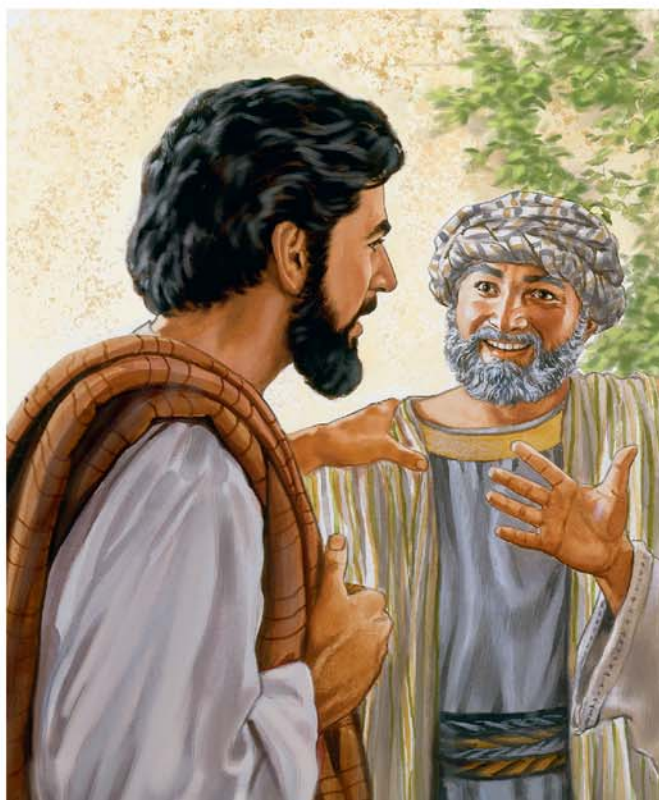
These disciples are not to focus on teaching in synagogues. Jesus tells them to go to people's homes. "Wherever you enter into a house," he instructs, "say first: 'May this house have peace.' And if a friend of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him." What is to be their message? Jesus says: "Tell them: 'The Kingdom of God has come near to you.'"—Luke 10:5-9.

The instructions Jesus gives the 70 are sim-

ilar to those he gave when sending out the 12 apostles about a year earlier. He warns them that not all will receive them well. Their efforts, though, will prepare receptive ones so that when Jesus arrives shortly afterward, many will be eager to meet the Master and learn from him.

Before long, the 35 pairs of Kingdom preachers return to Jesus. They tell him joyfully: "Lord, even the demons are made subject to us by the use of your name." This fine report surely thrills Jesus, for he responds: "I see Satan already fallen like lightning from heaven. Look! I have given you the authority to trample underfoot serpents and scorpions."—Luke 10:17-19.

Jesus thus assures his followers that they will be able to prevail over injurious things, symbolically trampling on serpents and scorpions.





Moreover, they can be certain that in the future Satan will fall from heaven. Jesus also helps the 70 to see what is really important in the long run. He says: “Do not rejoice because the spirits are made subject to you, but rejoice because your names have been written in the heavens.” —Luke 10:20.

Jesus is overjoyed and publicly praises his

Father for using these humble servants of his in such a powerful way. Turning to his disciples, he tells them: “Happy are the eyes that see the things you are seeing. For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see the things you are observing but did not see them, and to hear the things you are hearing but did not hear them.”—Luke 10:23, 24.

- 
- ◇ Where does Jesus preach during his final six months, and why does he concentrate his efforts there?
  - ◇ How were the 70 disciples to find people?
  - ◇ Though the 70 disciples accomplish much, what does Jesus say is of greater importance?





# How Does It Make You Feel?

(Hebrews 13:15)

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

How does it make you feel                      when you preach and teach with zeal,  
 How does it make you feel                      when the words you speak ap - peal  
 How does it make you feel,                      know - ing God's sup - port is real,

*E<sub>b</sub>                      A<sub>b</sub>                      E<sub>b</sub>/A<sub>b</sub>                      F<sub>m</sub>*

When you know you've done your part                      to reach an hon - est  
 To the ones whose heart is right                      for ev - er - last - ing  
 And that he's en - trust - ed you                      to do the work we

*B<sub>b</sub>                      F<sub>m</sub>7                      B<sub>b</sub>                                      E<sub>b</sub>                      A<sub>b</sub>                      B<sub>b</sub>*

heart?  
 life?  
 do?                      Know - ing you've done your best;  
    Some peo - ple turn a - way,  
    Proud - ly we preach and teach,

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

then our God will do the rest.                      Hon - est  
 oth - ers might be led a - stray.                      Still we're  
 us - ing bold but gra - cious speech,                      Search - ing



# How Does It Make You Feel?

Eb
Ab
Eb/Ab
Fm
Gm/Bb
Bb7

hearts he sure - ly knows— all those to him dis -  
 glad to bear his name and wit - ness just the  
 out de - serv - ing ones; this work will soon be

*Chorus*

Eb
Ab
Eb
Eb/G
Ab
Bb

posed.  
 same.  
 done.

It makes us glad, and we re -

Eb
Eb/G
Ab
Cm7
Bbsus4
Bb
Eb
Eb/G

joyce to give our heart and mind and voice. So may our

Ab
Cm7
Bbsus4
Eb
Ab
Eb

sac - ri - fice of praise con - tin - ue all our days.



APRIL 2019

# THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:  
JUNE 3-30, 2019

## IN THIS ISSUE

Study Article 14: June 3-9 2

**Are You Fully Accomplishing Your Ministry?**

Study Article 15: June 10-16 8

**Imitate Jesus and Remain at Peace**

Study Article 16: June 17-23 14

**Uphold the Truth About Death**

Study Article 17: June 24-30 20

**Accept Jehovah's Help to Resist Wicked Spirits**

LIFE STORY 26

**We Found the "Pearl of High Value"**

DID YOU KNOW? 31

**In ancient times, how did a traveler arrange sea passage?**

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## FEATURED CONTENT ON JW.ORG

### IMITATE THEIR FAITH

#### **Jonathan—"Nothing Can Hinder Jehovah"**

Jonathan led a two-man attack against an entire outpost of armed Philistines, and the outcome made history.

(Go to BIBLE TEACHINGS > FAITH IN GOD.)

### THE BIBLE CHANGES LIVES

#### **United With My Father at Last**

At 14 years of age, Renée left home because of his father's violence. What helped the two of them reconcile years later?

(Go to BIBLE TEACHINGS > PEACE & HAPPINESS.)

### COVER PICTURE:

After his resurrection, Jesus met with his disciples and instructed them to "go, . . . and make disciples"

(See study article 14, paragraph 1)

Visit the [jw.org](https://www.jw.org)® website, or scan code



# Fear Them Not!

(Matthew 10:28)

G/D D7 G Am11 D7/A G/B E+5 E/D Am/C E7/B Am

Ev - er on - ward, O my peo - ple, Let the King - dom tid - ings go.  
E - ven though your foes are man - y, Though they threat - en and re - vile,  
Nev - er fear you are for - got - ten; I am still your strength and shield.

D7 D° D7 G G° G

Trem - ble not be - fore our foe. Let all lov - ers of truth know  
Though they flat - ter and they smile, To mis - lead and to be - guile.  
Though you die up - on the field, E - ven death to me will yield.

G/D D7 G Am11 D7/A G/B E+5 E/D A/C# D A7/E D/F#

That my reign - ing Son, Christ Je - sus, To the earth has cast the foe,  
Fear them not, my faith - ful peo - ple, Nor their per - se - cu - tion's heat,  
Fear them not who kill the bod - y But can - not de - stroy the soul.

F° D/F# Am6/C B7 D/E E9 G/A A7 D D7

Soon to bind the Dev - il, Sa - tan, Let - ting all his vic - tims go.  
For I will pre - serve the faith - ful Till the vic - t'ry is com - plete.  
To the end may you be faith - ful; I will bring you to your goal!

# Fear Them Not!

*Chorus*

G Bm/D D/C G/B G/D D7 C/G G

Fear them not, O my be - lov - ed,

D7 C/D D7 D+5 G G#° D7/A D7

Though their boast - ing threats may fly.

G Bm/D D/C G/B B7 D/C C Am7 A#°

I will keep my faith - ful ser - vant

G/B Bb° D7/A G G/D D7 G G/B Am11 G

As the ap - ple of my eye.

(See also Deut. 32:10; Neh. 4:14; Ps. 59:1; 83:2, 3.)

**SONG 55**

Fear Them Not!

**PREVIEW**

Jehovah has lovingly warned us about wicked spirits and the harm they can cause. How do wicked spirits try to mislead people? What steps can we take to resist wicked spirits? This article will consider how Jehovah helps us to avoid their influence.

## Accept Jehovah's Help to Resist Wicked Spirits

*"We have a struggle . . . against the wicked spirit forces in the heavenly places."*—EPH. 6:12.

ONE of the most heartwarming ways in which Jehovah shows his concern for us as his servants is by helping us to resist our enemies. Our main enemies are Satan and the demons. Jehovah warns us about these enemies, and he gives us what we need to resist them. **(Read Ephesians 6:10-13.)** When we accept Jehovah's help and rely on him completely, we can succeed in opposing the Devil. We can have the same kind of confidence that the apostle Paul had. He wrote: "If God is for us, who will be against us?"—Rom. 8:31.

<sup>2</sup> As true Christians, we are not fascinated with Satan and the demons. We focus most of our attention on learning about Jehovah and serving him. (Ps. 25:5) However, we do need to know the basic ways that Satan operates. Why? So that we can avoid being outwitted by him. (2 Cor. 2:11; ftn.) In this article, we will consider a major way in which Satan and the demons try to mislead people. We will also consider how we can resist them successfully.

### HOW WICKED SPIRITS MISLEAD PEOPLE

<sup>3</sup> A major way in which Satan and the demons try to mislead people is through spiritism. Those who prac-

1. As explained at Ephesians 6:10-13, what is one of the most heartwarming ways in which Jehovah shows his concern for us? Explain.
2. What will we consider in this article?
- 3-4. (a) What is spiritism? (b) How widespread is the belief in spiritism?

tice spiritism claim to know or control things that humans cannot normally know or control. For example, some claim to be able to know the future by using divination or astrology. Others may act as though they were speaking to those who have died. Some practice witchcraft or magic, and they may try to cast a spell on another person.\*

<sup>4</sup> How widespread is belief in the power of spiritism? A survey conducted in 18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean found that about a third of the people surveyed believe in magic, witchcraft, or sorcery, and nearly as many believe that it is possible to communicate with spirits. Another survey was conducted in 18 countries in Africa. There, on average, more than half of the people surveyed say that they believe in witchcraft. Of course, wherever we live, we must be on guard against spiritism. After all, Satan is seeking to mislead “the entire inhabited earth.”—Rev. 12:9.

<sup>5</sup> Jehovah is “the God of truth.” (Ps. 31:5) So how does he feel about spiritism? He hates it! Jehovah told the Israelites: “There should not be found in you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, anyone who employs divination, anyone practic-

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\* **EXPRESSIONS EXPLAINED:** **Spiritism** refers to beliefs and practices connected with the demons. It includes the belief that the spirits of dead humans survive the death of the physical body and that they communicate with the living, especially through a person (a medium). Spiritism also includes such practices as witchcraft and divination. As used in this article, **magic** refers to practices associated with the occult, or the supernatural. It can include curses and the casting or breaking of spells. It does not refer to tricks using quick hand movements, which some people perform merely for entertainment.

5. How does Jehovah feel about spiritism?

ing magic, anyone who looks for omens, a sorcerer, anyone binding others with a spell, anyone who consults a spirit medium or a fortune-teller, or anyone who inquires of the dead. For whoever does these things is detestable to Jehovah.” (Deut. 18:10-12) Christians are not under the Law that Jehovah gave to the Israelites. However, we know that his feelings about spiritism have not changed.—Mal. 3:6.

<sup>6</sup> Jehovah warns us against spiritism because he knows that Satan uses it to harm people. Satan uses spiritism to promote lies—including the lie that the dead are alive in some other realm. (**Read Ecclesiastes 9:5.**) Satan also uses spiritism to keep people in fear and to turn them away from Jehovah. His aim is that people who practice spiritism will trust in wicked spirits instead of in Jehovah.

#### HOW WE RESIST WICKED SPIRITS

<sup>7</sup> As noted earlier, Jehovah tells us what we need to know so as to avoid being misled by Satan and the demons. Consider some practical steps that we can take in our fight against Satan and the demons.

<sup>8</sup> **Read God’s Word and meditate on it.** This is the main way we reject the lies that wicked spirits promote. God’s Word is like a sharp sword that can cut through the lies that Satan promotes. (Eph. 6:17)

6. (a) How does Satan use spiritism to harm people? (b) According to Ecclesiastes 9:5, what is the truth about the condition of the dead?

7. What does Jehovah tell us?

8. (a) What is the main way we resist wicked spirits? (b) How does Psalm 146:4 expose Satan’s lie about the dead?



For example, God’s Word exposes the lie that the dead can communicate with the living. **(Read Psalm 146:4.)** It also reminds us that only Jehovah can reliably predict the future. (Isa. 45:21; 46:10) If we read God’s Word and meditate on it regularly, we will be equipped to reject and hate the lies that wicked spirits want us to believe.

<sup>9</sup> **Refuse to do anything connected with spiritism.** As true Christians, we never practice spiritism of any kind. For example, we do not visit spirit mediums or try to communicate with the dead in any other way. As discussed in the preceding article, we avoid funeral customs that are based on the belief that the dead are still alive somewhere. And we do not use astrology or fortune-telling to try to learn about the future. (Isa. 8:19) We know that all such practices are

9. What sort of spiritistic practices do we avoid?

very dangerous and that they could put us in direct contact with Satan and the demons.

<sup>10</sup> **Get rid of objects related to the occult.** Some of the people who lived in Ephesus during the first century were involved with spiritism. When they learned the truth, they took drastic action. “Quite a number of those who practiced magical arts brought their books together and burned them up before everybody.” (Acts 19:19) These individuals were serious about resisting wicked spirits. Their books about magic cost a lot of money. But instead of giving those books away or selling them to others, they destroyed them. They were more concerned about pleasing Jehovah

10-11. (a) What did some in the first century do when they learned the truth? (b) According to 1 Corinthians 10:21, why should we imitate the example of the early Christians, and how can we do so?



Imitate the early Christians by getting rid of anything you may have that is connected with the occult and by rejecting spiritistic entertainment  
(See paragraphs 10-12)

than about how much money the books were worth.

<sup>11</sup> How can we imitate the example of those first-century Christians? It would be wise to get rid of anything we may have that is connected with the occult. This includes amulets, charms, or other objects that people wear or own to try to protect themselves from wicked spirits.—**Read 1 Corinthians 10:21.**

<sup>12</sup> *Examine your entertainment carefully.* Ask yourself: ‘Do I read books, magazines, or articles on the Internet about the occult? What about the music I listen to, the movies and TV shows I watch, or the video games I play? Does any of my entertainment involve spiritism? Does it feature such things as vampires, zombies, or the paranormal? Does it portray magic, spells, or

12. What questions should we ask ourselves about our entertainment?

curses as harmless fun?’ Of course, not all entertainment that features fantasies or fairy tales is necessarily related to spiritism. When evaluating your entertainment, be determined to make choices that will help you stay far away from anything Jehovah hates. We want to do our best to “maintain a clear conscience” before our God.—Acts 24:16.\*

<sup>13</sup> *Avoid telling stories about the demons.* In this regard, we want to imitate the example set by Jesus. (1 Pet. 2:21) Before he came to earth, Jesus lived in heaven, and he knew a lot about Satan

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\* Elders are not authorized to make rules regarding entertainment. Rather, each Christian must use his or her Bible-trained conscience when choosing what to read, watch, or play. Wise family heads ensure that their family’s entertainment is in line with Bible principles.—See the jw.org® article “Do Jehovah’s Witnesses Ban Certain Movies, Books, or Songs?” under ABOUT US > FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.

13. What do we want to avoid doing?







We have nothing to fear from wicked spirits. Jehovah, Jesus, and the angels are far more powerful

(See paragraphs 14-15)

and the demons. But he did not relate stories about what those wicked spirits had done. Jesus wanted to be a witness of Jehovah, not a publicity agent for Satan. We can imitate Jesus by not spreading stories about the demons. Instead, we show by our words that our “heart is stirred by something good,” that is, the truth.—Ps. 45:1.

**14 Do not be terrified of wicked spirits.** In this imperfect world, bad things may happen to us. Accidents, sickness, or even death may come without warning. But we should not think that invisible spirits are responsible. The Bible explains that “time and unexpected events” can overtake anyone. (Eccl. 9:11) As for the demons, Jehovah has shown that he is far more powerful than they are. For example, God did not allow Satan to kill Job. (Job 2:6) In the days of Moses, Jehovah demonstrated his

14-15. (a) Why should we not be terrified of wicked spirits? (b) What evidence is there that Jehovah protects his people today?

power over the magic-practicing priests of Egypt. (Ex. 8:18; 9:11) Empowered by Jehovah, the glorified Jesus showed his power over Satan and the demons when they were cast down from heaven to the earth. And in the near future, they will be cast into the abyss, where they will not be able to harm anyone.—Rev. 12:9; 20:2, 3.

**15** We see abundant evidence that Jehovah protects his people today. Consider: We are preaching and teaching the truth in all parts of the earth. (Matt. 28:19, 20) As a result, we expose the evil works of the Devil. Surely, if Satan were able to, he would stop all our activity, but he cannot. So we do not need to be terrified of wicked spirits. We know that “the eyes of Jehovah are roving about through all the earth to show his strength in behalf of those whose heart is complete toward him.” (2 Chron. 16:9) If we are faithful to Jehovah, the demons cannot cause us lasting harm.

## BLESSINGS FOR THOSE WHO ACCEPT JEHOVAH'S HELP

<sup>16</sup> It takes courage to resist wicked spirits, especially when well-meaning friends or relatives oppose us. But Jehovah blesses those who show such courage. Consider the example of a sister named Erica, who lives in Ghana. Erica was 21 years old when she accepted a Bible study. As the daughter of a fetish priest, she was expected to comply with a spiritistic custom that involved eating meat offered in ritual sacrifices to her father's gods. When Erica refused, her family considered it an insult to the gods. The family believed that the gods would punish them with mental and physical illnesses.

<sup>17</sup> Erica's family tried to force her to follow the custom, but she would not give in, even though it meant that she had to leave her home. Some Witnesses allowed her to stay with them. In that sense, Jehovah blessed Erica with a new family—fellow believers who became like brothers and sisters to her. (Mark 10:29, 30) Although her relatives disowned her

16-17. Give an example of the courage it takes to resist wicked spirits.

and even burned her belongings, Erica stayed loyal to Jehovah, got baptized, and is now a regular pioneer. She is not terrified of the demons. And regarding her family, Erica says, "I pray daily that my family will experience the blessing of knowing Jehovah and having the freedom that comes from serving our loving God."

<sup>18</sup> Not all of us will have to face such a dramatic test of our faith. However, all of us need to resist wicked spirits and trust in Jehovah. If we do that, we will receive many blessings and we will avoid being misled by Satan's lies. Also, we will not be paralyzed by fear of the demons. Above all, we will strengthen our friendship with Jehovah. "Subject yourselves to God," wrote the disciple James, "but oppose the Devil, and he will flee from you. Draw close to God, and he will draw close to you."—Jas. 4:7, 8.

18. What blessings do we receive from trusting in Jehovah?

**PICTURE DESCRIPTION Page 24:** A depiction of Jesus as our powerful heavenly King leading an angelic army. Jehovah's throne is above them.

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### HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- How do wicked spirits mislead people?
- How does Jehovah help us resist wicked spirits?
- What blessings come from resisting wicked spirits?

# Seek God for Your Deliverance

(Zephaniah 2:3)

Bm Gm6 Bm/F# Gm/E Bm/D Em Bm/D F#7/C# Bm Gm6/Bb D/A Gm6

Na - tions a - lign as one, Op - pos - ing Je - ho - vah's  
 Peo - ple on earth now choose, Re - spond - ing to this good

R.H. R.H.

D/F# F#/E Bm/D C/E Bm/F# Em/G C#/G# C#

Son. Their time of hu - man rul - er - ship By God's de - cree now is  
 news. We of - fer to all men the choice To hear or proud - ly re -

F# /E /D /C# Bm Gm6 Bm/F# Gm/E Bm/D C#m11 Bm A D Gm/Bb D/A Gm6

done. Rul - ers have had their day; God's King - dom is here to  
 fuse. Tri - als, al - though se - vere, Need not fill our hearts with

R.H. R.H.

D/F# A7/E D C° Em/B A° Em/G F#m11 Em /D /C# Em7/B

stay. Soon Christ will crush earth - ly en - e - mies. No  
 fear. Je - ho - vah cares for his loy - al ones; Our

# Seek God for Your Deliverance

Chorus

F#/A# G#m11 C#7/G# F# A7/E A7 D A/C# Bm7 D/A

more will there be de - lay. Seek God for your de -  
cries for help he will hear.

G Em7 A Bm D/A G D/F# Em7 A A/G F#m G A7 Bm A7

liv-er-ance, Yes, look to him with con-fi-dence. Seek his righ - teous-ness, Show your

G B7/F# Em Em/D C# B/D# C#/E# F# E/G# F#/A# Bm Gm/Bb

faith - ful - ness, For his sov - 'reign - ty, take your stand. Then

D/A A/G D/F# Bm7 G Em7 D/A A7sus4 A7 D

see our God de - liv - er you By his might - y hand.

R.H.

(See also 1 Sam. 2:9; Ps. 2:2, 3, 9; Prov. 2:8; Matt. 6:33.)



