

- Song 103 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Reach Out for a Fine Work”:** (10 min.)
[Play the video *Introduction to 1 Timothy*.]
1Ti 3:1—Brothers are encouraged to reach out to be an overseer (*w16.08 21 ¶3*)
1Ti 3:13—Brothers who serve in a fine manner receive blessings (*km 9/78 4 ¶7*)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
1Ti 1:4—Why did Paul warn Timothy against paying attention to genealogies? (*it-1 914-915*)

1Ti 1:17—Why is Jehovah the only one who can be called “the King of eternity”? (*cl 12 ¶15*)

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) 1Ti 2:1-15 (10)

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. (2)
- **Bible Study:** (5 min. or less) *lvs 47-48 ¶6-7 (6)*

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 137
- **Young Workers at Warwick Honor Jehovah:** (6 min.) Discussion. Play the video (video category OUR ACTIVITIES). Then discuss the following questions:
How did young brothers and sisters help with the construction of Warwick Bethel, and how did they benefit?

What opportunities do young brothers and sisters in the congregation have to honor Jehovah?

- **“What Can You Learn From Them?”:** (9 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Respect Experienced Men* (video category THE BIBLE).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *gy chap. 76*
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 115 and Prayer

1 TIMOTHY 1-3 | Reach Out for a Fine Work

3:1, 13

It is best for brothers to begin reaching out when they are young. This allows them to receive training and demonstrate their fitness to be appointed as ministerial servants when they get older. (1Ti 3:10) How can a brother reach out? By cultivating and demonstrating the following qualities:

- Self-sacrifice.—*km 7/13 2-3 ¶2*
- Spirituality.—*km 7/13 3 ¶3*
- Reliability and faithfulness.—*km 7/13 3 ¶4*



103 *Shepherds—Gifts in Men*

(Ephesians 4:8)

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

(CHORUS)

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

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

(Chorus)

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

(Chorus)

1st Timothy 1-3

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus, our hope, ² to Timothy, a genuine child in the faith:

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

³ Just as I encouraged you to stay in Eph'e-sus when I was about to go to Mac-e-do'ni-a, so I do now, in order for you to command certain ones not to teach different doctrine, ⁴ nor to pay attention to false stories and to genealogies. Such things end up in nothing useful but merely give rise to speculations rather than providing anything from God in connection with faith. ⁵ Really, the objective of this instruction is love out of a clean heart and out of a good conscience and out of faith without hypocrisy. ⁶ By deviating from these things, some have been turned aside to meaningless talk. ⁷ They want to be teachers of law, but they do not understand either the things they are saying or the things they insist on so strongly.

⁸ Now we know that the Law is fine if one applies it properly, ⁹ recognizing that law is made, not for a righteous man, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, ungodly and sinners, disloyal and profane, murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, manslayers, ¹⁰ sexually immoral people, men who practice homosexuality, kidnappers, liars, perjurers, and everything else that is in opposition to the wholesome teaching ¹¹ according to the glorious good news of the happy God, with which I was entrusted.

¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who imparted power to me, because he considered me faithful by assigning me to a ministry, ¹³ although formerly I was a blasphemer and a persecutor and an insolent man. Nevertheless, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and with a lack of faith. ¹⁴ But the undeserved kindness of our Lord abounded exceedingly along with faith and the

love that is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Of these, I am foremost. ¹⁶ Nevertheless, I was shown mercy so that by means of me as the foremost case, Christ Jesus might demonstrate all his patience, making me an example to those who are going to rest their faith on him for everlasting life.

¹⁷ Now to the King of eternity, incorruptible, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

¹⁸ This instruction I entrust to you, my child Timothy, in harmony with the prophecies that were made about you, that by these you may go on waging the fine warfare, ¹⁹ holding faith and a good conscience, which some have thrust aside, resulting in the shipwreck of their faith. ²⁰ Hy-me-nae'us and Alexander are among these, and I have handed them over to Satan so that they may be taught by discipline not to blaspheme.

2 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made concerning all sorts of men, ² concerning kings and all those who are in high positions, so that we may go on leading a calm and quiet life with complete godly devotion and seriousness. ³ This is fine and acceptable in the sight of our Savior, God, ⁴ whose will is that all sorts of people should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, a man, Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself a corresponding ransom for all—this is what is to be witnessed to in its own due time. ⁷ For the purpose of this witness I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—a teacher of nations in the matter of faith and truth.

⁸ So I desire that in every place the men carry on prayer, lifting up loyal hands, without anger and debates. ⁹ Likewise, the women should adorn themselves in appropriate dress, with modesty and

soundness of mind, not with styles of hair braiding and gold or pearls or very expensive clothing, ¹⁰ but in the way that is proper for women professing devotion to God, namely, through good works.

¹¹ Let a woman learn in silence with full submissiveness. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man, but she is to remain silent. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴ Also, Adam was not deceived, but the woman was thoroughly deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵ However, she will be kept safe through childbearing, provided she continues in faith and love and holiness along with soundness of mind.

3 This statement is trustworthy: If a man is reaching out to be an overseer, he is desirous of a fine work. ² The overseer should therefore be irreprehensible, a husband of one wife, moderate in habits, sound in mind, orderly, hospitable, qualified to teach, ³ not a drunkard, not violent, but reasonable, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money, ⁴ a man presiding over his own household in a fine manner, having his children in subjection with all seriousness ⁵ (for if any man does not know how to preside over his own household, how will he care for the congregation of God?), ⁶ not a newly converted man, for fear that he might get puffed up with pride and fall into the judgment passed on the Devil. ⁷ Moreover, he should also have a fine testimony from outsiders so that he does not fall into reproach and a snare of the Devil.

⁸ Ministerial servants should likewise be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in a lot of wine, not greedy of dishonest gain, ⁹ holding the sacred secret of the faith with a clean conscience.

¹⁰ Also, let these be tested as to fitness first; then let them serve as ministers, as they are free from accusation.

¹¹ Women should likewise be serious, not slanderous, moderate in habits, faithful in all things.

¹² Let ministerial servants be husbands of one wife, presiding in a fine manner over their children and their own households. ¹³ For the men who minister in a fine manner are acquiring for themselves a fine standing and great freeness of speech in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

¹⁴ I am writing you these things, though I am hoping to come to you shortly, ¹⁵ but in case I am delayed, so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in God's household, which is the congregation of the living God, a pillar and support of the truth. ¹⁶ Indeed, the sacred secret of this godly devotion is admittedly great: 'He was made manifest in flesh, was declared righteous in spirit, appeared to angels, was preached about among nations, was believed upon in the world, was received up in glory.'

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July 22-28 / 1 Timothy 1-3

- Song 103 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 minutes or less)

Treasures From God's Word

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[Play the video *Introduction to 1 Timothy*.]

Reach Out for a Fine Work

1 Timothy 3:1, 13

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- Self-sacrifice.—*km 7/13 2-3 paragraph 2*
- Spirituality.—*km 7/13 3 paragraph 3*
- Reliability and faithfulness.—*km 7/13 3 paragraph 4*

km 7/13 2-3 paragraphs 2-4

2 **Self-Sacrifice**: Remember that you are reaching out for a fine work, not a title. Therefore, cultivate a desire to help your brothers and sisters. One way to do this is by meditating on Jesus' fine

example. (Matthew 20:28; John 4:6, 7; 13:4, 5) Ask Jehovah to help you to be interested in others. (1 Corinthians 10:24) Could you give practical assistance to those in the congregation who are elderly or infirm? Do you make yourself available to cut the grass, shovel the snow, or care for other aspects of maintaining the Kingdom Hall? Could you volunteer to give a substitute talk on the Theocratic Ministry School? You will find that giving of yourself in behalf of others will bring you joy.—Acts 20:35.

3 Spirituality: It is far more important for a servant in the congregation to have spirituality than to have special talents or natural abilities. A spiritual man tries to view things as Jehovah and Jesus do. (1 Corinthians 2:15, 16) He displays “the fruitage of the spirit.” (Galatians 5:22, 23) He is a zealous evangelizer who puts Kingdom interests first. (Matthew 6:33) You can develop spiritual qualities by having a good routine of personal study. This would include reading the Bible every day, reading each issue of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*, and preparing for and attending congregation meetings. (Psalms 1:1, 2; Hebrews 10:24, 25) When encouraging young Timothy to make spiritual advancement, Paul wrote: “Pay constant attention to . . . your teaching.” (1 Timothy 4:15, 16) So work hard on your talk assignments in the Theocratic Ministry School. Prepare for the ministry, and share in it regularly. Set and work toward spiritual goals, such as pioneering, Bethel service, or attending the Bible School for Single Brothers. Spirituality will help you to “flee from the desires incidental to youth.”—2 Timothy 2:22.

4 Reliability and Faithfulness: Because the brothers who were assigned to distribute food to needy Christians in the first century were “certified,” evidently known for being reliable and faithful, the apostles did not have to worry about whether the work would be done. This allowed them to focus on other important matters. (Acts 6:1-4) Therefore, when you are given an assignment in the congregation, carry it out to the best of your ability. Imitate Noah, who carefully followed the instructions he was given to build the ark. (Genesis 6:22) Faithfulness is valued by Jehovah and demonstrates spiritual maturity.—1 Corinthians 4:2; see the box “The Benefits of Training.”

1 Timothy 3:1—Brothers are encouraged to reach out to be an overseer

1 Timothy 3:1: This statement is trustworthy: If a man is reaching out to be an overseer, he is desirous of a fine work.

w16.08 21 paragraph 3

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

In each case, he works hard to meet the qualifications needed to care for added responsibility in the congregation.

1 Timothy 3:13—Brothers who serve in a fine manner receive blessings

1 Timothy 3:13: For the men who minister in a fine manner are acquiring for themselves a fine standing and great freeness of speech in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

km 9/78 4 paragraph 7

It is easy to see, then, why Paul said of such men that they “are acquiring . . . a fine standing.” This is not, as some suggest, an advancement in a church hierarchy. Rather, ministerial servants who “minister in a fine manner” are assured of a blessing from Jehovah and Jesus, and they have the respect and support of the whole congregation. Rightfully they acquire “great freeness of speech in the faith in connection with Christ Jesus.” Being true to their position, they are appreciated for their fine service; they have firmness of faith and can declare their faith without cowardice or fear of reproach.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

1 Timothy 1:4—Why did Paul warn Timothy against paying attention to genealogies?

1 Timothy 1:4: nor to pay attention to false stories and to genealogies. Such things end up in nothing useful but merely give rise to speculations rather than providing anything from God in connection with faith.

***it-1* 914-915**

To engage in studying and discussing such matters was pointless, and it was even more so at the time Paul wrote to Timothy. It was no longer vital to have the genealogical records maintained to prove one's ancestry, since God did not now recognize any distinction between Jew and Gentile in the Christian congregation. (Galatians 3:28) And the genealogical records had already established the descent of Christ through the line of David. Also, it would not be long after Paul wrote this admonition that Jerusalem would be destroyed, and along with it the Jewish records. God did not preserve them. Accordingly, Paul was anxious that Timothy and the congregations should not be sidetracked into spending time in research and in controversy over matters of personal pedigree, which contributed nothing to Christian faith. The genealogy furnished by the Bible is sufficient to prove Christ's Messiahship, the genealogical matter of prime importance to Christians. The other Biblical genealogies stand as a testimony to the authenticity of the Scriptural record, manifesting clearly that it is a genuinely historical account.

1 Timothy 1:17—Why is Jehovah the only one who can be called “the King of eternity”?

1 Timothy 1:17: Now to the King of eternity, incorruptible, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

cl 12 paragraph 15

Another title applied exclusively to Jehovah is “King of eternity.” (1 Timothy 1:17; Revelation 15:3) What does this mean? It is difficult for our limited minds to comprehend, but Jehovah is eternal in both directions—past and future. Psalm 90:2 says: “Even from time indefinite to time indefinite you are God.” So Jehovah never began; he has always been. He is rightly called “the Ancient of Days”—he existed for an eternity before anyone or anything else in the universe came into being! (Daniel 7:9, 13, 22) Who can validly question his right to be the Sovereign Lord?

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Second Return Visit

P: The last time, we left off with the question, How will God undo the damage caused by his enemy, the Devil. What are your thoughts?

H: Well, I'm wondering if it maybe will happen when we go to heaven.

P: You know, that's a common viewpoint. And it's true that for those who go to heaven, all suffering will end. But did you know that we can expect the same thing here on earth in the future?

H: What do you mean?

P: Well, consider what Jesus said when he taught his followers the Lord's Prayer. The opening words of it are found here at Matthew 6:9, 10: "You must pray, then, this way: 'Our Father in the heavens, Let your name be sanctified. Let your Kingdom come. Let your will take place, as in heaven, also on earth.'" Did you notice the last part of the verse? We pray for God's will to take place where?

H: In heaven and on earth.

P: Isn't that interesting? We know that God's will is already taking place in heaven. There's no suffering or death in heaven. But here, Jesus is teaching us that God will also cause such problems to be eliminated here on earth.

H: I never realized that.

P: It's a simple but profound Bible teaching. And the key to how God will do this is found in Jesus' words in the previous sentence: "Let your kingdom come." The next time we talk, I can show you from the Bible what that kingdom is. In the meantime, I have this publication that I think you might enjoy reading.



Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK


Sample Conversations

●○○
INITIAL CALL →

Question: Is God to blame for our suffering?

Scripture: Job 34:10

Link: What is the root cause of our suffering?




○○●
FIRST RETURN VISIT →

Question: What is the root cause of our suffering?

Scripture: 1Jo 5:19

Link: How will God undo the damage caused by the Devil?




○○●
SECOND RETURN VISIT

Question: How will God undo the damage caused by the Devil?

Scripture: Mt 6:9, 10

Link: What is the Kingdom of God?



Jehovah chose him to be king of Israel. But he allowed pride and jealousy to grow in his heart, and this led him to persecute David, an innocent man. (1 Samuel 9:20, 21; 10:20-22; 18:7-11) Later, David became king, and he was one of the best kings Israel ever had. Still, in time, even David abused his power. He had sexual relations with Bath-sheba, the wife of a man named Uriah, and then tried to hide his sin by sending Uriah to be killed in battle. —2 Samuel 11:1-17.

WHY WE RESPECT JEHOVAH'S AUTHORITY

⁶ We respect direction from Jehovah because we love him. Because we love Jehovah more than anything or anyone else, we want to make him happy. (Read Proverbs 27:11; Mark 12:29, 30.) From the time the first human couple lived in the garden of Eden, Satan has wanted people to question Jehovah's authority. The Devil wants us to think that Jehovah does not have the right to tell us what to do. But we know this is a lie. We agree with these words: "You are worthy, Jehovah our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, because you created all things."—Revelation 4:11.

⁷ When you were a child, you were probably taught to obey your parents even when you didn't want to. In a similar way, as servants of Jehovah,

6, 7. (a) What does our love for Jehovah motivate us to do?
(b) What will help us to be obedient even when it is not easy to do so?

there may be times when it is not easy to be obedient. But we love and respect Jehovah, so we do all we can to obey him. Jesus set the example for us. He obeyed Jehovah even when it was not easy or convenient to do so. That is why he could say to his Father: "Let, not my will, but yours take place."—Luke 22:42; see Endnote 11.

⁸ Today, Jehovah directs us in different ways. For example, he has given us the Bible. He has also given us the congregation elders. We show that we respect Jehovah's authority when we respect those he uses to direct us. If we reject their help, in a sense we are rejecting Jehovah. When the Israelites rejected Moses, Jehovah viewed it seriously. He viewed it as if they were rejecting him.—Numbers 14:26, 27; see Endnote 12.

⁹ When we respect authority, it shows that we also love our brothers and sisters. Think of it this way. When there is a natural disaster, often a relief team works together to save as many people as possible. For the team to be effective, someone needs to organize it and each member of the team needs to follow direction. But what if one person ignores the direction and simply does what he wants? Even if his motives are good, his refusal to listen could cause problems for his teammates, possibly causing them to get seriously hurt. In a similar way,

8. What are some ways that Jehovah directs us? (See the box "Listen to Advice.")

9. How will love move us to follow direction?

137 Faithful Women, Christian Sisters

(Romans 16:2)

1. Sarah and Esther, Mary, Ruth, and others—
All these were capable women, loyal wives.
Godly devotion was foremost in their lives.
They were faithful women, ones we know by name.
There were others favored by Jehovah;
Nameless in the record, their faith was just the same.
2. Goodness and courage, loyal love and kindness—
Lovable qualities in all humankind,
Virtues these excellent women bring to mind.
They were fine examples we appreciate.
In the same way now our Christian sisters
Show a faithful spirit we all can imitate.
3. Mothers and daughters, sisters, wives, and widows,
Willingly laboring, glad to do your part.
Modest your bearing, submissive is your heart,
Having God's approval, may you never fear.
Christian sisters, may Jehovah keep you
Firm in your conviction, your prize is drawing near.

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Young Workers at Warwick Honor Jehovah

Earlier in the program, we saw some examples of how young ones are building a future with Jehovah. But what impact are such efforts having on the organization? Let's look at one example: the construction of the new world headquarters at Warwick, New York.

Jehovah's Witnesses built 1.6 million square feet (149,000 sq m) in less than four years.

Of the 27,035 volunteers, 3,247 were between the ages of 19 and 25.

I thought this was a project that was going to strictly need very experienced brothers and sisters. Early on, I realized I was wrong. It was also going to take youthful energy because of the volume of work.

The mix of older and younger ones was really a helpful thing on the Warwick project. The older ones brought skill and experience. The younger ones brought the energy, the muscle, and the diligence to stay with hard physical tasks all the way through the project.

Whether it was in the kitchen or night watch or the early 5:00 a.m. start with the concrete crew at 10 degrees Fahrenheit (-12°C), their joy and their humility was outstanding to accept any work that needed to be done.

And a lot of young ones, brothers and sisters, moved into the area so they could commute. And they would work day after day tirelessly, into the evenings even, to have the project ready for the next day. Their energy was just astonishing.

Jehovah loves young ones, and he's willing to invest in them and train them and make them a part of his organization. And I saw that so much.

We had a lot of young people who offered themselves with technical skills.

But if the humility of these very technically-skilled young people didn't match or exceed their abilities, then, really, Jehovah couldn't use them. And they were willing to adjust, and we really saw the benefit.

We knew and they knew that they were building not just a project at Warwick—they were building a spiritual project for Jehovah.

You could see Jehovah's spirit operating on them. You could see them mature so quickly.

These young brothers are the next generation of elders and traveling overseers. They're to be commended and highly respected for the contribution they made as young men.

They all talk about the effect that their Bethel service has had on their outlook and how they don't want to get caught up in this world and its daily pursuits.

Use the skills you've learned here on this project and in Bethel. You are needed. Continue to keep your spirituality up and to keep your association at a high level.

The highest quality of life is when, as clay, we put ourselves in the hands of the Great Potter, Jehovah, and we say: "Here I am! Send me!". And I'm fully confident they will have no regrets building their future with Jehovah.

- Song 103 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Reach Out for a Fine Work”:** (10 min.)
[Play the video *Introduction to 1 Timothy*.]
1Ti 3:1—Brothers are encouraged to reach out to be an overseer (*w16.08 21 ¶3*)
1Ti 3:13—Brothers who serve in a fine manner receive blessings (*km 9/78 4 ¶7*)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
1Ti 1:4—Why did Paul warn Timothy against paying attention to genealogies? (*it-1 914-915*)

1Ti 1:17—Why is Jehovah the only one who can be called “the King of eternity”? (*cl 12 ¶15*)

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) 1Ti 2:1-15 (10)

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. (2)
- **Bible Study:** (5 min. or less) *lvs 47-48 ¶6-7 (6)*

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 137
- **Young Workers at Warwick Honor Jehovah:** (6 min.) Discussion. Play the video (video category OUR ACTIVITIES). Then discuss the following questions:
How did young brothers and sisters help with the construction of Warwick Bethel, and how did they benefit?

What opportunities do young brothers and sisters in the congregation have to honor Jehovah?

- **“What Can You Learn From Them?”:** (9 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Respect Experienced Men* (video category THE BIBLE).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jy chap. 76*
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 115 and Prayer

1 TIMOTHY 1-3 | Reach Out for a Fine Work

3:1, 13

It is best for brothers to begin reaching out when they are young. This allows them to receive training and demonstrate their fitness to be appointed as ministerial servants when they get older. (1Ti 3:10) How can a brother reach out? By cultivating and demonstrating the following qualities:

- Self-sacrifice.—*km 7/13 2-3 ¶2*
- Spirituality.—*km 7/13 3 ¶3*
- Reliability and faithfulness.—*km 7/13 3 ¶4*



Respect Experienced Men

Before the meeting starts, I need to get things ready.

I'm Ben. And as a ministerial servant, I can do a lot to help the congregation. And that night I was given another assignment. Brother Richards asked if I could help him update the territory maps and organize our schedules for public witnessing.

I think the brothers know I can modernize all of this.

Brother Richards said to talk to Brother Bello, first. He was the service overseer for years. Great idea! But I can already imagine the possibilities.

By that weekend, I had almost finished. I couldn't believe the outdated ways our records were kept.

This is going to be way better for the congregation. And who knows what else could be improved?

I thought I had everything ready to show Brother Richards. He liked the new ideas, but then he asked me, "What did Brother Bello think?"

Oh, Brother Bello! I forgot. I should have asked him, but at this point, did it really matter?

Brother Richards suggested we read about Elisha. When the older Elijah's work was ending, Elisha stuck close to his teacher. Urged to stay behind, Elisha repeatedly said:

“As surely as Jehovah is living and as you are living, I will not leave you.”

Until the moment Elijah left, Elisha wanted to learn from him.

Like a son asking his father, he wanted a double portion of Elijah’s spirit to continue the work he started. And Elisha’s first miracle was the same as Elijah’s last: dividing the Jordan with Elijah’s official garment.

Everything Elisha did revealed his respect for the experienced man Elijah. I wasn’t finished with my new assignment after all. There was a lot I needed to learn from Brother Bello.

He really understood our preaching territory and the people who live here. He liked my ideas, but everything he showed me made them even better.

I *can* do a lot to help the congregation. And I pray that Jehovah lets me do even more with the gifts he gave me and with the wisdom of experienced men.

- JESUS CONDEMNS THE HYPOCRITICAL PHARISEES

While in Judea, Jesus accepts a meal invitation from a Pharisee. It is likely during the day, rather than an evening meal. (Luke 11:37, 38; compare Luke 14:12.) Before eating, the Pharisees carry out ritual washing of their hands up to the elbow. But Jesus does not. (Matthew 15:1, 2) It would not violate God's Law to wash to that extent, yet it is not something God requires.

The Pharisee is surprised that Jesus does not follow that tradition. Jesus detects this and says: "Now you Pharisees, you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greediness and wickedness. Unreasonable ones! The one who made the outside made also the inside, did he not?"—Luke 11:39, 40.

Having clean hands before eating is not the issue, but religious hypocrisy is. The Pharisees and others who ritualistically wash their hands fail to cleanse



their hearts from wickedness. So Jesus counsels them: “Give as gifts of mercy the things that are from within, and look! everything about you will be clean.” (Luke 11:41) How true! Giving should spring from a loving heart, not from a desire to impress others by a pretense of righteousness.

It is not that these men do not give. Jesus points out: “You give the tenth of the mint and of the rue and of every other garden herb, but you disregard the justice and the love of God! These things you were under obligation to do, but not to disregard those other things.” (Luke 11:42) God’s Law called for the paying of tithes (a tenth part) of crops. (Deuteronomy 14:22) That included the mint and the rue, herbs or plants used to flavor food. The Pharisees scrupulously paid a tenth of these herbs, but what of the more important requirements of the Law, such as to exercise justice and to be modest before God?—Micah 6:8.

Jesus goes on to say: “Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the front seats in the synagogues and the greetings in the marketplaces! Woe to you,

because you are as those graves that are not clearly visible, that men walk on and do not know it!” (Luke 11:43, 44) Yes, people could stumble on such graves and become ceremonially unclean. Jesus uses that fact to underscore that the uncleanness of the Pharisees is not apparent.—Matthew 23:27.

One man who is well-versed in God’s Law complains: “Teacher, in saying these things, you insult us also.” Yet such men need to realize that they are failing to help the people. Jesus says: “Woe also to you who are versed in the Law, because you load men down with loads hard to carry, but you yourselves do not touch the loads with one of your fingers! Woe to you, because you build the tombs of the prophets, but your forefathers killed them!” —Luke 11:45-47.

The loads that Jesus refers to are the oral traditions and the Pharisees’ interpretation of the Law. These men are not making life easier for the people. Rather, they insist that all must keep what become heavy burdens. Their ancestors killed God’s prophets, from Abel onward. Now they, who make it seem as if they are honoring the prophets by building

tombs for them, are imitating the attitude and actions of their forefathers. They are even seeking to kill God's foremost Prophet. Jesus says that God will hold an accounting with this generation. And that became a reality about 38 years later, in 70 C.E.

Jesus continues: "Woe to you who are versed in the Law, because you took away the key of knowledge. You yourselves did not go in, and you hinder those going in!" (Luke 11:52) These men, who should be unlocking the meaning of God's Word, are instead taking away the opportunity for people to know and understand it.

How do the Pharisees and scribes react? As Jesus departs, they begin to oppose him angrily and to assail him with questions. They are not asking out of a desire to learn. Instead, they want to trick Jesus into saying something for which they can have him arrested.

- ◇ Why does Jesus condemn the Pharisees and scribes?
- ◇ The people are pressured to carry what loads?
- ◇ What lies ahead for those who oppose Jesus and seek to kill him?

115 *Gratitude for Divine Patience*

(2 Peter 3:15)

1. Great God, Jehovah, boundless in might,
 You have made known your love of right.
 Badness prevails on earth below,
 Causing us pain, as you well know.
 You are not slow, as men may contend;
 Your time is near for patience to end.

(CHORUS)

*We look ahead with hope renewed,
 Praising your name in deep gratitude.*

2. One thousand years, from your point of view,
 Are like a day when they are through.
 Time now proceeds to your great day;
 It will arrive without delay.
 Though all transgression you do resent,
 Your heart is glad when sinners repent.

(Chorus)

MAY 2019

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
JULY 1–AUGUST 4, 2019

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Study Article 22: July 29–August 4	51
Improve Your Study Habits!	

COVER PICTURE:

Parents protect their children from sexual abuse by sharing with them appropriate information about sex. To do so, parents use the information that God’s organization has provided. (See study article 19, paragraphs 19-22)

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98 *The Scriptures—Inspired of God*

(2 Timothy 3:16, 17)

1. God's Word shines like a brilliant light,
 Guides our feet through earth's dark night.
If we follow it faithfully,
 Surely its truth will set us free.
2. He provides us with words inspired,
 Helps us learn what is required.
Holy writings can motivate,
 Show how to teach and set things straight.
3. By these words from our God above,
 We have come to know his love.
As we read in it ev'ry day,
 God's Word will keep us on the way.

Do Not Be Fooled by “the Wisdom of This World”

*“The wisdom of this world
is foolishness with God.”*—1 COR. 3:19.

SONG 98

The Scriptures —Inspired of God

PREVIEW

This article will help us strengthen our conviction that Jehovah is the only reliable Source of guidance. Also, it will show that following the world’s wisdom has tragic consequences, whereas applying the wisdom of God’s Word is beneficial.

WE CAN face any challenge—all because Jehovah is our Grand Instructor. (Isa. 30:20, 21) His Word gives us everything we need to be “fully competent” and “completely equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim. 3:17) When we live by Bible teachings, we become wiser than those who promote “the wisdom of this world.”—1 Cor. 3:19; Ps. 119:97-100.

² As we will see, the wisdom of the world often appeals to our fleshly desires. So we might find it difficult to resist thinking and acting like those who are part of the world. For good reason, the Bible says: “Look out that no one takes you captive by means of the philosophy and empty deception according to human tradition.” (Col. 2:8) In this article, we will examine the history of how two empty deceptions, or lies, became popular. In each case, we will see why the wisdom of the world is foolishness and how the wisdom of God’s Word is far superior to anything the world offers.

CHANGES IN VIEWPOINT TOWARD MORALITY

³ In the United States, the early part of the 20th century saw a big change in people’s viewpoints about morality. Previously, many believed that sex was reserved

-
1. What does God’s Word give us?
 2. What will we examine in this article?
 - 3-4. What changes in viewpoint toward morality took place in the United States in the early part of the 20th century?

only for those who are married and was not a topic to be discussed in public. But those standards crumbled, and permissive views spread.

⁴ The third decade of the 20th century became known as the Roaring Twenties, and it was characterized by far-reaching social changes. “Motion pictures, plays, songs, novels, and advertising all reflected the market for sexually-themed entertainment,” says one researcher. During that decade, dancing styles became more sexually suggestive and clothing styles became less modest. As the Bible foretold about the last days, people would to a remarkable degree become “lovers of pleasures.”—2 Tim. 3:4.

⁵ In the 1960’s, issues such as living together without being married, homosexual conduct, and easy divorce became prominent. Many forms of entertainment featured increasingly explicit depictions of sex. In recent decades, the bad effects of loose moral standards have been felt in many ways. One author wrote that the cause of broken families, single-parent families, emotional wounds, pornography addiction, and similar woes is related to “the deregulation of sexual norms now shaping society.” The prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases, such as AIDS, is just one indication that the wisdom of the world is foolishness.—2 Pet. 2:19.

5. What has happened to the world’s viewpoint of moral standards since the 1960’s?



Jehovah's people
are not swayed by
the world's loose
moral standards
(See paragraph 5)

6 The world's view of sex serves Satan's purpose. No doubt, he delights to see people abuse God's gift of sex and degrade God's gift of marriage. (Eph. 2:2) Not only does sexual immorality tarnish Jehovah's beautiful gift of procreation but it can prevent those who engage in it from inheriting everlasting life.—1 Cor. 6:9, 10.

THE BIBLE'S VIEW OF SEXUAL MORALITY

7 People who adopt the wisdom of this world ridicule the Bible's moral standards, claiming that they are unrealistic. Such people might ask, 'Why would God create us with sexual desires and then tell us not to act on them?' That question is founded on the flawed belief that humans must act on every urge they feel. But

6. How does the world's view of sex serve Satan's purpose?

7-8. What dignified and healthy view of sexuality is presented in the Bible?

the Bible states otherwise. It dignifies us by teaching that we can choose to control improper impulses. (Col. 3:5) In addition, Jehovah has provided the gift of marriage, an arrangement in which proper sexual desires can be honorably satisfied. (1 Cor. 7:8, 9) Within that arrangement, a husband and wife can enjoy sex without the regrets and insecurities that so often result from immorality.

⁸ In contrast with the wisdom of this world, the Bible promotes a healthy view of sexuality. It acknowledges that sex can be a source of pleasure. (Prov. 5:18, 19) However, the Bible says: “Each one of you should know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not with greedy, uncontrolled sexual passion like the nations have that do not know God.”—1 Thess. 4:4, 5.

⁹ During the early 20th century, Jehovah’s people were not swayed by the empty deception of those who had “gone past all moral sense.” (Eph. 4:19) They tried to stick closely to Jehovah’s standards. The May 15, 1926, *Watch Tower* stated that “a man or a woman should be chaste and pure in thought and in act, particularly with reference to the opposite sex.” Regardless of what was happening in the world around

9. (a) How were Jehovah’s people in the early 20th century encouraged to follow the superior wisdom of God’s Word? (b) What wise counsel is found at 1 John 2:15, 16? (c) As listed at Romans 1:24-27, what immoral practices should we resist adopting?

them, Jehovah’s people followed the superior wisdom of God’s Word. (Read 1 John 2:15, 16.) How grateful we are for God’s Word! We are also thankful that Jehovah provides timely spiritual food to help us resist adopting the wisdom of this world regarding morality.*
—Read Romans 1:24-27.

CHANGES IN VIEWPOINT TOWARD LOVE OF SELF

¹⁰ The Bible warned that during the last days, people would become “lovers of themselves.” (2 Tim. 3:1, 2) Not surprisingly, the world has encouraged an inflated view of self. One reference work says that during the 1970’s “self-help books proliferated.” Some books “urged readers to know and accept themselves and to celebrate who they were.” Consider, for example, the statement made in one such book: “Be in love with the most beautiful, exciting, worthy person ever—you.” The book advocates a “religion of the self in which an individual determines his own behavior based upon his own conscience and the laws of his culture that work for him.”

¹¹ Does that idea sound familiar to you? Satan encouraged Eve to do something similar. He said that she

* For example, see *Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work*, Volume 1, chaps. 24-26, and Volume 2, chaps. 4-5.

10-11. What did the Bible warn would happen during the last days?

could “be like God, knowing good and bad.” (Gen. 3:5) Today, many think so highly of themselves that in their opinion no one—not even God—can tell them what is right and what is wrong. For example, that attitude has become especially evident in the way people view marriage.

¹² The Bible instructs the husband and wife to honor each other and their marriage vows. It encourages marriage mates to have a deep sense of commitment to each other, stating: “A man will leave his father and his mother and he will stick to his wife, and they will become one flesh.” (Gen. 2:24) In contrast, those influenced by the wisdom of the world promote a different view, saying that each spouse should focus on his or her own needs. “In some ceremonies,” notes one book about divorce, “the traditional pledge to marry for ‘as long as we both shall live’ was replaced with the more limited promise to marry for ‘as long as we both shall love.’” Such a casual view of marriage has led to countless broken families and has caused immeasurable emotional harm. Without a doubt, the world’s disrespectful view of marriage is a foolish teaching.

¹³ The Bible says: “Everyone proud in heart is detestable to Jehovah.” (Prov. 16:5) Why does Jehovah detest proud people? One reason is that those who

12. What view of marriage does the world promote?

13. What is one reason why Jehovah detests proud people?



God's servants look back with satisfaction on a life spent in Jehovah's service (See paragraph 17)

A Christian puts the needs of others first —especially those of his marriage mate (See paragraph 12)



develop and promote an inflated love of self reflect Satan's own arrogance. Imagine, Satan believed that Jesus—the one whom God used to create all things—should bow down and worship him! (Matt. 4:8, 9; Col. 1:15, 16) Those with such an inflated view of their own importance confirm that the wisdom of the world is foolishness with God.

THE BIBLE'S VIEW OF SELF-IMPORTANCE

¹⁴ The Bible helps us to have a balanced view of ourselves. It acknowledges that a degree of self-love

14. How does Romans 12:3 help us to have a balanced view of ourselves?

is proper. Jesus said: “Love your neighbor as yourself,” which indicates that we should give a reasonable amount of attention to our needs. (Matt. 19:19) However, the Bible does not teach that we should elevate ourselves above others. Rather, it states: “Do nothing out of contentiousness or out of egotism, but with humility consider others superior to you.”—Phil. 2:3; read Romans 12:3.

¹⁵ Today, many people who are considered wise would ridicule the Bible’s counsel about self-importance. They would say that considering others superior to you would make you vulnerable and that others would take advantage of you. Really, though, what fruitage has the self-centered attitude promoted by Satan’s world produced? What have you observed? Are selfish people happy? Do they have happy families? Do they have genuine friends? Do they have a close friendship with God? From what you have seen, which produces the best results—following the wisdom of this world or the wisdom found in God’s Word?

¹⁶ People who follow the advice of those whom the world views as wise are like a tourist who asks a fellow tourist for directions when both of them are lost. Jesus said regarding the “wise” men of his day: “Blind

15. Why do you feel that the Bible’s counsel about self-importance is practical?

16-17. For what can we be thankful, and why?

guides is what they are. If, then, a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.” (Matt. 15:14) Truly, the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.

¹⁷ The Bible’s wise counsel has always proved to be “beneficial for teaching, for reproof, for correcting, for disciplining in righteousness.” (2 Tim. 3:16, ftn.) How thankful we can be that Jehovah, through his organization, has protected us from the wisdom of this world! (Eph. 4:14) The spiritual food he has provided gives us the strength we need to cling to the standards of his Word. What a privilege it is to be guided by the infallible wisdom found in the Bible!

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 44: We see some moments in the life of a married Witness couple through time. The brother and sister share in the preaching work during the late 1960’s. **Page 48:** In the 1980’s, the husband cares for his wife during her time of illness while the couple’s young daughter looks on. Today, the couple relive happy memories of their life spent in Jehovah’s service. Their grown daughter and her family share in the couple’s joy.

CAN YOU RECALL?

- Why is the world’s view of morality foolishness with God?
- How does the Bible’s view of sexual morality dignify humans?
- How does the Bible help us to have a balanced view of ourselves?

SONG 54
“This Is the Way”

“This Is the Way”

(Isaiah 30:20, 21)

1. There is a way of peace,
The way you've come to know.
It is the way you learned,
The way of long ago,
The way that Jesus taught you
When his voice you heard.
This is the way of peace,
Found in Jehovah's Word.

(CHORUS)

*This is the way to life; This is the way.
Don't look aside; Not for a moment stray!
God's voice is calling: 'This is the way;
Do not look back, for yes, this is the way.'*

2. There is a way of love,
No need to look around.
God's voice has shown the way
He lets himself be found.
His love is full and good;
His love is warm and true.
This is the way of love;
It touches all we do.

(Chorus)

3. There is a way of life,
 No need to look behind.
Our God has promised us:
 No better way we'll find,
No higher way to peace,
 No finer way to love.
This is the way to life,
 Thanks to our God above.

(Chorus)

Books of the Bible

1 Ge Genesis	2 Ex Exodus	3 Le Leviticus	4 Nu Numbers	5 De Deuteronomy			
6 Jos Joshua	7 Jg Judges	8 Ru Ruth					
9 1 ^{sa} 1 Samuel	10 2 ^{sa} 2 Samuel	11 1 ^{ki} 1 Kings	12 2 ^{ki} 2 Kings	13 1 ^{ch} 1 Chronicles	14 2 ^{ch} 2 Chronicles		
15 Ezr Ezra	16 Ne Nehemiah	17 Es Esther					
18 Job Job	19 Ps Psalms	20 Pr Proverbs	21 Ec Ecclesiastes	22 Ca Canticles *			
23 Isa Isaiah	24 Jer Jeremiah	25 La Lamentations	26 Eze Ezekiel	27 Da Daniel			
28 Ho Hosea	29 Joe Joel	30 Am Amos	31 Ob Obadiah	32 Jon Jonah	33 Mic Micah	34 Na Nahum	35 Hab Habakkuk

40 Mt Matthew	41 Mr Mark	42 Lu Luke	43 Joh John				
			44 Ac Acts				
45 Ro Romans	46 1 ^{co} 1 Corinthians	47 2 ^{co} 2 Corinthians	48 Ga Galatians				
49 Eph Ephesians	50 Php Philippians	51 Col Colossians	52 1 th 1 Thessalonians	53 2 th 2 Thessalonians			
	54 1 ^{ti} 1 Timothy	55 2 ^{ti} 2 Timothy	56 Tit Titus	57 Phm Philemon			
58 Heb Hebrews	59 Jas James	60 1 ^{pe} 1 Peter	61 2 ^{pe} 2 Peter	62 1 ^{jo} 1 John	63 2 ^{jo} 2 John	64 3 ^{jo} 3 John	65 Jude Jude
							66 Re Revelation

HEBREW SCRIPTURES (“OLD TESTAMENT”)

PENTATEUCH (5 BOOKS):

From creation to the founding of the ancient nation of Israel

HISTORICAL BOOKS (12 BOOKS):

- Israel’s entry into the Promised Land and events thereafter
- History of the nation of Israel down to the destruction of Jerusalem
- History of the Jews after returning from exile in Babylon

POETIC BOOKS (5 BOOKS):

Collections of wise sayings and songs * Song of Solomon

PROPHETIC BOOKS (17 BOOKS):

Prophecies, or predictions, concerning God’s people

CHRISTIAN GREEK SCRIPTURES (“NEW TESTAMENT”)

THE FOUR GOSPELS (4 BOOKS):

History of Jesus’ life and ministry

ACTS OF APOSTLES (1 BOOK):

History of the start of the Christian congregation and missionary activity

LETTERS (21 BOOKS):

- Letters to various Christian congregations
- Letters to individual Christians
- General letters to Christians

REVELATION (1 BOOK):

Series of prophetic visions given to the apostle John