

- Song 150 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

- **“God Did Not Give Us a Spirit of Cowardice”:** (10 min.)  
[Play the video *Introduction to 2 Timothy.*]  
2Ti 1:7—Face trials with “soundness of mind” (w09 5/15 15 ¶9)  
2Ti 1:8—Do not be ashamed of the good news (w03 3/1 9 ¶7)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
2Ti 2:3, 4—How do we minimize our involvement in “the commercial businesses of life”? (w17.07 10 ¶13)

2Ti 2:23—What is one way to “reject foolish and ignorant debates”? (w14 7/15 14 ¶10)

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) 2Ti 1:1-18 (10)

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Apply Yourself to Reading and Teaching:** (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Illustrations That Teach*, and then discuss study 8 of the *Teaching* brochure.
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) w14 7/15 13 ¶3-7—Theme: How Do Jehovah’s People “Renounce Unrighteousness”? (7)


**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 85
- **“Spend Time With Those Who Love Jehovah”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Learn to Reject Bad Association* (video category THE BIBLE).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) jy chap. 78
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 126 and Prayer

2 TIMOTHY 1-4 | “God Did Not Give Us a Spirit of Cowardice”

**1:7, 8**

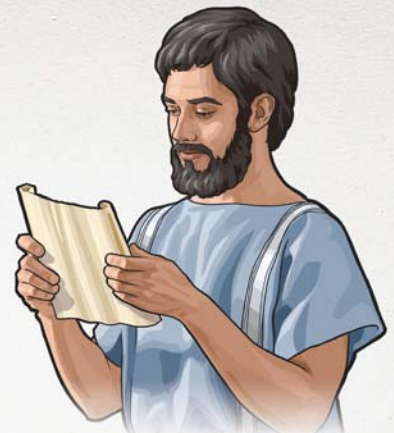
We can find strength in the apostle Paul’s inspired words to Timothy. Rather than be ashamed of the good news, we can boldly speak up to defend our faith, even if this requires “suffering adversity.”

 **In what situations do I need to show courage?**

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# 150 *Seek God for Your Deliverance*

(Zephaniah 2:3)

1. Nations align as one,  
    Opposing Jehovah's Son.  
Their time of human rulership  
    By God's decree now is done.  
Rulers have had their day;  
    God's Kingdom is here to stay.  
Soon Christ will crush earthly enemies.  
    No more will there be delay.

*(CHORUS)*

*Seek God for your deliverance,  
    Yes, look to him with confidence.  
Seek his righteousness,  
    Show your faithfulness,  
For his sov'reignty, take your stand.  
    Then see our God deliver you  
By his mighty hand.*

2. People on earth now choose,  
    Responding to this good news.  
We offer to all men the choice  
    To hear or proudly refuse.  
Trials, although severe,  
    Need not fill our hearts with fear.  
Jehovah cares for his loyal ones;  
    Our cries for help he will hear.

*(Chorus)*

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

## 2 Timothy 1-4

**1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will according to the promise of the life that is through Christ Jesus, **2** to Timothy, a beloved child:

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

**3** I am grateful to God, to whom I am rendering sacred service as my forefathers did, and with a clean conscience, never ceasing to remember you in my supplications night and day. **4** As I remember your tears, I am longing to see you, so that I may get filled with joy. **5** For I recall your unhyprocritical faith, which dwelled first in your grandmother Lo'is and your mother Eu'nice, but which I am confident is also in you.

**6** For this reason I remind you to stir up like a fire the gift of God that is in you through the laying of my hands on you. **7** For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but one of power and of love and of soundness of mind. **8** So do not become ashamed either of the witness about our Lord or of me, a prisoner for his sake, but take your part in suffering adversity for the good news by relying on the power of God. **9** He saved us and called us with a holy calling, not because of our works, but because of his own purpose and undeserved kindness. This was given to us in connection with Christ Jesus before times long ago, **10** but now it has been made clearly evident through the manifestation of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has abolished death and has shed light on life and incorruption through the good news, **11** for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher.

**12** This is why I am also suffering these things, but I am not ashamed. For I know the One whom I have believed, and I am confident that he is able to guard what I have laid up in trust with

him until that day. <sup>13</sup> Keep holding to the standard of wholesome words that you heard from me with the faith and love that result from union with Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> Guard this fine trust by means of the holy spirit, which is dwelling in us.

<sup>15</sup> You know this, that all the men in the province of Asia have turned away from me, including Phy-gel'us and Her-mog'e-nes. <sup>16</sup> May the Lord grant mercy to the household of On-e-siph'o-rus, for he often refreshed me, and he did not become ashamed of my prison chains. <sup>17</sup> On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he diligently looked for me and found me. <sup>18</sup> May the Lord grant him to find mercy from Jehovah in that day. And you well know all the services he rendered in Eph'e-sus.

**2** You, therefore, my child, keep on acquiring power in the undeserved kindness that is in Christ Jesus; <sup>2</sup> and the things you heard from me that were supported by many witnesses, these things entrust to faithful men, who, in turn, will be adequately qualified to teach others. <sup>3</sup> As a fine soldier of Christ Jesus, take your part in suffering adversity. <sup>4</sup> No man serving as a soldier involves himself in the commercial businesses of life, in order to gain the approval of the one who enrolled him as a soldier. <sup>5</sup> And even in the games, anyone who competes is not crowned unless he has competed according to the rules. <sup>6</sup> The hardworking farmer must be the first to partake of the fruits. <sup>7</sup> Give constant thought to what I am saying; the Lord will give you understanding in all things.

<sup>8</sup> Remember that Jesus Christ was raised up from the dead and was David's offspring, according to the good news I preach, <sup>9</sup> for which I am suffering and being imprisoned as a criminal. Nevertheless, the word of God is not bound. <sup>10</sup> For this reason I go on enduring all things for the sake of the chosen ones, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is through Christ Jesus, along with everlasting glory. <sup>11</sup> This saying is trustworthy: Certainly if we died together, we will also live together; <sup>12</sup> if we go on enduring, we will

also rule together as kings; if we deny, he will also deny us; <sup>13</sup> if we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

<sup>14</sup> Keep reminding them of these things, instructing them before God not to fight about words, something of no usefulness at all because it harms those listening. <sup>15</sup> Do your utmost to present yourself approved to God, a workman with nothing to be ashamed of, handling the word of the truth aright. <sup>16</sup> But reject empty speeches that violate what is holy, for they will lead to more and more ungodliness, <sup>17</sup> and their word will spread like gangrene. Hy-me-nae'us and Phi-le'tus are among them. <sup>18</sup> These men have deviated from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already occurred, and they are subverting the faith of some. <sup>19</sup> Despite that, the solid foundation of God remains standing, having this seal, "Jehovah knows those who belong to him," and, "Let everyone calling on the name of Jehovah renounce unrighteousness."

<sup>20</sup> Now in a large house there are utensils not only of gold and silver but also of wood and earthenware, and some for an honorable use but others for a use lacking honor. <sup>21</sup> So if anyone keeps clear of the latter ones, he will be an instrument for an honorable use, sanctified, useful to his owner, prepared for every good work. <sup>22</sup> So flee from youthful desires, but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a clean heart.

<sup>23</sup> Further, reject foolish and ignorant debates, knowing that they produce fights. <sup>24</sup> For a slave of the Lord does not need to fight, but needs to be gentle toward all, qualified to teach, showing restraint when wronged, <sup>25</sup> instructing with mildness those not favorably disposed. Perhaps God may give them repentance leading to an accurate knowledge of truth, <sup>26</sup> and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the Devil, seeing that they have been caught alive by him to do his will.

**3** But know this, that in the last days critical times hard to deal with will be here. <sup>2</sup> For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, haughty, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, disloyal, <sup>3</sup> having no natural affection, not open to any agreement, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, without love of goodness, <sup>4</sup> betrayers, headstrong, puffed up with pride, lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> having an appearance of godliness but proving false to its power; and from these turn away. <sup>6</sup> From among these arise men who slyly work their way into households and captivate weak women loaded down with sins, led by various desires, <sup>7</sup> always learning and yet never able to come to an accurate knowledge of truth.

<sup>8</sup> Now in the way that Jan'nes and Jam'bres opposed Moses, so these also go on opposing the truth. Such men are completely corrupted in mind, disapproved as regards the faith. <sup>9</sup> Nevertheless, they will make no further progress, for their folly will be very plain to all, as it was with those two men. <sup>10</sup> But you have closely followed my teaching, my course of life, my purpose, my faith, my patience, my love, my endurance, <sup>11</sup> the persecutions and sufferings such as I experienced in Antioch, in I-co'ni-um, in Lys'tra. I endured these persecutions, and the Lord rescued me from them all. <sup>12</sup> In fact, all those desiring to live with godly devotion in association with Christ Jesus will also be persecuted. <sup>13</sup> But wicked men and impostors will advance from bad to worse, misleading and being misled.

<sup>14</sup> You, however, continue in the things that you learned and were persuaded to believe, knowing from whom you learned them <sup>15</sup> and that from infancy you have known the holy writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproving, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be fully competent, completely equipped for every good work.

<sup>4</sup> I solemnly charge you before God and Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his manifestation and his Kingdom: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be at it urgently in favorable times and difficult times; reprove, reprimand, exhort, with all patience and art of teaching. <sup>3</sup> For there will be a period of time when they will not put up with the wholesome teaching, but according to their own desires, they will surround themselves with teachers to have their ears tickled. <sup>4</sup> They will turn away from listening to the truth and give attention to false stories. <sup>5</sup> You, though, keep your senses in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelizer, fully accomplish your ministry.

<sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my releasing is imminent. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the fine fight, I have run the race to the finish, I have observed the faith. <sup>8</sup> From this time on, there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me as a reward in that day, yet not to me only, but also to all those who have loved his manifestation.

<sup>9</sup> Do your utmost to come to me shortly. <sup>10</sup> For De'mas has forsaken me because he loved the present system of things, and he has gone to Thes·sa·lo·ni'ca, Cres'cens to Ga·la'ti·a, Titus to Dal·ma'tia. <sup>11</sup> Only Luke is with me. Bring Mark along with you, for he is helpful to me in the ministry. <sup>12</sup> But I have sent Tych'i·cus off to Eph'e·sus. <sup>13</sup> When you come, bring the cloak I left at Tro'as with Carpus, and the scrolls, especially the parchments.

<sup>14</sup> Alexander the coppersmith did me a great deal of harm. Jehovah will repay him according to his deeds. <sup>15</sup> You too should be on guard against him, for he opposed our message to an excessive degree.

<sup>16</sup> In my first defense no one came to my side, but they all forsook me—may they not be held accountable. <sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood near

me and infused power into me, so that through me the preaching might be fully accomplished and all the nations might hear it; and I was rescued from the lion's mouth. <sup>18</sup> The Lord will rescue me from every wicked work and will save me for his heavenly Kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>19</sup> Give my greetings to Pris'ca and Aq'ui-la and the household of On-e-siph'o-rus.

<sup>20</sup> E-ras'tus stayed in Corinth, but I left Troph'i-mus sick at Mi-le'tus. <sup>21</sup> Do your utmost to arrive before winter.

Eu-bu'lus sends you his greetings, and so do Pu'dens and Li'nus and Clau'di-a and all the brothers.

<sup>22</sup> The Lord be with the spirit you show. His undeserved kindness be with you.



- Song 150 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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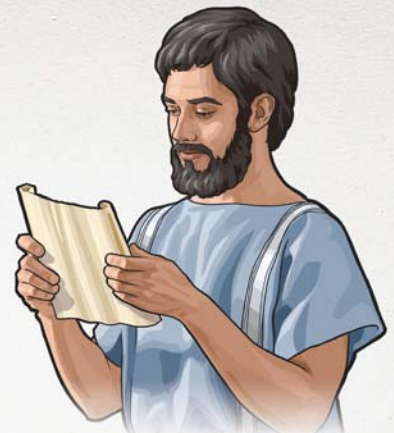
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## Introduction to 2 Timothy

This letter was written by the apostle Paul in Rome about 65 C.E. Emperor Nero had begun persecuting Christians and Paul was again a prisoner in Rome. During his first imprisonment, he was under house arrest. This time his situation was far more serious. He was not only in chains but he was also facing imminent death. Paul wrote this warm letter to Timothy to encourage him to stir up like a fire the gift of God that he received, to do his utmost to remain approved by God and to flee from the improper desires of youth.

Second Timothy has four chapters. Paul opens his letter with warm encouragement for Timothy who may still be in Ephesus. Paul mentions that some brothers in Asia had turned away from him but he commends Onesiphorus who courageously searched for Paul to minister to him.

In Chapter 2, Paul tells Timothy to teach other faithful men the many things he learned from Paul. The apostle urges Timothy to reject foolish and ignorant debates, knowing that they produce fights.

Did You Know? Paul's second letter to Timothy is the last of 14 books that the apostle was inspired to write over a period of about 15 years. He wrote at least five of those books while he was in confinement in Rome, the book of Hebrews being written either shortly before or shortly after his release.

In Chapter 3, Paul foretells what people in general will be like during the last days of Satan's world. Paul then reminds Timothy that the scriptures which are inspired of God are able to make him wise for salvation. Paul also says that all those desiring to live with godly devotion in association with Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

In Chapter 4, Paul solemnly charges Timothy to preach the word urgently because the time is coming when some will reject the truth, preferring to have their ears tickled with false stories. Paul then indicates that his death is near so he asks Timothy to come to him quickly and to bring Mark along.

As you read Paul's second letter to Timothy, note how Paul despite facing imminent death was primarily concerned about others, especially his beloved Timothy; how all those desiring to live with godly devotion will be persecuted; and how, like Paul and Timothy, we should fully accomplish our ministry as we keep our focus on God's Kingdom.

**August 5-11 / 2 Timothy 1-4**

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

### **2 Timothy 1:7—Face trials with “soundness of mind”**

**2 Timothy 1:7:** For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but one of power and of love and of soundness of mind.

#### **w09 5/15 15 paragraph 9**

To help Timothy, Paul later reminded him: “God gave us not a spirit of cowardice, but that of power and of love and of *soundness of mind*.” (2 Timothy 1:7) “Soundness of mind” involves being able to think and reason sensibly. It includes the ability to face things as they are—not the way you would like them to be. Some immature youths manifest a spirit of cowardice and mentally try to escape stressful situations by resorting to excessive sleep or TV viewing, drug or alcohol abuse, constant partying, or sexual immorality. Christians are admonished “to repudiate ungodliness and worldly desires and to live with soundness of mind and righteousness and godly devotion amid this present system of things.”—Titus 2:12.

### **2 Timothy 1:8—Do not be ashamed of the good news**

**2 Timothy 1:8:** So do not become ashamed either of the witness about our Lord or of me, a prisoner for his sake, but take your part in suffering adversity for the good news by relying on the power of God.

## **w03 3/1 9 paragraph 7**

Paul, writing to Timothy, said: “God gave us not a spirit of cowardice, but that of power . . . Therefore do not become ashamed of the witness about our Lord.” (2 Timothy 1:7, 8; Mark 8:38) Having read those words, we can ask ourselves: ‘Am I ashamed of my faith, or am I courageous? At the place where I work (or go to school), do I let those around me know that I am a Witness of Jehovah, or do I try to hide the fact? Am I ashamed to be different from others, or am I proud to stand out because of my relationship with Jehovah?’ If anyone has negative feelings about preaching the good news or taking an unpopular stand, let him remember Jehovah’s counsel to Joshua: “Be courageous and strong.” Never forget, it is not the opinion of our workmates or our schoolmates that counts but the viewpoint of Jehovah and Jesus Christ.—Galatians 1:10.

### **Digging for Spiritual Gems**

**2 Timothy 2:3, 4—How do we minimize our involvement in “the commercial businesses of life”?**

**2 Timothy 2:3, 4:** As a fine soldier of Christ Jesus, take your part in suffering adversity. No man serving as a soldier involves himself in the commercial businesses of life, in order to gain the approval of the one who enrolled him as a soldier.

## **w17.07 10 paragraph 13**

Timothy was a man of faith. After calling Timothy “a fine soldier of Christ Jesus,” Paul told him: “No man serving as a soldier involves himself in the commercial businesses of life, in order to gain the approval of the one who enrolled him as a soldier.” (2 Timothy 2:3, 4) Jesus’ followers today, including an army of over one million full-time ministers, apply Paul’s counsel to the extent that their circumstances allow. Resisting the pressures of advertising and the world around them, they remember the principle: “The borrower is a slave to the lender.” (Proverbs 22:7) Satan would like nothing better than to have us spend all our time and energy as slaves to his commercial world. Some decisions could keep us in financial bondage for years. Huge home mortgages, lingering student loans, expensive car payments, even extravagant weddings can result in great financial pressure. We demonstrate practical wisdom when we simplify our life and reduce debt and expenses, setting ourselves free to slave for God rather than for today’s commercial system.—1 Timothy 6:10.

## **2 Timothy 2:23—What is one way to “reject foolish and ignorant debates”?**

**2 Timothy 2:23:** Further, reject foolish and ignorant debates, knowing that they produce fights.

## **w14 7/15 14 paragraph 10**

Today, Jehovah's people are not often confronted with apostasy within the congregation. Still, when exposed to unscriptural teachings, regardless of the source, we must decisively reject them. It would be unwise to engage in debates with apostates, whether in person, by responding to their blogs, or by any other form of communication. Even when the intention is to help the individual, such conversation would be contrary to the Scriptural direction we just considered. Rather, as Jehovah's people, we completely avoid, yes reject, apostasy.

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

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

**Bible Reading:** (4 minutes or less) 2 Timothy 1:1-18 (*th* study 10)

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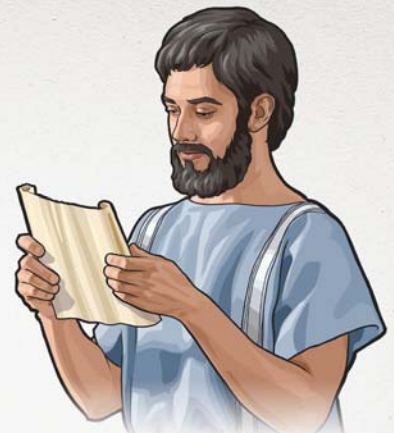
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## **Apply Yourself to Reading and Teaching**

### **Study 8—Illustrations That Teach**

Illustrations are powerful teaching tools. They help to explain complex ideas. They also stimulate thinking and can break down prejudice.

Illustrations stir emotions and appeal to the heart.

**Summary:** Enhance your teaching with simple illustrations that appeal to your listeners teach important points.

They're also memory aids. It's no wonder, then, that Jesus made good use of them.

Here are three things that will make your illustrations effective:

#### **How To Do It:**

- Select simple illustrations
- Choose them with your listeners in mind
- Use them to teach the points that are truly important.

Listen to the following illustration, and see if it's effective.

(Speaker giving a talk) "Furthermore, the world is passing away and so is its desire, but the one who does the will of God remains forever."

If the world is passing away and life in this system of things is temporary. Shouldn't that affect how we use our time and

energy? For example, imagine you're going on a seven-day, European cruise. The ports of call are Lisbon, Gibraltar, Barcelona, Monte Carlo, Florence, and Rome.

Because the ship will have many activities, you've chosen an inside cabin. Although the room is nicely decorated, it's not exactly your taste. For example, you don't like the brightly colored carpet and walls that are common on many cruise ships. Also, the bedspread and curtains are not what you would've chosen. You have a refrigerator in the room, but it's small. Would you spend time redecorating the room—maybe put down a new carpet, paint the room a different color, hang new curtains, or purchase a larger refrigerator? Of course not! Your stay is only temporary.

Similarly, our stay in this system of things is only temporary. Does it make sense that we would spend time and energy to make our life as comfortable as possible?

Although this illustration made a good point, was it as effective as it could have been? Was it simple? Well, was it necessary for the audience to know the reason for the trip, how long the cruise was, or the cities where the ship was stopping? No. These details actually complicated the illustration.

Here's something else: Did the speaker have his listeners in mind? Probably few in his audience have taken a cruise, so it would be hard for them to identify with the situation. Therefore, the point of the illustration could be lost, or their minds might be diverted to the speaker rather than his message.

How might the speaker have illustrated the same point more effectively? Let's watch him try again.

(Speaker giving a talk) "Furthermore, the world is passing away and so is its desire, but the one who does the will of God remains forever."

If the world is passing away and our life in this system of things is temporary, shouldn't that affect how we use our time and energy? For example, imagine that you're visiting relatives in another village for a few days. They kindly give you a room. However, the bed is not as comfortable as yours. The walls could use a few more pictures, and there's no window. Would you purchase a larger bed for your stay and some pictures for the walls? Or would you take time to install a window? Of course not! You're only staying a few days. We might relocate the chairs and tables and a few simple things to make our surroundings more comfortable during our temporary stay, but we would not go to great effort or expense to redecorate the entire room.

In like manner, we keep matters simple during our temporary residency in this old system, giving our main focus to Kingdom interests.

Jesus' illustrations were simple. For example:

"The Kingdom of the heavens is like leaven that a woman took  
"and mixed with three large measures of flour until the whole  
mass was fermented."

It's just one sentence about baking bread, a situation familiar to his audience. This simplicity made Jesus' illustrations appeal to the heart.

Jesus also used illustrations to teach main points, not minor details. So use illustrations selectively. If you were to use an illustration to teach a minor detail, your audience may remember the illustration but not the point of instruction.

How can you find appropriate illustrations? Be observant. Look at the world around you, study our Christian publications, and listen to skilled teachers. Some experienced teachers save illustrations in a file to use later.

If you want to teach like Jesus, enhance your teaching with simple illustrations that appeal to your listeners and that teach main points.

## STUDY 8

### Illustrations That Teach

#### Matthew 13:34, 35

**SUMMARY:** Enhance your teaching with simple illustrations that appeal to your listeners and teach important points.

#### HOW TO DO IT:

- **Choose simple illustrations.** Like Jesus, use little things to explain big things, and easy things to explain difficult things. Do not add needless details that complicate the illustration. Make sure that the features of your illustration really apply to the lesson you are teaching so that your listeners are not distracted by mismatched elements.

Be observant. Look at the world around you, study Christian publications, and listen to skilled teachers. As you do so, take note of illustrations you can use to enhance your teaching. Save these illustrations in a file.

- **Keep your listeners in mind.** Select illustrations that involve activities and interests of your listeners. Be careful that your illustrations will neither embarrass nor offend them.
- **Teach the main point.** Focus on illustrating main points, not minor details. Ensure that your listener will remember not merely the illustration but also the point of instruction.

1. Welcome to all who gather here this day  
To hear God's Word and to learn his way.  
Life-giving truth he offers to us all;  
With thankfulness of heart, we respond to his call.
2. Thanks to our God for brothers such as these,  
Who welcome us and who seek to please.  
May we keep holding men of that sort dear,  
And now we welcome others who meet with us here.
3. God's invitation reaches all mankind,  
That all sincere ones the truth may find.  
God by his Son has drawn us to His side.  
So welcome one another with hearts opened wide.

- Song 150 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

- **“God Did Not Give Us a Spirit of Cowardice”:** (10 min.)  
[Play the video *Introduction to 2 Timothy.*]  
2Ti 1:7—Face trials with “soundness of mind” (w09 5/15 15 ¶9)  
2Ti 1:8—Do not be ashamed of the good news (w03 3/1 9 ¶7)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
2Ti 2:3, 4—How do we minimize our involvement in “the commercial businesses of life”? (w17.07 10 ¶13)

2Ti 2:23—What is one way to “reject foolish and ignorant debates”? (w14 7/15 14 ¶10)

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) 2Ti 1:1-18 (10)

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Apply Yourself to Reading and Teaching:** (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Illustrations That Teach*, and then discuss study 8 of the *Teaching* brochure.
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) w14 7/15 13 ¶3-7—Theme: How Do Jehovah’s People “Renounce Unrighteousness”? (7)


**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 85
- **“Spend Time With Those Who Love Jehovah”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Learn to Reject Bad Association* (video category THE BIBLE).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) jy chap. 78
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 126 and Prayer

2 TIMOTHY 1-4 | “God Did Not Give Us a Spirit of Cowardice”

**1:7, 8**

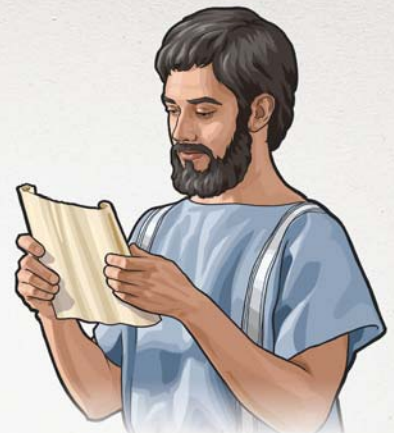
We can find strength in the apostle Paul’s inspired words to Timothy. Rather than be ashamed of the good news, we can boldly speak up to defend our faith, even if this requires “suffering adversity.”

 **In what situations do I need to show courage?**

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## Learn to Reject Bad Association

(A speaker is giving a talk at the Hall)

We must know Jehovah well. That means knowing his thinking on matters. We should welcome such an examination and make any necessary changes. For example, let's read 1 Corinthians 15:33 together.

Here we read: "Do not be misled. Bad associations spoil useful habits." As familiar as that principle is, can you think of an area in your life where it's difficult to apply?

A brother in the audience (John) thinks about his work.

**Boss:** Hey, John. I know it's not your usual, but there's no one to entertain those clients tonight. So can you do it? Thanks.

**Brother:** But I have . . .

**Boss:** Great.

**Brother (soliloquy):** Until then, it wasn't my usual thing...

(Brother is with clients at a restaurant)

...but I need to support my family...

(Brother entertains more clients)

(He continues to wine-and-dine more and more clients)

...and these aren't really my friends. I can handle it. I think.



(The speaker is continuing his talk.)

... we're faced with bad associations in subtle ways. This may require us to ask additional questions of ourselves. Are we letting in bad association through social media? Perhaps we can think of another way bad association . . .

A sister in the audience thinks about her on-line activity:

I don't think so—except for some friends from my old congregation.

(She sees pics of the friends on social media) Wow! They're not doing so well spiritually. But if I stay connected and see what they're doing, maybe I can help them.

(talk continues)

... can affect us. Maybe it's something very specific. Or maybe bad association is coming from a place we never expected.

Another brother in the audience thinks about his on-line gaming:

I only join games with Witness friends I know. But sometimes they connect with people I don't know who pick games I'm not sure we should play.

But maybe my friends know them, so they're *probably* OK.

(talk continues)

It is vital that we avoid bad associations. Now, as we resume in Psalm 26 . . .

(The first brother is now at work and thinks about the talk)

I thought that talk didn't apply to me. But can I really handle bad association? If I take a stand, I may lose my job. But that's 'being anxious about tomorrow.'

Jesus said: "So never be anxious and say, "'What are we to eat?' or, "'What are we to drink?' or, 'What are we to wear?'" Jehovah knows I need a job. And I need to set a good example for when my children face bad association.

(The sister is at home and reads 1 Corinthians 15:33.)

My friends' posts are getting worse—their pictures and comments. Hmm, 2 Timothy 2:16. "But reject empty speeches "that violate what is holy, for they will lead to more and more ungodliness."

I'm letting them share "empty speeches" with me online. I will try to help them while I still can, but following their posts is not the way to do it.

(The second brother is at home)

I told Mom what's been happening when I game with my friends. She gave me good ideas on what to look for in the Research Guide. "Christian Life." "Association." "Is Your Recreation Beneficial?" "Who Are My Companions?" It says, "Who are the ones I want to share my leisure time with?" "Does he have the same Bible-based values and morals that I have?"

Good question. I don't even know who they are sometimes.

Psalm 119:63 says: "I am a friend of all who fear you and of those who keep your orders." But if I only know them online, I can't know if they fear Jehovah.

(Back at the Kingdom Hall another speaker is giving a talk.)

Let's turn in our Bibles to 1st Timothy 1:5 and notice how it reads: "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." We train our conscience with Bible principles that reveal Jehovah's thinking. There may be several principles needed for our unique problem. But when we find and apply them, we'll enjoy a clean heart and a good conscience.

(The camera pans across the audience. The first brother is with his family and looks content and happy with 'a clean heart and a good conscience.')

(The sister is happy and is sitting between the two sisters she was concerned about in the photos on social media. Both of them have smiles on their faces as well.)

(The second brother is sitting next to his mother. Both are happy with the decisions he made about cutting off bad association.)

video source: [https://tv.jw.org/#en/mediaitems/pub-jwb\\_201702\\_3\\_VIDEO](https://tv.jw.org/#en/mediaitems/pub-jwb_201702_3_VIDEO)

## Spend Time With Those Who Love Jehovah

Why should we spend time with those who love Jehovah? Because our associates influence us either positively or negatively. (Pr 13:20) For instance, King Jehoash did “what was right in Jehovah’s eyes” as long as he spent time with High Priest Jehoiada. (2Ch 24:2) After Jehoiada died, Jehoash abandoned Jehovah because of bad association.—2Ch 24:17-19.

In the first century C.E., the apostle Paul compared the Christian congregation to “a large house” and members of the congregation to “utensils,” or household implements. We remain “an instrument for an honorable use” when we avoid close association with anyone, even a member of our family or the congregation, who does what displeases Jehovah. (2Ti 2:20, 21) Therefore, may we continue to make friends with those who love Jehovah and who encourage us to serve him.

**WATCH THE VIDEO *LEARN TO REJECT BAD ASSOCIATION*, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

- What are some ways that bad association can enter into our life?

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- In the dramatization, what helped three Christians to cut off bad association?

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- What Bible principles can help you to choose associates wisely?

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Am I “an instrument for an honorable use”?

—2Ti 2:21

# KEEP READY, FAITHFUL STEWARD!

LUKE 12:35-59

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- THE FAITHFUL STEWARD MUST KEEP READY
  - JESUS COMES TO CREATE DIVISION
- 

Jesus has explained that only a “little flock” will receive a place in the heavenly Kingdom. (Luke 12:32) But receiving that marvelous reward is not something to be treated lightly. In fact, he goes on to stress how important it will be for a person to have the right attitude if he is to be part of the Kingdom.

Accordingly, Jesus admonishes his disciples to keep ready for his return. He says: “Be dressed and ready and have your lamps burning, and you should be like men waiting for their master to return from the marriage, so when he comes and knocks, they may at once open to him. Happy are those slaves whom the master on coming finds watching!” —Luke 12:35-37.



The disciples can easily grasp the attitude that Jesus is illustrating. The servants he mentions are ready, awaiting their master's return. Jesus explains: "If [the master] comes in the second watch [from about nine in the evening to midnight], even if in the third [from midnight to about three in the morning], and finds them ready, happy are they!" —Luke 12:38.

This is much more than counsel about being diligent house servants, or workers. That is clear from the way Jesus, the Son of man, brings himself into the illustration. He tells his disciples: "You also, keep ready, because at an hour that you do not think likely, the Son of man is coming." (Luke 12:40) So at some future point, Jesus will come. He wants his followers—particularly those of the "little flock"—to be ready.

Peter wants to understand Jesus' meaning clearly, so he asks: "Lord, are you telling this illustration just to us or also to everyone?" Rather than answer Peter directly, Jesus sets out a related illustration: "Who really is the faithful steward, the discreet one,



whom his master will appoint over his body of attendants to keep giving them their measure of food supplies at the proper time? Happy is that slave if his master on coming finds him doing so! I tell you truthfully, he will appoint him over all his belongings.”—Luke 12:41-44.

In the earlier illustration, “the master” obviously refers to Jesus, the Son of man. Logically, “the faithful steward” involves men who are part of the “little flock” and who will be given the Kingdom. (Luke 12:32) Here Jesus is saying that certain members of this group will be giving “his body of attendants” their sustenance, “their measure of food supplies at the proper time.” So Peter and the other disciples whom Jesus is teaching and feeding spiritually can conclude that there will be a future period during which the Son of man will come. And in that period, there will be a functioning arrangement for the spiritual feeding of Jesus’ followers, the Master’s “body of attendants.”

Jesus emphasizes in another way why his disciples need to be alert and to give attention to their

attitude. That is because it is possible to grow lax and even go to the point of opposing one's fellows: "But if ever that slave should say in his heart, 'My master delays coming,' and starts to beat the male and female servants and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that slave will come on a day that he is not expecting him and at an hour that he does not know, and he will punish him with the greatest severity and assign him a part with the unfaithful ones."—Luke 12:45, 46.

Jesus says that he has come "to start a fire on the earth." And he has, raising issues that cause great heat of controversy and result in the consuming of false teachings and traditions. This even separates individuals who might be expected to be united, dividing "father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."—Luke 12:49, 53.

These comments have been especially for his disciples. Then Jesus turns to the crowds. Most of the

people have stubbornly refused to accept the evidence that he is the Messiah, so he tells them: “When you see a cloud rising in the west, at once you say, ‘A storm is coming,’ and it happens. And when you see that a south wind is blowing, you say, ‘There will be a heat wave,’ and it occurs. Hypocrites, you know how to examine the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to examine this particular time?” (Luke 12:54-56) They clearly are not ready.

- ◇ Who is “the master,” and who is “the faithful steward”?
- ◇ Why can the disciples conclude that there will be a faithful steward in the future, and what is this steward’s role?
- ◇ Why is Jesus’ counsel to “keep ready” so important?

# 126 *Stay Awake, Stand Firm, Grow Mighty*

(1 Corinthians 16:13)

1. Stay awake, stand firm, grow mighty,  
Be determined to endure.  
Carry on with manly courage,  
For the victory is sure.  
We obey Christ Jesus' clear command;  
Under him we firmly take our stand.

*(CHORUS)*

*Stay awake, stand firm, and grow mighty!  
Carry on right to the end!*

2. Stay awake, and keep your senses,  
Always ready to obey.  
Stay alert to Christ's direction  
Through his faithful slave today.  
Heed the counsel of the older men,  
Who protect his sheep and truth defend.

*(Chorus)*

3. Stay awake, remain united  
As the good news we defend.  
Though our enemies will fight it,  
We will preach until the end.  
Join the shout of praise throughout the land.  
Look! Jehovah's day is soon at hand!

*(Chorus)*

JUNE 2019

# THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:  
AUGUST 5–SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

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### COVER PICTURE:

Jehovah compassionately sent angels to rescue Lot and his family  
(See study article 26, paragraph 4)

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

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

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# 96      *God's Own Book—A Treasure*

(Proverbs 2:1)

1. There is a book that by its many pages,  
    Brings peace and joy and hope to humankind.  
Its wondrous thoughts are charged with such great power;  
    It brings life to the “dead,” sight to the “blind.”  
That precious book is God's own Holy Bible.  
    Its words were penned by men whom God inspired,  
By men who truly loved their God Jehovah,  
    And by his holy spirit they were fired.
  
2. They wrote a record true of God's creations,  
    How by his might this universe appeared.  
They also told how man at first was sinless  
    But how his Paradise then disappeared.  
They further told about a certain angel  
    Who challenged God and spurned his sov'reignty.  
That challenge led to sin and man's great sorrow,  
    But soon will come Jehovah's victory.
  
3. The time has come with reason for rejoicing:  
    Jehovah rules by his anointed King.  
So now we preach the good news of the Kingdom  
    And share the hope of blessings it will bring.  
Within his book are found these cheerful tidings;  
    A sacred banquet feast on which to feed.  
It offers peace beyond all human thinking;  
    This Living Treasure beckons all to read.

(See also 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21.)

# “Look Out That No One Takes You Captive”!

*“Look out that no one takes you captive by means of the philosophy and empty deception according to human tradition.”—COL. 2:8.*

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## SONG 96

God’s Own Book—A Treasure

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## PREVIEW

Satan is a master at fooling people. He has tricked many into believing that they are free, though in reality he has taken them captive. This article will analyze a number of tactics Satan uses to deceive people.



**SATAN** wants to turn us against Jehovah. To achieve his goal, he tries to influence our thinking, in effect, to bring our mind into captivity and make it obedient to him. He tries to persuade or to deceive us into following him by appealing to our desires.—**Read Colossians 2:4, 8.**

<sup>2</sup> Are we really in serious danger of being misled by Satan? Yes, we are! Remember, Paul did not write the warning recorded at Colossians 2:8 to unbelievers. He wrote it to Christians who had been anointed with holy spirit. (Col. 1:2, 5) Those Christians were in danger back then, and we are in even greater danger today. (1 Cor. 10:12) Why? Satan has been confined to the vicinity of the earth, and he is focused on misleading God’s loyal servants. (Rev. 12:9, 12, 17) In addition, we are living during a time when wicked men and impostors are advancing “from bad to worse.”—2 Tim. 3:1, 13.

<sup>3</sup> In this article, we will discuss how Satan uses “empty deception” to try to influence our thinking. We will identify three of his “crafty acts,” or “schemes.” (Eph. 6:11; ftn.) Then, in the following

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1. According to Colossians 2:4, 8, how does Satan try to bring our mind into captivity?

2-3. (a) Why should we pay attention to the warning recorded at Colossians 2:8? (b) What will we consider in this article?

article, we will consider how to counteract any negative effects his tactics may have had on our thinking. First, though, let us consider what we can learn from the way Satan misled the Israelites after they entered the Promised Land.

## TEMPTED TO COMMIT IDOLATRY

<sup>4</sup> Satan cleverly tempted the Israelites to commit idolatry. How did he do so? He took advantage of their need to provide food for themselves. When the Israelites entered the Promised Land, they had to change their methods of growing food. While in Egypt, the Israelites irrigated the farmland by using water drawn from the Nile. However, the agricultural system in the Promised Land was based, not on water drawn from a huge river system, but on water gained from seasonal rains, as well as from the dew that watered the vegetation. (Read Deuteronomy 11:10-15; Isa. 18:4, 5) Therefore, the Israelites had to learn new farming methods. That would not be easy because the majority of those who had any farming experience had died in the wilderness.

<sup>5</sup> Jehovah explained to his people that their cir-

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4-6. According to Deuteronomy 11:10-15, what change in farming methods did the Israelites have to make when they settled in the Promised Land?

cumstances had changed. Then he added the following warning, which at first glance may seem unrelated to the subject of agriculture: “Be careful not to let your heart be enticed to go astray and worship other gods and bow down to them.” (Deut. 11:16, 17) Why did Jehovah warn against worshipping false gods while he was speaking about learning new farming methods?

<sup>6</sup> Jehovah knew that the Israelites would be tempted to learn some local farming techniques from the pagan people around them. Of course, their

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How was Satan able to change the thinking of Israelite farmers?  
(See paragraphs 4-6)



neighbors were much more experienced than the Israelites were, and God's people could learn some useful skills from them, but there was a danger. The thinking of those Canaanite farmers was affected by their belief in Baal. They viewed Baal as the owner of the sky and the giver of rain. Jehovah did not want his people to be deceived by such false beliefs. However, time and time again, the Israelites chose to worship Baal. (Num. 25:3, 5; Judg. 2:13; 1 Ki. 18: 18) Now notice how Satan was able to take the Israelites captive.

### THREE TACTICS SATAN USED TO TAKE THE ISRAELITES CAPTIVE

<sup>7</sup> The first tactic Satan used was that of *appealing to a normal desire* to see the land watered by rain. There was very little rain in the Promised Land from late April through September each year. Life and prosperity depended on the rain that usually started about October. Satan deceived the Israelites into believing that to prosper, they had to adopt the practices of their pagan neighbors. Those neighbors believed that certain rituals were needed to get their gods to act and bring the needed rain. Those who

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7. What test of faith did the Israelites encounter when they entered the Promised Land?

lacked faith in Jehovah believed that this was the only way to avoid a prolonged drought, so they performed pagan rituals in honor of the false god Baal.

<sup>8</sup> Satan used a second tactic on the Israelites. He *appealed to immoral desires*. The pagan nations worshipped their gods by engaging in grossly immoral acts. This perverted form of worship included both female and male temple prostitution. Homosexuality and other forms of sexual immorality not only were tolerated but became normal! (Deut. 23:17, 18; 1 Ki. 14:24) The pagans believed that these rituals encouraged their gods to make the land fertile. Many Israelites were attracted by the pagans' sexually immoral rituals and allowed themselves to be lured into serving false gods. In reality, they were taken captive by Satan.

<sup>9</sup> Satan used a third tactic. He *blurred the Israelites' view of Jehovah*. In the days of the prophet Jeremiah, Jehovah declared that the false prophets made His people forget His name "because of Baal." (Jer. 23:27) God's people apparently stopped using Jehovah's name and substituted it with the name

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8. What is a second tactic Satan used? Explain.

9. In line with Hosea 2:16, 17, how did Satan blur the Israelites' view of Jehovah?

Baal, which means “Owner” or “Master.” This act would blur the line between Jehovah and Baal in the minds of the Israelites, making it easier for them to combine the rituals of Baal worship with worship of Jehovah.—Read Hosea 2:16, 17 and footnote.

## SATAN’S TACTICS TODAY

<sup>10</sup> Satan uses the same tactics today. He captures people by appealing to natural desires, promoting sexual immorality, and blurring people’s view of Jehovah. Let us consider that last tactic first.

<sup>11</sup> *Satan blurs people’s view of Jehovah.* After the death of Jesus’ apostles, some who claimed to be Christians began to spread false teachings. (Acts 20:29, 30; 2 Thess. 2:3) These apostates started to blur the identity of the only true God. For example, they stopped using the divine name in their copies of the Bible and preferred such expressions as “Lord.” By removing God’s personal name and replacing it with “Lord,” they made it difficult for a Bible reader to see how Jehovah is different from the other “lords” mentioned in the Scriptures. (1 Cor. 8:5) They used the same term, “Lord,” for Jehovah and for Jesus, making it difficult to understand that

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10. What tactics does Satan use today?

11. How has Satan blurred people’s view of Jehovah?



How has Satan used false religion to cater to immoral desires?  
(See paragraph 12)

Jehovah and his Son are different individuals with distinct positions. (John 17:3) This confusion contributed to the development of the doctrine of the Trinity—a doctrine not taught in God’s Word. As a result, many see God as mysterious and believe that we cannot know him. What a lie!—Acts 17:27.

<sup>12</sup> *Satan appeals to immoral desires.* In the days of ancient Israel, Satan used false religion to promote immorality. Today, he does the same. False religion tolerates and even promotes immoral conduct. Consequently, many who claim to serve God have abandoned his clear standards of morality. The apostle Paul describes in his letter to the Romans

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12. What has false religion promoted, and with what result, as explained at Romans 1:28-31?

what has been the result. (Read Romans 1:28-31.) Among “the things not fitting” are all forms of sexual immorality, including homosexuality. (Rom. 1:24-27, 32; Rev. 2:20) How important it is for us to stick to the Bible’s clear teachings!

<sup>13</sup> *Satan appeals to natural desires.* We have a natural desire to learn skills that can help us provide for ourselves and our families. (1 Tim. 5:8) Often, we can gain those skills by attending school and being diligent students. But we must be cautious. The educational system in many countries teaches students not only practical skills but also human philosophy. Students are encouraged to question the existence of God and to disregard the Bible. They are told that the theory of evolution is the only intelligent explanation for the origin of life. (Rom. 1:21-23) Such teachings are opposed to “the wisdom of God.”—1 Cor. 1:19-21; 3:18-20.

<sup>14</sup> Human philosophy ignores or contradicts Jehovah’s righteous standards. It does not nurture the fruitage of God’s spirit but, rather, “the works of the flesh.” (Gal. 5:19-23) It generates pride and arrogance, and the result is that people become “lovers of themselves.” (2 Tim. 3:2-4) These qualities are

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13. What is another tactic that Satan uses?

14. What does human philosophy nurture?



the opposite of the meek, humble spirit that God’s servants are encouraged to have. (2 Sam. 22:28) Some Christians who have pursued university education have had their minds molded by human thinking rather than by God’s thinking. Let us consider just one example of what can happen.

<sup>15</sup> A sister who has been in full-time service for over 15 years says: “As a baptized Witness, I had read and heard about the dangers of pursuing university education, but I dismissed such warnings. I

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**15-16.** What do you learn from the experience of one sister?

How can our thinking be warped by human philosophy?  
(See paragraphs 14-16)



thought that the counsel did not apply to me.” What challenges did she face? She admits: “Studying for my courses took so much time and effort that I was too busy to linger in prayer to Jehovah the way I used to, too exhausted to enjoy Bible discussions with others, and too tired to prepare well for the meetings. Thankfully, once I realized that being immersed in higher education was damaging my relationship with Jehovah, I knew I had to stop. And I did.”

<sup>16</sup> What effect did higher education have on this sister’s thinking? She answers: “I am ashamed to admit that the education I pursued taught me to be critical of others, especially my brothers and sisters, to expect too much of them, and to isolate myself from them. It took me a long time to unlearn these lessons. That time in my life showed me just how dangerous it is to ignore the warnings given by our heavenly Father through his organization. Jehovah knew me better than I knew myself. If only I had listened!”

<sup>17</sup> Be determined never to be taken captive “by means of the philosophy and empty deception” of Satan’s world. Continually guard against Satan’s tac-

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17. (a) What should be our determination? (b) What will we consider in the next article?

tics. (1 Cor. 3:18; 2 Cor. 2:11) Never allow him to blur your view of Jehovah. Live by Jehovah’s high moral standards. And do not let Satan trick you into ignoring Jehovah’s advice. But what if you detect that you have already been affected by the thinking of this world? The next article will show how God’s Word can help us overturn even “strongly entrenched” thoughts and habits.—2 Cor. 10:4, 5.

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**PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 5:** Israelites associating with the Canaanites are being tempted to engage in Baal worship and immorality. **Page 9:** An advertisement from a church that tolerates homosexuality. **Page 11:** A young sister has enrolled in a university. She and her classmates are taken in by their professor’s idea that science and technology can solve all mankind’s problems. Later, at the Kingdom Hall, she is disinterested and critical.

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#### WHAT TACTICS HAS SATAN USED TO . . .

- blur people’s view of Jehovah?
- appeal to immoral desires?
- appeal to natural desires?

# 49      *Making Jehovah's Heart Glad*

(Proverbs 27:11)

1. Great God, we've vowed to do your will;  
    In wisdom your work we'll fulfill,  
    For then we know we'll have a part  
    In making glad your loving heart.
2. Your slave, your steward here on earth,  
    Declares your greatness and your worth  
    And feeds us nourishment when due,  
    To strengthen us your will to do.
3. Impart to us your active force,  
    That we may keep a faithful course  
    And bring forth fruitage to your praise.  
    May we make glad your heart each day.



