

- Song 114 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Keep Close in Mind the Presence of the Day of Jehovah”:** (10 min.)
[Play the video *Introduction to 2 Peter.*]
2Pe 3:9, 10—Jehovah’s day will come right on time (w06 12/15 27 ¶11)
2Pe 3:11, 12—We need to consider the kind of people we should be (w06 12/15 19 ¶18)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
2Pe 1:19—Who is the “daystar,” when did he rise, and how do we come to know that this happened? (w08 11/15 22 ¶2)

2Pe 2:4—What is “Tartarus,” and when were the rebellious angels thrown into it? (w08 11/15 22 ¶3)

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) 2Pe 1:1-15 (5)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Second Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Play and discuss the video.
- **Second Return Visit:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (7)
- **Bible Study:** (5 min. or less) *bhs* 154-155 ¶3-4 (13)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 96
- **“How Much Do You Treasure God’s Word?”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *They Valued the Bible—Excerpt (William Tyndale)* (video category THE BIBLE).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jy* chap. 88 ¶12-19
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
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2 PETER 1-3 | “Keep Close in Mind the Presence of the Day of Jehovah”

3:11, 12

Jehovah will quickly execute justice at his appointed time. Do our actions show that we are ready for Jehovah’s coming day?

What does it mean to be involved “in holy acts of conduct and deeds of godly devotion”?

- We must be morally clean and stand up for our faith
- We must regularly participate in spiritual activities, both in public and in private



How can I show that I am keeping Jehovah’s day close in mind?

1. Our Sov'reign Lord Jehovah
Is zealous for his holy name.
He fervently desires
To clear it from unrighteous blame.
Through many generations,
Great endurance he has shown;
In loving, kindly patience,
Not weary has he grown.
His will is that salvation
All sorts of people might attain.
Long-lasting, loving patience
By God will not have been in vain.

2. The quality of patience
Will help us on our godly path.
It lets our heart be tranquil,
Protects us from unrighteous wrath.
It finds the good in others,
Always hoping for the best.
It helps us keep our balance
In times when we're distressed.
Along with other virtues
That holy spirit can bestow,
Our patience will assist us
To imitate the God we know.

2 Peter 1-3

1 Simon Peter, a slave and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have acquired a faith as precious as ours through the righteousness of our God and the Savior Jesus Christ:

2 May undeserved kindness and peace be increased to you by an accurate knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, **3** for his divine power has granted us all the things that contribute to life and godly devotion through the accurate knowledge of the One who called us by his own glory and virtue. **4** Through these things he has granted us the precious and very grand promises, so that through these you may become sharers in divine nature, having escaped from the world's corruption produced by wrong desire.

5 For this very reason, put forth all earnest effort to supply to your faith virtue, to your virtue knowledge, **6** to your knowledge self-control, to your self-control endurance, to your endurance godly devotion, **7** to your godly devotion brotherly affection, to your brotherly affection love. **8** For if these things exist in you and overflow, they will prevent you from being either inactive or unfruitful regarding the accurate knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 For anyone lacking these things is blind, shutting his eyes to the light, and has become forgetful of his cleansing from his sins of long ago. **10** Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and choosing sure for yourselves, for if you keep on doing these things, you will by no means ever fail. **11** In fact, in this way you will be richly granted entrance into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

12 For this reason I intend always to remind you of these things, although you know them and are well-established in the truth that is present in you. **13** But I consider it right, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you with reminders, **14** knowing as I do that my tabernacle is soon to be removed, just as also our Lord Jesus

Christ made clear to me. ¹⁵ I will always do my utmost so that after my departure, you may be able to recall these things for yourselves.

¹⁶ No, it was not by following artfully contrived false stories that we made known to you the power and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, but rather, we were eyewitnesses of his magnificence. ¹⁷ For he received from God the Father honor and glory when words such as these were conveyed to him by the magnificent glory: “This is my Son, my beloved, whom I myself have approved.” ¹⁸ Yes, these words we heard coming from heaven while we were with him in the holy mountain.

¹⁹ So we have the prophetic word made more sure, and you are doing well in paying attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place (until day dawns and a daystar rises) in your hearts. ²⁰ For you know this first, that no prophecy of Scripture springs from any private interpretation. ²¹ For prophecy was at no time brought by man’s will, but men spoke from God as they were moved by holy spirit.

2 However, there also came to be false prophets among the people, as there will also be false teachers among you. These will quietly bring in destructive sects, and they will even disown the owner who bought them, bringing speedy destruction upon themselves. ² Furthermore, many will follow their brazen conduct, and because of them the way of the truth will be spoken of abusively. ³ Also, they will greedily exploit you with counterfeit words. But their judgment, decided long ago, is not moving slowly, and their destruction is not sleeping.

⁴ Certainly God did not refrain from punishing the angels who sinned, but threw them into Tar'ta-rus, putting them in chains of dense darkness to be reserved for judgment. ⁵ And he did not refrain from punishing an ancient world, but kept Noah, a preacher of righteousness, safe with seven others when he brought a flood

upon a world of ungodly people. ⁶ And by reducing the cities of Sod'om and Go-mor'rah to ashes, he condemned them, setting a pattern for ungodly people of things to come. ⁷ And he rescued righteous Lot, who was greatly distressed by the brazen conduct of the lawless people— ⁸ for day after day that righteous man was tormenting his righteous soul over the lawless deeds that he saw and heard while dwelling among them. ⁹ So, then, Jehovah knows how to rescue people of godly devotion out of trial, but to reserve unrighteous people to be destroyed on the day of judgment, ¹⁰ especially those who seek to defile the flesh of others and who despise authority.

Daring and self-willed, they are not afraid to speak abusively of glorious ones, ¹¹ whereas angels, although they are greater in strength and power, do not bring against them an accusation in abusive terms, out of respect for Jehovah. ¹² But these men, like unreasoning animals that act on instinct and are born to be caught and destroyed, speak abusively about things of which they are ignorant. They will suffer destruction brought on by their own destructive course, ¹³ suffering harm as their reward for their own harmful course.

They consider it pleasurable to indulge in luxurious living, even in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes who revel in their deceptive teachings while feasting together with you. ¹⁴ Their eyes are full of adultery and are unable to desist from sin, and they entice unstable ones. They have a heart trained in greed. They are accursed children. ¹⁵ Abandoning the straight path, they have been led astray. They have followed the path of Ba'laam the son of Be'or, who loved the reward of wrongdoing, ¹⁶ but was reproved for his own violation of what was right. A voiceless beast of burden speaking with a human voice hindered the prophet's mad course.

¹⁷ These are waterless springs and mists driven by a violent storm, and the blackest darkness has been reserved for them.

¹⁸ They make high-sounding statements that are empty. By

appealing to the desires of the flesh and with acts of brazen conduct, they entice people who have just escaped from those who live in error. ¹⁹ While they are promising them freedom, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for if anyone is overcome by someone, he is his slave. ²⁰ Certainly if after escaping from the defilements of the world by an accurate knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they get involved again with these very things and are overcome, their final state has become worse for them than the first. ²¹ It would have been better for them not to have accurately known the path of righteousness than after knowing it to turn away from the holy commandment they had received. ²² What the true proverb says has happened to them: “The dog has returned to its own vomit, and the sow that was bathed to rolling in the mire.”

3 Beloved ones, this is now the second letter I am writing you in which, as in my first one, I am stirring up your clear thinking faculties by way of a reminder, ² that you should remember the sayings previously spoken by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles. ³ First of all know this, that in the last days ridiculers will come with their ridicule, proceeding according to their own desires ⁴ and saying: “Where is this promised presence of his? Why, from the day our forefathers fell asleep in death, all things are continuing exactly as they were from creation’s beginning.”

⁵ For they deliberately ignore this fact, that long ago there were heavens and an earth standing firmly out of water and in the midst of water by the word of God; ⁶ and that by those means the world of that time suffered destruction when it was flooded with water. ⁷ But by the same word the heavens and the earth that now exist are reserved for fire and are being kept until the day of judgment and of destruction of the ungodly people.

⁸ However, do not let this escape your notice, beloved ones, that one day is with Jehovah as a thousand years and a thousand years

as one day. ⁹ Jehovah is not slow concerning his promise, as some people consider slowness, but he is patient with you because he does not desire anyone to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance. ¹⁰ But Jehovah's day will come as a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar, but the elements being intensely hot will be dissolved, and earth and the works in it will be exposed.

¹¹ Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, consider what sort of people you ought to be in holy acts of conduct and deeds of godly devotion, ¹² as you await and keep close in mind the presence of the day of Jehovah, through which the heavens will be destroyed in flames and the elements will melt in the intense heat! ¹³ But there are new heavens and a new earth that we are awaiting according to his promise, and in these righteousness is to dwell.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved ones, since you are awaiting these things, do your utmost to be found finally by him spotless and unblemished and in peace. ¹⁵ Furthermore, consider the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶ speaking about these things as he does in all his letters. However, some things in them are hard to understand, and these things the ignorant and unstable are twisting, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

¹⁷ You, therefore, beloved ones, having this advance knowledge, be on your guard so that you may not be led astray with them by the error of the lawless people and fall from your own steadfastness. ¹⁸ No, but go on growing in the undeserved kindness and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

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- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

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- **“How Much Do You Treasure God’s Word?”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *They Valued the Bible—Excerpt (William Tyndale)* (video category THE BIBLE).
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How can I show that I am keeping Jehovah’s day close in mind?

October 28–November 3 - 2 Peter 1-3

- Song 114 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 minutes or less)

Treasures From God's Word

“Keep Close in Mind the Presence of the Day of Jehovah”: (10 minutes)

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“Keep Close in Mind the Presence of the Day of Jehovah”

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2 Peter 3:9, 10—Jehovah’s day will come right on time

2 Peter 3:9, 10: Jehovah is not slow concerning his promise, as some people consider slowness, but he is patient with you because he does not desire anyone to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance. But Jehovah’s day will come as a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar, but the elements being intensely hot will be dissolved, and earth and the works in it will be exposed.

w06 12/15 27 paragraph 11

How, though, should we understand Jesus’ assurance that Jehovah will cause justice to be done “speedily”? God’s Word shows that “even though [Jehovah] is long-suffering,” he will quickly execute justice when the time is ripe. (Luke 18:7, 8; 2 Peter 3:9, 10) In Noah’s time, when the Flood arrived, the wicked were destroyed without delay. Likewise, in Lot’s day, when fire rained from heaven, the wicked perished. Jesus said: “The same way it will be on that day when the Son of man is to be revealed.” (Luke 17:27-30) Again, the wicked will experience “sudden destruction.” (1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3) Indeed, we can be fully confident that Jehovah will not allow Satan’s world to exist for one day longer than justice requires.

2 Peter 3:11, 12—We need to consider the kind of people we should be

2 Peter 3:11, 12: Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, consider what sort of people you ought to be in holy acts of conduct and deeds of godly devotion, as you await and keep close in mind the presence of the day of Jehovah, through which the heavens will be destroyed in flames and the elements will melt in the intense heat!

w06 12/15 19 paragraph 18

No wonder the apostle Peter admonishes us to keep close in mind “the presence of the day of Jehovah”! How can we do this? One way is by being involved “in holy acts of conduct and deeds of godly devotion.” (2 Peter 3:11, 12) Keeping busy in such activities will help us to anticipate eagerly the arrival of “the day of Jehovah.” The Greek word translated “keeping close in mind” literally means “speeding up.” We cannot actually speed up the time that remains until the arrival of Jehovah’s day. Yet, as we wait for that day, the time will seem to pass much more quickly if we are busy in God’s service.—1 Corinthians 15:58.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

2 Peter 1:19—Who is the “daystar,” when did he rise, and how do we come to know that this happened?

2 Peter 1:19: So we have the prophetic word made more sure, and you are doing well in paying attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place (until day dawns and a daystar rises) in your hearts.

w08 11/15 22 paragraph 2

The “daystar” is Jesus Christ in Kingdom power. (Revelation 22:16) In 1914, Jesus rose before all creation as the Messianic King, heralding the dawn of a new day. The transfiguration provided a visionary foreview of Jesus’ glory and Kingdom power, underscoring the dependability of God’s prophetic word. Paying attention to that word illuminates our hearts, and we are thus made aware that the Daystar has risen.

2 Peter 2:4—What is “Tartarus,” and when were the rebellious angels thrown into it?

2 Peter 2:4: Certainly God did not refrain from punishing the angels who sinned, but threw them into Tartarus, putting them in chains of dense darkness to be reserved for judgment.

w08 11/15 22 paragraph 3

Tartarus is a prisonlike condition to which only spirit creatures—not humans—are consigned. It is a state of dense mental darkness regarding God's bright purposes. Those in Tartarus have no hope for the future. God threw the disobedient angels into Tartarus in Noah's day, and they will remain in that abased condition until they are destroyed.

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 Peter 1:1-15 (*th* study 5)

An Introduction to Second Peter

The Apostle Peter identifies himself as the writer of his two inspired letters First and Second Peter. Peter wrote his Second Letter about 64 c.e., shortly after he wrote his first letter.

At the time he may still have been in Babylon or its vicinity. Peter's second letter encourages anointed Christians to make their Heavenly calling sure to guard against false teachers and to pay attention to the prophetic word.

Second Peter contains three chapters.

Chapter 1 discusses Christ Transfiguration, which gave Peter James and John a preview of Christ glory and Kingdom power. The Transfiguration made the prophetic word more sure. So Christ followers should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place.

In **Chapter 2** Peter warns us that false teachers would arise and bring in destructive sects.

Those deceivers who began to appear in the first century. Would face Divine Judgment as did the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Did you know when Peter wrote his second letter, he knew that his death was near but instead of being overly concerned about himself. He continued to obey Jesus loving command feed my little sheep.

An Introduction to Second Peter

Chapter 3 points forward to Christ's presence in Kingdom power. Concerning that time Peter foretold that there would be ridiculers, who would deliberately ignore that Jehovah had destroyed a Wicked World once before in Noah's day. Peter then points to God's promise of a figurative new heavens and a new Earth in which righteousness will dwell. In the meantime, God's people should stick to the holy writings and engage in Deeds of Godly devotion.

As you read Second Peter note how Christ Transfiguration can strengthen our faith and Bible prophecy how we need to be on guard against false teachers? and how we must patiently await the new heavens?

God's Kingdom Government, which will rule over a new Earthly Society of God-fearing humans.

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Sample Conversation
Second Return Visit

Francisco (Publisher 1): Hi.

Ian (Householder): Oh, hi, Francisco, Shane.

Shane (Publisher 2): Good to see you.

Ian (Householder): Likewise

Francisco (Publisher 1): On our last visit, the question came up how does God feel about our suffering? Notice the Bible's comforting answer is found out. Isaiah 63:9. This verse describes how God felt and what he did about it when some of his people in Bible times were suffering. We like to read that out loud for us.

Ian (Householder): Okay

9 During all their distress it was distressing to him. And his own personal messenger saved them. In his love and compassion he repurchased them, and he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Francisco (Publisher 1): Thank you, according to this verse, how did God feel when his people were in distress? Did you notice that near the beginning of the verse?

Ian (Householder): It was distressing to him.

Sample Conversation

Francisco (Publisher 1): Yes, so God felt for his people their suffering hurt him, too. But God did more than just feel for his people. His love moved him to take action. Did you notice what the verse says he did for them?

Ian (Householder): Umm, he saved them.

Francisco (Publisher 1): That's right, in due time, God took action to end their suffering. In the meantime, he comforted them to help them endure it, the same is true today. I remember the first time we met you mention how your family suffer a lot.

Ian (Householder): Oh, yeah, we've been through a very hard time.

Francisco (Publisher 1): Well, in this first can apply to you too. During all this stress is distressing to God, and if you allow him to heal, comfort and support you.

Ian (Householder): I really want to believe that, it's just hard.

Francisco (Publisher 1): I can imagine through his word, God reveals how much he cares for you. One proof of that is what he promises to do to end our suffering. Let's examine that topic from the Bible during our next visit.



Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK


Sample Conversations

●○○
INITIAL CALL →

Question: How do we know that our suffering is not punishment from God?

Scripture: **Jas 1:13**

Link: Why do we suffer?




○○○
FIRST RETURN VISIT →

Question: Why do we suffer?

Scripture: **1Jo 5:19**

Link: How does God feel about our suffering?




○○●
SECOND RETURN VISIT

Question: How does God feel about our suffering?

Scripture: **Isa 63:9**

Link: What will God do to end our suffering?



³ Some people say that God accepts all religions, but that's not what Jesus taught us. He said: "Not everyone saying to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the Kingdom of the heavens, but only the one doing the will of my Father." So it is necessary for us to learn what the will of God is and then to do it. This is a serious matter because Jesus compared people who do not obey God to criminals, "workers of lawlessness."—Matthew 7:21-23.

⁴ Jesus warned us that when we want to do the will of God, we will face challenges. He said: "Go in through the narrow gate, because broad is the gate and spacious is the road leading off into destruction, and many are going in through it; whereas narrow is the gate and cramped the road leading off into life, and few are finding it." (Matthew 7:13, 14) The cramped road, or the right way to worship God, leads to everlasting life. The spacious road, or the wrong way to worship God, leads to death. But Jehovah does not want anyone to die. He gives everyone the opportunity to learn about him.—2 Peter 3:9.

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.)

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They Valued the Bible—Excerpt (William Tyndale)

In the autumn of 1536, William Tyndale was led from his prison cell, in the castle of Vilvoorde, to the site of his impending execution. There a post had been prepared for him. Tyndale was chained to the post, strangled to death, and then his body burned before the onlooking crowd. His crime? Tyndale struggled to reconcile the teachings of the church with his own studies of the Bible. William Tyndale died with his faith intact that the Bible is the Word of God.

Dr. Peter J. Williams (Director of Tyndale House Center of Biblical Research)

William Tyndale was the first person to seek to translate the Bible from the original languages into English.

Professor Guido Latre' (Catholic University of Louvan)

Tyndale was born in the late 15th century. He was born in the area of Gloucestershire but had a chance to go to Oxford and became a priest.

Dr. Peter J. Williams

In the 15th century, there was a lot of resistance—the idea that the Word of God could just simply be accessible by the general people.

Dr. Karen Limper-Herz (Lead Curator, 16th Century Printed Books)

People knew the Latin Bible from church, which was interpreted by the priest for them. They never had direct access to the Bible themselves.

Professor Guido Latre' (Catholic University of Louvan)

Tyndale was not allowed to do this translation in England. He went to the Bishop of London asking for his permission to translate the New Testament from the Greek—the original text—into English but was not given that permission.

Such was the opposition to Bible translation that Tyndale later wrote that there was no place to do it in all England. And so with the help of merchants sympathetic to his cause, Tyndale fled to Germany where he could more easily work on his English translation of the New Testament. By 1525, his translation was complete and ready to be printed.

The British Library in London holds the answer to what happened next. Dr. Karen Limper-Herz, a lead curator at the library, is going to help us find out.

Dr. Karen Limper-Herz

So we are looking at a unique copy of the first edition of Tyndale's New Testament, printed in Cologne in 1525. The Cologne Fragment is the only known copy of what exists of Tyndale's first edition of the New Testament. The fact that it is a fragment shows that it was a dangerous thing to do. The printer had too much to drink and mentioned that he was printing this pro-Lutheran English New Testament for somebody called William Tyndale. The authorities found out about it, and the print

shop was raided. Tyndale and his partners ran—and this is all that survives today—and they went down the Rhine a bit further to Worms. So the fact that they didn't get much further than part way through Matthew is quite indicative of how dangerous it was.

The first complete copies of Tyndale's translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures were finally printed in the city of Worms in Germany in 1526. Around 3,000 or more of these books were produced.

After leaving Germany, Tyndale moved to Antwerp. This bustling city was ideal for Tyndale. It had a thriving printing industry and its busy port made it easy for his books to reach readers in England.

Professor Guido Latré has kindly offered to show me around the very streets that Tyndale would have walked himself some 500 years ago.

Professor Guido Latre'

What he saw around him here were ordinary people having access to the Bible in Dutch. He wanted the same for his own folk in England. If you wanted to smuggle Bibles on a large scale into England, this was Northern Europe's biggest seaport. You can't easily smuggle a big volume and a big format. So tiny loose leaves that were taken to places like this—these underground cellars, the warehouses—and between the leaves of larger books that were not forbidden, the tiny leaves of Tyndale's translation would have been hidden.

In London, someone would have recognized: 'Aha! These are the stacks that are marked. 'I must have a look at these and find the

loose leaves of Tyndale's Bible.' There were about 30,000 copies of Tyndale's Bible available by the end of his life. This was a brave man and a big man in terms of courage and in terms of investment of time. And the risks he took are not to be underestimated.

William Tyndale was imprisoned here in Vilvoorde, just north of Brussels. As he languished in prison for over a year, he no doubt contemplated the cruel death that inevitably awaited him.

Tyndale is often renowned for his influence on the English language, but his work was more than that of just scholarly ambition. Tyndale loved the Bible. Maybe it can be said of him that he shared the feelings of the psalmist who spoke of God's Word and said: "How I do love your law!"

Despite intense opposition, the Bible and the wisdom in it survives to this day, a faithful transmission of the original writers' words. No wonder so many have placed such value on the Bible.

video source: https://tv.jw.org/#en/mediaitems/docid-502017150_1_VIDEO

consider them *'am ha-'a'rets*, or people of the land (earth), who neither know the Law nor deserve to be taught it. (John 7:49) That reflects the situation of the “beggar named Lazarus,” who hungers for even the meager “things dropping from the table of the rich man.” Like Lazarus covered with ulcers, the common people are looked down on, as if they are spiritually diseased.

That sad situation has existed for some time, but Jesus knows that the time has come for a great change in the condition of both those who are like the rich man and those who are like Lazarus.

THE CHANGE FOR THE RICH MAN AND FOR LAZARUS

Jesus goes on to describe this dramatic change in circumstances. “Now in the course of time,” he says, “the beggar died and was carried off by the angels to Abraham’s side. Also, the rich man died and was buried. And in the Grave he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and he saw Abraham from afar and Lazarus by his side.”—Luke 16:22, 23.

Those listening to Jesus know that Abraham is long dead and in the Grave. The Scriptures make it



clear that no one in the Grave, or Sheol, can see or speak, including Abraham. (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 10) What, then, do these religious leaders think that Jesus means with this illustration? What might he be indicating about the common people and the money-loving religious leaders?

Jesus has just pointed to a change by saying that ‘the Law and the Prophets were until John the Baptist, but from then on the Kingdom of God is being declared as good news.’ Hence, it is with the preaching of John and Jesus Christ that both Lazarus and the rich man die to their former circumstances, or condition, and they experience new positions relative to God.

Specifically, those of the humble or poor class have long been spiritually deprived. But they are being helped by and are responding to the message about the Kingdom presented first by John the Baptist and then by Jesus. Formerly, they had to get by with what amounted to little ‘things dropped from the spiritual table’ of the religious leaders. Now they are being fed with essential Scriptural truths,

particularly the wonderful things Jesus is explaining. It is as if they finally are in the favored position in the eyes of Jehovah God.

In contrast, those in the rich and influential class of religious leaders refuse to accept the Kingdom message that John proclaimed and that Jesus has been preaching throughout the land. (Matthew 3:1, 2; 4:17) In fact, they are angered, or tormented, by that message, which points to a coming fiery judgment from God. (Matthew 3:7-12) It would be a relief to the money-loving religious leaders if Jesus and his disciples would let up on declaring God's message. Those leaders are like the rich man in the illustration, who says: "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this blazing fire."—Luke 16:24.

But that is not to happen. Most of the religious leaders will not change. They had refused to "listen to Moses and the Prophets," which writings should have led them to accept Jesus as God's Messiah and King. (Luke 16:29, 31; Galatians 3:24) Nor do they



humble themselves and let themselves be persuaded by those poor ones who accept Jesus and now have divine favor. Jesus' disciples, for their part, cannot compromise or water down the truth just to satisfy the religious leaders or give them relief. In his illustration, Jesus describes this reality in the words uttered by "Father Abraham" to the rich man:

"Child, remember that you had your fill of good things in your lifetime, but Lazarus for his part received bad things. Now, however, he is being comforted here, but you are in anguish. And besides all these things, a great chasm has been fixed between us and you, so that those who want to go over from here to you cannot, neither may people cross over from there to us."—Luke 16:25, 26.

How just and fitting it is that such a dramatic change takes place! It amounts to a reversal of position between the proud religious leaders and the humble ones who accept Jesus' yoke and are finally being refreshed and fed spiritually. (Matthew 11:28-30) This change will be even more evident in a few

months when the Law covenant is replaced by the new covenant. (Jeremiah 31:31-33; Colossians 2:14; Hebrews 8:7-13) When God pours out holy spirit on the day of Pentecost 33 C.E., it will be unmistakably clear that, rather than the Pharisees and their religious allies, Jesus' disciples have God's favor.

- ◇ How does Jesus indicate a change in circumstances?
- ◇ The message preached by John and Jesus finds what response among the religious leaders, and how does Jesus illustrate this?
- ◇ The religious leaders would like what to happen, but why will it not occur?
- ◇ When will the chasm between the religious leaders and Jesus' disciples become even greater?

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.

SEPTEMBER 2019

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



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COVER PICTURE:

The apostle John saw “a great crowd” dressed in white robes and with palm branches in their hands (See study article 39, paragraph 2)

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48 *Daily Walking With Jehovah* (Micah 6:8)

1. Hand in hand with our dear Father,
We would humbly walk with him each day.
Oh, how undeserved his kindness
That he grants to those who seek his way!
By his love God made provision;
We may freely take his hand.
So we make our dedication;
With Jehovah we take our stand.
2. In this day of Satan's anger,
As the end is drawing ever near,
We are faced with opposition
That could make us turn away in fear.
But Jehovah gives protection;
Close to him we want to stay,
That we might forever serve him.
Love him loyally, never stray.
3. Help for us God has provided
Through his spirit and his written Word,
Through the Christian congregation,
Through assurance that our prayer is heard.
As we're walking with Jehovah,
He will help us do what's right.
He will help us to be loyal
And walk modestly in his sight.

Jehovah Values His Humble Servants

“Jehovah . . . takes note of the humble.”—PS. 138:6.

SONG 48

Daily Walking With Jehovah

PREVIEW

One of the most important qualities we need to develop is humility. What is humility? Why should we cultivate it? And how can changing circumstances test our humility? This article will discuss these important questions.

JEHOVAH loves humble people. Only those who are truly humble can have a warm, personal relationship with him. On the other hand, “the haughty he knows only from a distance.” (Ps. 138:6) All of us want to please Jehovah and experience his warm love, so we have good reasons to learn to cultivate humility.

² In this article, we will discuss the answers to three questions: (1) What is humility? (2) Why should we cultivate that quality? (3) What situations can test our humility? As we will see, when we cultivate humility, we bring joy to Jehovah’s heart and benefit ourselves.—Prov. 27:11; Isa. 48:17.

WHAT IS HUMILITY?

³ Humility is lowliness of mind and freedom from pride or arrogance. The Bible indicates that a humble person has a proper view of his relationship with Jehovah God and with his fellow man. The humble person acknowledges that everyone is superior to him in some way.—Phil. 2:3, 4.

⁴ Some people only appear to be humble. They

-
1. How does Jehovah feel about humble people? Explain.
 2. What will we discuss in this article?
 3. What is humility?
 - 4-5. Why can we say that true humility is not something that we merely appear to have?

may have an unassuming personality. Or they may show deference or politeness because of their culture and upbringing. But deep down, they may actually be very prideful. Sooner or later, they will reveal what they truly are at heart.—Luke 6:45.

⁵ On the other hand, people who appear confident or forthright are not necessarily proud. (John 1:46, 47) Yet, those with outgoing personalities must be careful not to rely on their natural ability. Whether we are outgoing or not, all of us must work at developing a humble heart condition.

⁶ Consider the example of the apostle Paul. He was used mightily by Jehovah to establish new congregations in one city after another. He may even have accomplished more in the ministry than any other apostle of Jesus Christ. Yet, Paul did not elevate himself among his brothers. Humbly, he admitted: “I am the least of the apostles, and I am not worthy of being called an apostle, because I persecuted the congregation of God.” (1 Cor. 15:9) Then, Paul correctly attributed his fine standing with Jehovah, not to his own qualities or works, but to God’s undeserved kindness. (Read 1 Corinthians 15:10.) What a fine lesson in humility Paul gave in his letter

6. As shown at 1 Corinthians 15:10, what can we learn from the example of the apostle Paul?

to the Corinthians—especially when we recall that some men in the congregation were seeking to prove themselves to be superior to Paul!—2 Cor. 10:10.

⁷ Many of Jehovah’s people have been encouraged by the life story of Brother Karl F. Klein, who served as a member of the Governing Body. In his life story, Brother Klein humbly admitted to a number of the challenges that he had struggled with over the years. For example, back in the 1920’s, he found the house-to-house work to be so difficult that after his

7. How have some prominent brothers in modern times shown humility? Give an example.

The apostle Paul had a humble view of himself
(See paragraph 6)





Karl F. Klein, a humble brother who served on the Governing Body
(See paragraph 7)

first time out, for some two years he did not do it again. Later, while serving at Bethel, he harbored resentment for a time after he received counsel. Also, he suffered a nervous breakdown, from which he later recovered. Yet, he also enjoyed a number of outstanding privileges. Just think what humility it took for such a well-known brother to admit his weaknesses freely! Many brothers and sisters fondly remember Brother Klein and his frank, appealing life story.*

* See the article “Jehovah Has Dealt Rewardingly With Me” in the October 1, 1984, issue of *The Watchtower*.

WHY SHOULD WE CULTIVATE HUMILITY?

⁸ The most important reason for us to cultivate humility is that it pleases Jehovah. The apostle Peter made this clear. (Read 1 Peter 5:6.) Commenting on Peter’s words, the book *“Come Be My Follower”* says: “Haughtiness is like poison. The effects can be devastating. It is a quality that can render the most gifted human useless to God. Humility, on the other hand, can make even the least one very useful to Jehovah. . . . [He] will . . . delight in rewarding you for your humility.”* Really, could we hope for anything better than to bring joy to Jehovah’s heart?—Prov. 23:15.

⁹ Besides pleasing Jehovah, we receive many benefits when we cultivate humility. Humility draws other people to us. To understand why, put yourself in the shoes of others. (Matt. 7:12) Few of us enjoy dealing with people who always insist on their own way and who refuse to accept suggestions from others. By contrast, we find it refreshing to deal with our fellow believers when they show “fellow

* See chap. 3, par. 23.

8. How does 1 Peter 5:6 help us to see that humility pleases Jehovah?

9. How does humility draw other people to us?

feeling, brotherly affection, tender compassion, and humility.” (1 Pet. 3:8) If we are drawn to such people, they will likely be drawn to us—as long as we are humble.

¹⁰ Humility also makes our life easier. Realistically, we may observe things in life that do not seem to be right or fair. The wise man King Solomon acknowledged: “I have seen servants on horseback but princes walking on foot just like servants.” (Eccl. 10:7) Those who have great ability do not always receive recognition. And those with less ability sometimes receive more honor. Even so, Solomon acknowledged that it is wise for us to face reality rather than to be obsessed with negative circumstances. (Eccl. 6:9) If we are humble, we will find it easier to accept life as it is—not as we think it should be.

WHAT SITUATIONS CAN TEST OUR HUMILITY?

¹¹ Each day, we have countless opportunities to show humility. Consider a few situations. *When we receive counsel.* We do well to remember that if someone takes the time to offer us correction, we have likely strayed more than we realize. At such

10. How does humility make our life easier?

11. How should we react when we receive counsel?

times, we may find that our first inclination is to reject the counsel. We might criticize the person who gave it or the way he said it. But if we are humble, we will strive to regain our balance.

¹² A humble person appreciates counsel. To illustrate: Imagine that you are at a Christian meeting. After talking with several fellow believers, you are pulled aside by one of them who discreetly mentions that you have some food on your teeth. No doubt, you would feel embarrassed. But would you not also appreciate that he or she let you know? In fact, you

12. According to Proverbs 27:5, 6, why should we appreciate someone who offers us counsel? Illustrate.

How can situations such as this one test our humility?
(See paragraphs 11-12)





Why is humility needed when others receive privileges of service?
(See paragraphs 13-14)

might wish that someone else had told you sooner! Likewise, we should humbly appreciate a fellow believer who has the courage to offer us counsel when we need it. We view that person as our friend, not our enemy.—Read Proverbs 27:5, 6; Gal. 4:16.

¹³ *When others receive privileges of service.* “When I see others receive privileges, I sometimes wonder why I was not chosen,” admits an elder named Jason. Do you ever feel that way? It is not wrong to be “reaching out” for greater privileges of service.

13. How can we show humility when others receive privileges of service?

(1 Tim. 3:1) However, we must guard our thinking. If we are not careful, we could allow pride to grow in our heart. For example, a Christian man could begin to think that he is the one who is most qualified for a certain assignment. Or a Christian wife might think, ‘My husband is much more qualified than so-and-so!’ However, if we are truly humble, we will avoid such a prideful spirit.

¹⁴ We can learn from the way that Moses reacted when others received privileges. Moses appreciated his assignment of leading the nation of Israel. How did Moses react when Jehovah permitted others to serve alongside him? He was not jealous. (Num. 11:24-29) As to judging the people, he humbly allowed others to share some of his workload. (Ex. 18:13-24) This meant better service for the Israelites whom he was appointed to judge. In that sense, Moses did not put his privileges ahead of the welfare of others. What a good example for us! We remember that if we are to be truly useful to Jehovah, our humility should exceed our ability. Although “Jehovah is high, he takes note of the humble.”—Ps. 138:6.

¹⁵ *When we face new circumstances.* In recent years,

14. What can we learn from the way that Moses reacted when others received privileges?

15. What new circumstances have many faced?

many with decades of experience have received a change of assignment. For example, back in 2014, district overseers and their wives were invited to serve in another form of full-time service. Starting in that same year, circuit overseers will discontinue their assignment when they reach 70 years of age. And brothers 80 years of age or older no longer serve in the congregation as the coordinator of the body of elders. Moreover, in the past several years, many in the Bethel family have been reassigned to the field. Others have had to discontinue special full-time service because of health problems, family obligations, or other personal circumstances.

¹⁶ Such adjustments were not easy for these brothers and sisters to make. Obviously, they felt attached to their former assignment, in many cases one that they had cherished for years. Some went through a “grieving” process as they adjusted to their new circumstances. In time, though, they were able to adjust. Why? Above all, because of their love for Jehovah. They knew that they were dedicated to God—not to a work, a title, or an assignment. (Col. 3:23) They are glad to continue serving Jehovah humbly in any capacity. They “throw all [their] anxi-

16. How have our brothers and sisters shown humility in adjusting to their new circumstances?

ety on him,” knowing that he cares for them.—1 Pet. 5:6, 7.

¹⁷ Are we not grateful that God’s Word encourages us to cultivate humility? When we cultivate this endearing quality, we benefit both ourselves and others. We are better able to deal with life’s challenges. Above all, we draw closer to our heavenly Father. How glad we are to know that although he is “the High and Lofty One,” he loves and values his humble servants!—Isa. 57:15.

17. Why are we grateful that God’s Word encourages us to cultivate humility?

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 5: While at a brother’s home, the apostle Paul humbly enjoys fellowship with others, including young ones. **Page 9:** A brother accepts Bible-based counsel from a younger brother. **Page 10:** The older brother is not envious of the younger brother who enjoys a privilege in the congregation.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- What is humility?
- Why should we cultivate humility?
- What situations can test our humility?

45 *The Meditation of My Heart*

(Psalm 19:14)

1. The meditation of my heart,
 The thoughts I ponder through the day—
 May they be pleasing to you, Lord,
 And keep me steadfast in your way.
When worries weigh upon my mind
 And make me restless in the night,
Then may I meditate on you
 And things I know to be upright.
2. Whatever things are chaste and true,
 Whatever virtue there may be,
 Whatever things well-spoken-of—
 May thoughts of these bring peace to me.
How precious are your thoughts, O God!
 Beyond all counting is their sum.
So may I ponder your own words,
 Absorbed in them may I become.

