Sunday, April 10

Salvation we owe to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb.—Rev. 7:10.

The difference between the anointed and the other sheep is not their value to God. Both groups are equally precious to him. After all, he paid the same price, the life of his dear Son, to purchase both the anointed and the other sheep. The difference between the two groups is that they have different hopes. Both groups must remain loval to God and Christ. (Ps. 31:23) And remember, God's spirit can work with equal force on all of us. This means that Jehovah supplies his holy spirit to each individual according to what is needed. Jehovah has given each of his dedicated servants a wonderful hope for the future. (Jer. 29:11) The Memorial of Christ's death gives each of us a grand opportunity to praise God and Christ for what they have done for us so that we can enjoy unending life. The Memorial is without question the most important occasion for true Christians to meet together. w21.01 18 ¶16; 19 ¶19

Monday, April 11

Keep doing this. -1 Cor. 11:25.

The vast majority who attend the Memorial have the earthly hope. Why, then, do they attend? For the same reason that people attend a friend's wedding. They want to show their love and support for the couple who are getting married. Thus, those of the other sheep attend the Memorial because they want to show their love and support for Christ and the anointed. The other sheep also attend to show their appreciation for the sacrifice that the Memorial com-

memorates, a sacrifice that makes it possible for them to live forever on earth. Another important reason why the other sheep attend the Memorial is in order to be obedient to Jesus' command. When Jesus instituted that special meal with his faithful apostles, he told them: "Keep doing this in remembrance of me." (1 Cor. 11:23-26) So they continue to attend the Lord's Evening Meal as long as some anointed ones are alive here on earth. *w21.01* 17-18 ¶13-14

Memorial Bible reading: (Daytime events: Nisan 9) John 12:12-19; Mark 11:1-11

Tuesday, April 12

By this the love of God was revealed in our case, that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might gain life through him.—1 John 4:9.

For love to be real, it must be backed by actions. (Compare James 2:17. 26.) For example, Jehovah loves us. (1 John 4:19) And he expresses his love through the beautiful words recorded in the Bible. (Ps. 25: 10: Rom. 8:38, 39) However, we are convinced that God loves us not just because of what he says but also because of what he does. Jehovah allowed his beloved Son to suffer and die for us. (John 3:16) Can there be any doubt that Jehovah really loves us? We prove that we love Jehovah and Jesus by obeying them. (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3) And Jesus specifically commanded us to love one another. (John 13:34, 35) We must not only express our love for our brothers and sisters in words but also show that we love them by what we do.-1 John 3:18, w21.01 9 ¶6: 10 ¶8

> Memorial Bible reading: (Daytime events: Nisan 10) John 12:20-50

Wednesday, April 13

I have called you friends.

-John 15:15.

Those who are anointed with holy spirit have the hope of being with Jesus forever, serving as joint heirs of God's Kingdom. They will actually be with Christ-see him, speak with him, and spend time in his company. (John 14:2, 3) Those with the earthly hope will also receive Jesus' love and attention. Even though they will not see Jesus, their bond with him will grow ever stronger as they enjoy the life that Jehovah and Jesus make possible for them. (Isa. 9:6. 7) When we accept Jesus' invitation to become his friends, we gain many blessings. For example, we benefit from his love and support right now. We are given the opportunity to live forever. And most important, our friendship with Jesus will lead us to the finest treasure of all-a close. personal relationship with Jesus' Father, Jehovah, What a privilege we have to be called Jesus' friends! w20.04 25 ¶15-16

> Memorial Bible reading: (Daytime events: Nisan 11) Luke 21:1-36

Thursday, April 14

In the Christ all will be made alive. -1 Cor. 15:22.

The apostle Paul's letter was written to anointed Christians in Corinth, who would be resurrected to life in heaven. Those Christians were "sanctified in union with Christ Jesus, called to be holy ones." And Paul mentioned "those who have fallen asleep in death in union with Christ." (1 Cor. 1:2; 15:18; 2 Cor. 5: 17) In another inspired letter. Paul

wrote that those "united with [Jesus] in the likeness of his death" will "be united with him in the likeness of his resurrection." (Rom. 6:3-5) Jesus was raised as a spirit and went to heaven. So that will be the outcome for all "in union with Christ," that is, all spirit-anointed Christians. Paul wrote that Christ was raised as "the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep in death." (1 Cor. 15:20) Jesus was the first one ever to be raised from the dead as a spirit and to receive everlasting life. w20.12 5-6 ¶15-16

Memorial Bible reading: (Daytime events: Nisan 12) Matthew 26:1-5, 14-16; Luke 22:1-6

> MEMORIAL DATE After Sundown Friday, April 15

We will always be with the Lord. -1 Thess. 4:17.

Anointed ones who today finish their earthly course are instantly raised to life in the heavens. This is confirmed by the apostle Paul's words recorded at 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52. Upon their resurrection, these brothers of Christ will have complete joy. The Bible tells us what work those who are changed "in the blink of an eye" will do in heaven. Jesus says to them: "To the one who conquers and observes my deeds down to the end, I will give authority over the nations, and he will shepherd the people with an iron rod so that they will be broken to pieces like clay vessels, just as I have received from my Father."—Rev. 2:26. 27. *ω20.12* 12 ¶14-15

Memorial Bible reading: (Daytime events: Nisan 13) Matthew 26:17-19; Mark 14:12-16; Luke 22:7-13 (Events after sunset: Nisan 14) John 13:1-5; 14:1-3

Saturday, April 16

Christ has been raised from the dead.—1 Cor. 15:20.

By calling Jesus "the firstfruits," the apostle Paul implied that others thereafter would be raised from death to heavenly life. The apostles and others "in union with Christ" would follow Jesus. (1 Cor. 15:18) In due time, they would experience a resurrection similar to that of Jesus. The heavenly resurrection for those "in union with Christ" had not vet begun to occur at the time Paul wrote to the Corinthians. Rather, Paul pointed to a future time: "Each one in his own proper order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who belong to the Christ during his presence." (1 Cor. 15:23; 1 Thess. 4:15, 16) Today we are living during that foretold "presence" of Christ. Yes, the apostles and other spiritanointed Christians who died had to await that presence to receive their heavenly reward and be "united with [Jesus] in the likeness of his resurrection."—Rom. 6:5, w20.12 5 ¶12; 6 ¶16-17

> Memorial Bible reading: (Daytime events: Nisan 14) John 19:1-42

Sunday, April 17

It is sown in corruption; it is raised up in incorruption.—1 Cor. 15:42.

The apostle Paul was referring to a person who is resurrected with a heavenly body, that is, "a spiritual one." (1 Cor. 15:43, 44) When Jesus walked the earth, he had a fleshly body. But when he was resurrected, he "became a life-giving spirit" and returned to heaven. Likewise, anointed Christians would be resurrected to spirit life. Paul explained: "Just as we have borne

the image of the one made of dust, we will bear also the image of the heavenly one." (1 Cor. 15:45-49) Note that Jesus was not resurrected with a human body. Paul pointedly said: "Flesh and blood cannot inherit God's Kingdom" in heaven. (1 Cor. 15:50) The apostles and other anointed ones would not be resurrected to heaven with corruptible bodies of flesh and blood. w20.12 10-11 ¶10-12

Memorial Bible reading: (Daytime events: Nisan 15) Matthew 27:62-66 (Events after sunset: Nisan 16) John 20:1

Monday, April 18

Death, where is your victory?
Death, where is your sting?
-1 Cor. 15:55.

God inspired some of Jesus' disciples in the first century to write about the heavenly hope. The apostle John explained: "We are now children of God, but it has not yet been made manifest what we will be. We do know that when he is made manifest we will be like him." (1 John 3:2) So anointed Christians do not know what they will be like when they are raised to heaven with spirit bodies. However, they will see Jehovah when they receive their reward. The Bible provides some information about it. The anointed will be with Christ when he brings "to nothing all government and all authority and power." That includes "the last enemy, death." Finally, Jesus-along with his corulers-will subject himself and all things to Jehovah. (1 Cor. 15:24-28) What a climax that will be! w20.12 8 ¶2

> Memorial Bible reading: (Daytime events: Nisan 16) John 20:2-18

2022 Memorial Bible Reading Schedule

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

SUNRISE

SUNSET (Nisan 8 begins)

John 11:55-12:1



SUNDAY, APRIL 10

SUNRISE

SUNSET (Nisan 9 begins)

Matthew 26:6-13 Mark 14:3-9 John 12:2-11

Jesus—The Way, chap. 101



MONDAY, APRIL 11

SUNRISE

Matthew 21:1-11, 14-17 Mark 11:1-11 Luke 19:29-44 John 12:12-19

Jesus—The Way, chap. 102

SUNSET (Nisan 10 begins)



TUESDAY, APRIL 12

SUNRISE

Matthew 21:12, 13, 18, 19 Mark 11:12-19 Luke 19:45-48 John 12:20-50

Jesus-The Way, chaps. 103-104

SUNSET (Nisan 11 begins)



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

SUNRISE

Matthew 21:19–25:46 Mark 11:20–13:37 Luke 20:1–21:38

Jesus—The Way, chaps. 105-114

SUNSET (Nisan 12 begins)

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

SUNRISE

Matthew 26:1-5, 14-16 Mark 14:1, 2, 10, 11 Luke 22:1-6

Jesus-The Way, chap. 115

SUNSET (Nisan 13 begins)



FRIDAY, APRIL 15 • MEMORIAL (AFTER SUNSET)

SUNRISE

Matthew 26:17-19 Mark 14:12-16 Luke 22:7-13 SUNSET (Nisan 14 begins)

Matthew 26:20-75 Mark 14:17-72 Luke 22:14-65 John 13:1-18:27

Jesus—The Way, chaps. 116-126



SATURDAY, APRIL 16

SUNRISE

Matthew 27:1-61 Mark 15:1-47 Luke 22:66–23:56 John 18:28–19:42

Jesus—The Way, chaps. 127-133

SUNSET (Nisan 15 begins)



SUNDAY, APRIL 17

SUNRISE

Matthew 27:62-66

SUNSET (Nisan 16 begins)

Mark 16:1



MONDAY, APRIL 18

SUNRISE

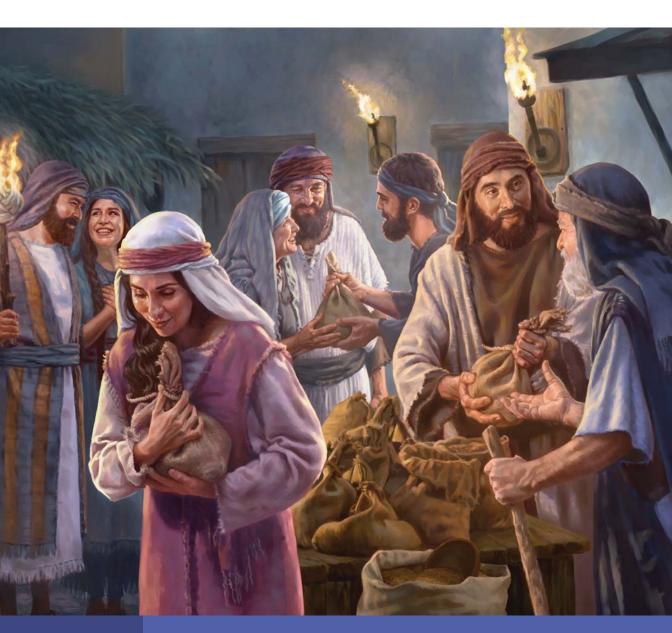
Matthew 28:1-15 Mark 16:2-8 Luke 24:1-49 John 20:1-25

Jesus—The Way, chaps. 134-135

SUNSET (Nisan 17 begins)



THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM







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Why was it beneficial that both turtledoves and pigeons were acceptable as offerings?

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SONG 123

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PREVIEW

Jehovah's people recognize the value of listening to Bible-based counsel. At the same time, it is not always easy to accept counsel. Why is that the case? And what can help us to benefit from the counsel we receive?

"Listen to the Words of the Wise"

"Incline your ear and listen to the words of the wise." —PROV. 22:17.

ALL of us need counsel from time to time. In some cases, we may take the initiative to ask someone we respect for advice. In other cases, a concerned brother may approach us and point out that we are about to take "a false step"—one that we will regret. (Gal. 6:1) Finally, counsel may come to us in the form of correction after we have made a serious mistake. Whatever form it takes, we should listen to counsel. Doing so is good for us and could save our life!—Prov. 6:23.

- ² Our theme text encourages us to "listen to the words of the wise." (Prov. 22:17) No human knows everything; there is always someone who has greater knowledge or experience than we do. (Read Proverbs 12:15 and footnote.) So listening to counsel is a sign of humility. It indicates that we are aware of our limitations; we realize that we need help to reach our goals. Wise King Solomon wrote under inspiration: "There is accomplishment through many advisers [or "counselors," ftn.]." —Prov. 15:22.
- ³ We may receive indirect or direct counsel. What do we mean by indirect counsel? We may read something in the Bible or in one of our publications that makes us stop and think about the course we are taking and moves us to adjust our course. (Heb. 4:12) We could call that *indirect* counsel. What do we mean by direct counsel? An elder

^{1.} What form might counsel take, and why do we all need it?

^{2.} In harmony with Proverbs 12:15 and footnote, why should we listen to counsel?

^{3.} In what ways may we receive counsel?

or another qualified brother might point out something that we need to work on. That could be called *direct* counsel. If someone loves us enough to share Biblebased counsel with us, we should show our appreciation by listening to what he has to say and taking the counsel to heart.

4 Realistically, we may find it especially difficult to accept direct counsel. We might even become offended. Why? Although we readily admit that we are imperfect, we might find it challenging to accept counsel when someone points out a specific flaw in us. (Read Ecclesiastes 7:9.) We might justify ourselves. We might question the counselor's motives or take offense at the way he gave the counsel. We might even find fault with the counselor himself, reasoning: 'What right does he have to counsel me? He has his own flaws!' Ultimately, if the counsel we receive does not suit us, we might ignore it or look elsewhere for counsel that is more to our liking.

⁵ In this article, we will discuss Scriptural examples of those who rejected counsel and those who accepted it. We will also consider what will help us to accept counsel and benefit from it.

THEY REJECTED COUNSEL

⁶ Consider the example of *Rehoboam*. When he became king of Israel, his subjects came to him with a request. They asked him to lighten the load

that his father, Solomon, had laid upon them. Commendably, Rehoboam consulted with the older men of Israel to see how he should reply to the people. The older men advised the king that if he did what the people asked, they would always support him. (1 Ki. 12:3-7) Apparently, Rehoboam was not satisfied with that advice, so he consulted the men who had grown up with him. Those men were likely in their 40's, so they must have had some experience in life. (2 Chron. 12:13) But on this occasion, they gave Rehoboam bad advice. They counseled him to add to the burdens of the people. (1 Ki. 12:8-11) Faced with two different viewpoints, Rehoboam could have approached Jehovah in prayer and asked Him which advice he should follow. Instead, he decided to accept the advice that appealed to him and listened to the younger men. The consequences were disastrous for Rehoboam and for the people of Israel. In our case, the advice we receive may not always be what we want to hear. Still, if it is based on God's Word, we should accept it.

⁷ King Uzziah rejected counsel. He entered a section of Jehovah's temple where only the priests were allowed to be, and he attempted to offer incense. The priests of Jehovah said to him: "It is not proper for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to Jehovah! It is only the priests who should burn incense." How did Uzziah react? If he had humbly accepted the counsel and left the temple immediately, Jehovah might have forgiven him. Instead, "Uzziah . . . became enraged."

^{4.} According to Ecclesiastes 7:9, what reaction should we avoid when we receive counsel?

^{5.} What will we consider in this article?

^{6.} What do we learn from the way King Rehoboam reacted to counsel he received?

^{7.} What does King Uzziah's example teach us?



Why did he reject the counsel? He evidently felt that as king, he had the right to do whatever he wanted. But Jehovah did not see it that way. As a result of his presumptuous act, Uzziah was struck with leprosy and "remained a leper until the day of his death." (2 Chron. 26:16-21) Uzziah's example teaches us that, no matter who we are, if we reject Biblebased counsel, we will lose Jehovah's approval.

THEY ACCEPTED COUNSEL

8 In contrast to the warning examples just discussed, the Bible provides good examples of those who were blessed because they accepted counsel. Consider *Job*. Although he was God-fearing, he was not perfect. Under intense pressure, he expressed some wrong viewpoints. As a result, he received straightforward counsel, both from Elihu and from Jehovah. How did Job react? He humbly accepted the counsel. He said: "I spoke, but without understanding . . . I take back what I said, and I repent in dust and ashes." Jehovah blessed Job for his humble reaction.—Job 42:3-6, 12-17.

9 Moses is a good example of someone who accepted correction after he had made a serious mistake. On one occasion, he lost his temper and did not honor Jehovah. Because of this, Moses lost out on the privilege of entering the Promised Land. (Num. 20:1-13) When Moses expressed his disappointment over this decision, Jehovah told him: "Never speak to me again about this matter." (Deut. 3:23-27) Moses did not become bitter. Rather, he accepted Jehovah's decision, and Jehovah continued to use him to lead Israel. (Deut. 4:1) Both Job and Moses are good examples for us to imitate when it comes to accepting counsel. Job adjusted his viewpoint; he did not make excuses. Moses proved that he accepted Jehovah's counsel by remaining faithful even after he lost a privilege that was precious to him.

¹⁰ We benefit when we imitate the example set by such faithful men as Job and Moses. (Read Proverbs 4:10-13.) Many of our brothers and sisters have done just that. Note what a brother named Emmanuel, who lives in Congo, says about a warning he received: "Mature brothers in my congregation saw that I was about to suffer spiritual shipwreck, and they came to my rescue. I applied their counsel, and it helped me avoid a lot of problems."* A pioneer in Canada named Megan says regarding counsel: "It hasn't always been what I wanted to hear, but it has been what I needed to hear." And a brother from Croatia named Marko says: "I lost a privilege, but when I look back, I realize that the counsel I received helped me regain my spiritual balance."

¹¹ Another example of someone who benefited from accepting counsel was Brother Karl Klein, who served as a member of the Governing Body. In his life

^{8.} How did Job react to counsel?

^{9.} How did Moses set a good example when it comes to accepting counsel?

^{*} Some names have been changed.

^{10. (}a) What does Proverbs 4:10-13 indicate about the benefits of accepting counsel? (b) What fine attitude toward counsel have some displayed? 11. What did Brother Karl Klein observe about accepting counsel?



Why does the younger sister ask a mature sister for counsel?
(See paragraph 16)

story, Brother Klein related a time when he received strong counsel from Joseph F. Rutherford, with whom he had a close friendship. Brother Klein admitted that at first he did not react well to the counsel. He said: "The next time [Brother Rutherford] saw me, he cheerily said, 'Hello Karl!' But because of still feeling hurt, I just muttered a greeting. He countered, 'Karl, watch out! The Devil's after you!' Embarrassed, I replied, 'Oh, there's nothing, Brother Rutherford.' But he knew better, and so repeated his warning, 'That's all right. Just watch out. The Devil's after you.' How right he was! When we harbor resentment against a brother, especially for saying something he has a right to say . . . , we leave ourselves open to the Devil's snares."* (Eph. 4:25-27) Brother Klein accepted Brother Rutherford's counsel, and their warm relationship remained intact.

WHAT CAN HELP US TO ACCEPT COUNSEL?

12 What can help us to accept counsel? We need to *be humble* by remembering just how imperfect we really are and

how foolish we can be at times. As discussed earlier, Job had the wrong viewpoint. But he later adjusted his thinking, and Jehovah blessed him for it. Why? Because Job was humble. He proved his humility by accepting the counsel that Elihu gave him, even though Elihu was much younger than he was. (Job 32:6, 7) Humility will likewise help us apply counsel, even when we feel that we do not deserve it or when the one giving it is younger than we are. An elder in Canada says, "Since we do not see ourselves as others see us, how can we progress if no one counsels us?" Who among us does not need to make progress in cultivating the fruitage of the spirit and in carrying out the Christian ministry?—Read Psalm 141:5.

¹³ View counsel as an expression of God's love. Jehovah wants what is best for us. (Prov. 4:20-22) When he counsels us by means of his Word, a Bible-based publication, or a mature fellow believer, he is expressing his love for us. "He does so for our benefit," says Hebrews 12:9, 10.

¹⁴ Focus on the content, not the delivery. At times, we may feel that the coun-

^{*} See The Watchtower, October 1, 1984, pp. 21-28.

^{12.} How can humility help us to accept counsel? (Psalm 141:5)

^{13.} How should we view the counsel we receive?

^{14.} What should we focus on when counseled?

sel we received was not given in the best manner. Of course, anyone giving counsel should try to make it as easy as possible to accept.* (Gal. 6:1) But if we are the one being counseled, we do well to focus on the message—even if we feel that it could have been delivered in a better way. We might ask ourselves: 'Even if I do not appreciate the manner in which the counsel was given, is there some truth to what was said? Can I look past the imperfections of the messenger and benefit from the message itself?' It would be wise on our part to find a way to benefit from any counsel we receive. -Prov. 15:31.

ASK FOR COUNSEL AND REAP BENEFITS

15 The Bible urges us to ask for counsel. Proverbs 13:10 says: "Wisdom belongs to those who seek advice." How true that is! Those who ask for counsel rather than wait for someone to approach them will often make greater spiritual progress than those who do not seek advice. So take the initiative by asking for counsel.

¹⁶ When might we ask for counsel from fellow believers? Consider some situations. (1) A sister asks an experienced publisher to join her on a study and later asks for advice on how she can improve her teaching methods. (2) A single sister would like to purchase a pair of slacks, so she asks a mature sister for her honest opinion about the selection. (3) A brother is assigned to give his first public talk. He asks an experienced speaker to listen carefully to his talk and offer him some constructive counsel on how he can improve. Even a brother who has given talks for many years does well to ask for such feedback from experienced speakers and then to apply the counsel he receives.

of us will receive counsel—either direct counsel or indirect counsel. When that happens, recall the points we have just discussed. Remain humble. Focus on the content, not on the delivery. And apply the counsel you receive. None of us are born wise. But when we "listen to counsel and accept discipline," God's Word promises that we will "become wise."—Prov. 19:20.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- What can we learn from Scriptural examples of those who rejected counsel?
- What can we learn from Scriptural examples of those who accepted counsel?
- What will help us to accept counsel?

^{*} In the next article, we will discuss how those who give counsel can do so in a tactful manner.

^{15.} Why should we ask for counsel?

^{16.} In what situations might we ask for counsel?

^{17.} How can we benefit from counsel?

Ever Loyal

(Psalm 18:25)



