

The **WATCHTOWER**

JANUARY 1, 1957

Semimonthly

"WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS
THERE YOUR HEART WILL BE"

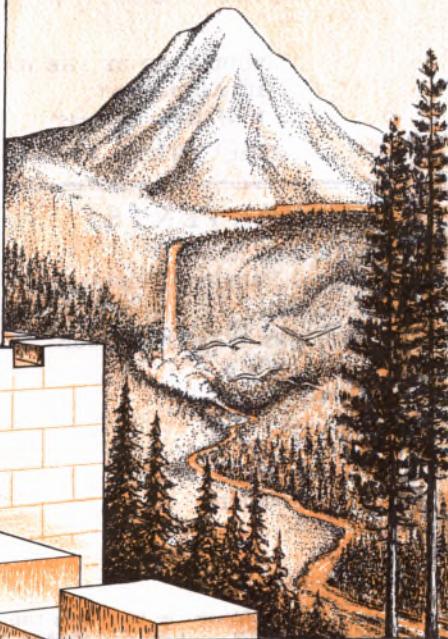
—
"FEED MY LITTLE SHEEP"

—
EVOLUTION WARPS
RELIGIOUS THINKING

—
WHICH PART DO YOU READ?

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Announcing
**JEHOVAH'S
KINGDOM**



"YOU ARE MY WITNESSES," SAYS JEHOVAH.—Isa. 43:12

THE PURPOSE OF "THE WATCHTOWER"

Literal towers in Bible times were elevated vantage points from which watchmen could observe happenings, warn of danger, or announce good news. Our magazine figuratively occupies such a vantage point, for it is founded on the very pinnacle of wisdom, God's Word. That elevates it above racial, national and political propagandas and prejudices, frees it from selfish bias. It is not bound by any traditional creed, but its message advances as the light on God's purposes and works increases.—Habakkuk 2:1-3.

It sees things Scripturally. When it observes this generation afflicted with greed, delinquency, hypocrisy, atheism, war, famine, pestilence, perplexity and fear, and persecution of unpopular minorities, it does not parrot the old fable about history repeating itself. Informed by Bible prophecy, it sees in these things the sign of the world's time of the end. But with bright hope it also sees opening up for us just beyond these woes the portals of a new world.

Thus viewed, "The Watchtower" stands as a watchman atop a tower, alert to what is going on, awake to note signs of danger, faithful to point out the way of escape. It announces Jehovah's kingdom established by Christ's enthronement in heaven, feeds his kingdom joint-heirs with spiritual food, cheers men of good will with glorious prospects of eternal life in a paradise earth, comforts us with the resurrection promise for the dead.

It is not dogmatic, but has a confident ring in its voice, because it is based on God's Word. It does not privately interpret prophecy, but calls attention to physical facts, sets them alongside prophecy, and you see for yourself how well the two match, how accurately Jehovah interprets his own prophecy. In the interests of our salvation, it keeps sharp and faithful focus on Bible truth, and views religious news generally.

'Be watchful in these perilous times,' God admonishes. So keep on the watch by regularly reading "The Watchtower".



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"They will all be taught by Jehovah."—John 6:45, NW; Isaiah 54:13

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Abbreviations used in "The Watchtower" for the following Bible versions

AS - American Standard Version	LXX - The Septuagint Version
AT - An American Translation	Mo - James Moffatt's version
Da - J. N. Darby's version	NW - New World Translation
Dy - Catholic Douay version	Ro - J. B. Rotherham's version
ED - The Emphatic Diaglott	RS - Revised Standard Version
Le - Isaac Leeser's version	Yg - Robert Young's version

Unless otherwise indicated, the Bible used is the King James Version

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The WATCHTOWER

Announcing
JEHOVAH'S
KINGDOM

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Number 1



WHEN you read the Bible, which part do you read? Do you pay attention to the part that applies to you, or to what applies to someone else? It is easy to think about the other person, hard to consider yourself. The other person is not your responsibility, but your own course is. When you consider Paul's sound admonition regarding the family, which part do you read, the part that applies to the rest of the family, or the part that applies to you?

As a husband, are you concerned with the part that applies to your wife, or with what applies to you? As a wife, are you concerned with the instructions to your husband, or with the part that tells what you should do? As a parent, do you think of the instructions to your children, or about what is said to you? As a child, do you listen to your part, or to what your parents are told to do? As a slave, are you concerned with your own responsibilities, or with those of your master? Or as a master, are you concerned with the instructions to the slaves, or with those that are given to you?

Which part do YOU read?

What did Paul say to all these people? He said: "Let wives be in subjection to their husbands as to the Lord. Husbands, continue loving your wives, just as the Christ also loved the congregation and delivered up himself for it. Children, be obedient to your parents in union with the Lord, for this is righteous. And

you, fathers, do not be irritating your children, but go on bringing them up in the discipline and authoritative advice of Jehovah. You slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters in a fleshly sense, with fear and trembling in the sincerity of your hearts, as to the Christ. You masters, too, keep doing the same things to them, letting up on the threatening, for you know that the Master of both them and you is in the heavens, and there is no partiality with him."—Eph. 5:22, 25; 6:1, 4, 5, 9, NW.

Which part do you remember? Your wife's responsibility? Your husband's? Your children's? Your parents'? Your servant's? Your employer's? The first part that you should remember is your own. Do you?

The person who is more concerned with another person's responsibility than with

his own is expecting an unjust advantage. He is expecting the other person to obey the instructions before he does himself, or he is attempting to justify himself for not obeying these commands, on the grounds that the other person does not obey them.

But there is nothing in these instructions that says you do not have to follow them if the other person does not. There is nothing in these instructions that says you can ignore them just because the rest of your family does, or that you can wait until the others start applying them before you begin doing so. Each person must discharge his own responsibility before God. That responsibility is not qualified by what other people do, or do not do. Let the other person read and consider his own responsibility, but each of us must read and consider the instructions that apply to us, and must discharge our own responsibilities, whether others do or not.

You might be surprised at the effect a more thorough application of these principles could have right in your own family. It would be a display of your love, and love responds to love. Only by giving it out can we really receive it back. John said of our love for God: "We love, because he first loved us." The same applies to human relationships. Showing love, and demonstrating it through right action, as God has instructed in his Word, prompts others to love us, and can produce excellent results even in a divided family.—1 John 4:19, NW.

But whether it produces those results or not is not the really important thing. The really important thing is that you personally do what God requires, obeying his instructions and setting the right example, discharging your own responsibility before being concerned with that of others.

The Bible further shows the responsibility of taking this right course even when

others do not. It says: "In like manner, you wives, be in subjection to your own husbands, in order that, if any are not obedient to the word, they may be won without a word through the conduct of their wives, because of having been eyewitnesses of your chaste conduct together with deep respect." And both husbands and wives are told that they must be "exercising brotherly love, tenderly affectionate, humble in mind, not paying back injury for injury or reviling for reviling, but, to the contrary, bestowing a blessing."—1 Pet. 3:1, 2, 8, 9, NW.

Here, again, the responsibility is to read with yourself in mind, not to read thinking of how your wife or husband, or anyone else could apply this to his life, but how you can better apply it to yours. No one is perfect in these matters, so we should not pass over such instructions as though they apply to others and not to us.

God's Word is written for each of us. It applies individually. It tells what we should do. It shows how to receive God's favor and everlasting life. But we must read it as though it is talking to us. We must recognize what it tells us to do. We must see when it requires us to change our own lives, and then we must change them.

We are not responsible for the other person. We cannot force him to take the right course. But we are responsible for our own action. And we can set the right example for the other person to follow. To do this we must read, not just the part of the Scriptures that applies to the other person, but primarily the part that applies to us. And then we must apply it, changing our lives to conform to its sound and godly instructions, instead of having our minds on where some other person falls short.

Evolution WARPS Religious thinking

Evolution is an old idea that has been dusted off and doctored up for modern consumption. Though unprovable by the scientific method, it is assumed to be true. Even the clergy embrace it, saying God created by means of evolution. But the Bible disagrees.

THE Bible tells Christians to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, but today the religious fad is to trail off after the scientists who copy Greek philosophers. In the fifth century before Christ the Greek philosopher Empedocles believed in spontaneous generation of life, gradual evolution of organisms and survival of the fittest. In the following century Aristotle taught that "man is the highest point of one long and continuous ascent." Greek philosophers in general preached the evolution idea.

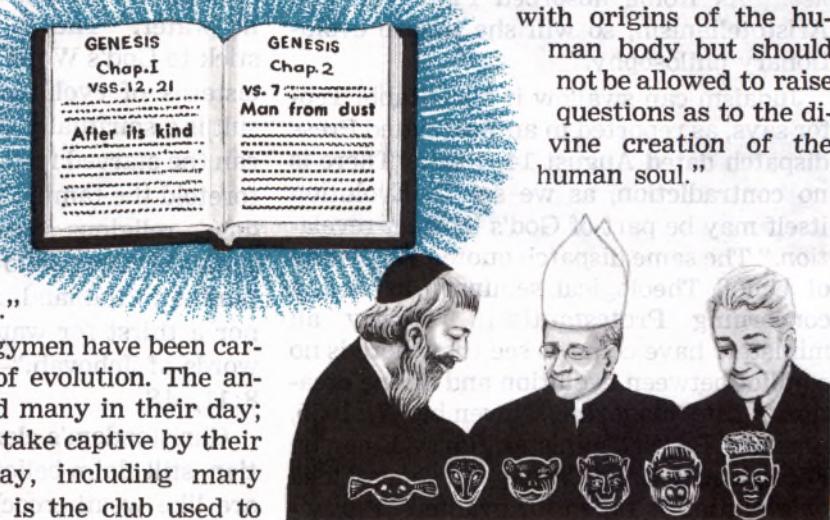
Included in Paul's warning, at Colossians 2:8 (NW), against traditions would be the evolutionary philosophies of these babblers, who were so wise in their own eyes and who mocked God's wisdom as foolishness: "Look out: perhaps there may be some man that will carry you off as his prey through the philosophy and empty deception according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary things of the world and not according to Christ."

Christendom's clergymen have been carried off as the prey of evolution. The ancient Greeks ensnared many in their day; the modern scientists take captive by their wisdom millions today, including many clergymen. Evolution is the club used to

beat into submission those who once believed the Bible. Like the ancient Greeks, the scientists are the wise ones, they have the facts, they follow the scientific method. Any who do not agree with them because of the Bible record of creation are gullible ignoramuses. The proud clergy do not want to be classed as gullible ignoramuses. So they fall prey to evolution.

RELIGIONISTS WARPED BY EVOLUTION

The *Catholic Encyclopedia* says that the idea that God used evolution to produce man's body "was propounded by St. Augustine." In August, 1950, Pope Pius removed any objection to considering "the doctrine of evolution in as far as it inquires into the origin of the human body as coming from pre-existent and living matter." A year later he clarified this by saying that "the theory of evolution can be studied so far as it deals with origins of the human body but should not be allowed to raise questions as to the divine creation of the human soul."



In 1947 Roman Catholic priest Hauber said, in *Creation and Evolution*, concerning God and evolution: "He initiated it, directs and guides it, He knows whither it is leading." If you do not agree you are working harm: "Those who oppose sound scientific theories, such as the general theory of evolution has a right to be called, are doing harm to the cause of truth." Like the Pharisees of old, these clergymen reject the truth themselves and hinder those who wish to accept it.

When asked, "Does evolution conflict with our Christian faith?" the Catholic *Our Sunday Visitor*, January 9, 1955, answered: "Christian scientists and philosophers on the whole regard evolution as merely the method which God used in causing various species of life to develop from antecedent forms. This involves contradiction neither with the Scriptures nor with any truth of the Christian faith."

The Roman Catholic Church boasts that she has absorbed much that is related to paganism and demon worship, and she will not choke when swallowing this godless philosophy of the ancient Greeks, as shown on page 172 of the volume *Catholic Cabinet*: "As Rome absorbed Platonism and Aristotelianism, so will she absorb evolutionary philosophy."

Judaism can swallow it also. Rabbi Tepper says, as reported in an Associated Press dispatch dated August 14, 1953: "There is no contradiction, as we see it. Evolution itself may be part of God's indirect revelation." The same dispatch quoted Dr. Handy of Union Theological seminary as saying concerning Protestantism: "Nearly all ministers have come to see that there is no conflict between evolution and divine creation." *Life* magazine, November 7, 1955, reported Baptist minister Harry Emerson Fosdick as saying: "Today the general idea of evolution is taken for granted as gravitation is."

TOO WEAK TO RESIST WARPING

That is just the trouble. Evolution is taken for granted. What does it matter that scientists cannot prove it? Who are the clergy to demand proof for anything? They cannot prove such doctrines as trinity and immortal soul. Why demand proof for this new one they are adding to their creeds? By the din of repetition both the scientific falsehood and the religious lies are believed by millions. The blind lead the blind, the weak lead the weak, and where in the religious systems of Christendom can a hungry man find the spiritual food to build uncompromising strength? Preachers and parishioners are weaklings in righteousness and integrity, and who will exert themselves to practice the fine-sounding principles that are occasionally preached?

Sometimes the clergy complain of the listless apathy of their flocks, but how can the starving be strong? It is the Bible, not science, that contains spiritual water, but these supposed people of God hunger and thirst: "My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." The religious leaders do not stick to God's Word but turn to the broken cisterns of evolutionary science. The result is a spiritually starved clergy, and how can the starved feed the starving? Jehovah foretold the famine conditions in Christendom's religious systems: "The days come, saith the Lord Jehovah, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of Jehovah."—Jer. 2:13, RS; Amos 8:11, AS.

Christendom's clergy still pose as Christian, still claim belief in the Bible. But they are like weathercocks that turn with the wind of public opinion, lining up with what

is currently popular, being swept along like fall leaves on a windy day. And in it all they try to drag God's Word along, bending and twisting it to fit the popular whims that bend and twist them. Molded by evolution themselves, they wish to mold the Bible into conformity also.

THEY CANNOT WARP THE BIBLE!

It will not bend to their will, it will not fit their scientific philosophy. The Bible cannot be made to say that man's body evolved from lower animals, because each created family kind was made to reproduce only its own kind, "according to its kind." Evolution says just the opposite, that one kind brings forth a new and different kind. But science has no proof, no evidence for this. Not only is the evolutionary chain missing its first link of spontaneous generation of life as a starting point, but it is missing thousands of links. This fictional chain is unsupported by the fossil record. Genetic changes, called mutations, cannot bridge the gaps between family kinds. Mutations supply great variety within the family kind, yes; but a new family kind, no. The compromising clergy may bed down with evolution, but the uncompromising Bible will not join such unscriptural relations.—Gen. 1:11, 12, NW.

Moreover, when the clergy try to split man into two pieces, a living human body and an immortal spiritual soul, and say the body evolved but the soul was directly implanted by God, they are again warped in their religious thinking. The human body was made directly from the dust and God started the living, breathing processes and man became a living soul, just as animals before him had been similarly made into living souls: "Then Jehovah God proceeded to form the man out of dust from the ground and to blow into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man came to be a living soul." "God proceeded to create the

great sea monsters and every living soul that glides." "Let the earth put forth living souls according to their kinds, domestic animal and creeping animal and wild beast of the earth according to its kind."—Gen. 2:7; 1:21, 24, NW.

Man does not have a spiritual, immortal soul separate from the body, that lives on after the body dies. Man himself is a soul, and the human "soul that sins shall die." Even in the case of the sinless soul of Jesus we read: "He poured out his soul to death." Men who have died may have a hope of resurrection, but death itself is the same for man as for any other animal, and to think differently is vanity: "I said in my heart with regard to the sons of men that God is testing them to show them that they are but beasts. For the fate of the sons of men and the fate of beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts; for all is vanity. All go to one place; all are from the dust, and all turn to dust again."—Ezek. 18:4; Isa. 53:12; Eccl. 3:18-20, RS.

DO NOT YOU BE SHAMEFULLY WARPED!

True Christians will follow in the footsteps of Jesus, who said God's Word is truth and that it is made void by human traditions. Blind clergymen and the blind flocks they mislead into the evolutionary philosophies of ancient Greeks and modern scientists are not following in the way of God or in the footsteps of Christ or the teachings of the Bible. Like green timber in the sun, those who soak up the speculations of the shining lights of evolutionary thinking have their religious thinking warped out of line with God's Word. To say God created by means of evolution is to reject the Bible for human wisdom, and it leads to shame: "The wise men are put to shame, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of Jehovah; and what manner

of wisdom is in them?"—Jer. 8:9, AS.
Why should you let your thinking be warped by unprovable theories of men?
Why should you let weak clerical leaders who are misshapen by human speculations

make you spiritually deformed also? Why should you reject Jehovah's Word and be put to shame with them? Do not be fearful of men and be pressured into conformity with warped men. Conform to God's Word.

Is This Christianity?

IHE following is a thought-provoking item by J. F. Saunders that appeared in the Cleveland *Plain Dealer* of August 13, 1956, in the column "Command Performance" under the title "No Time to Pray":

“A newspaper friend of honored memory used to inform us at regular intervals that the reason he preferred the church he attended over all others was that the pastor hardly ever mentioned religion. His remark was always good for a laugh but when you read of essentially the same thing as being said by Dr. John Heuss of New York's Trinity Episcopal Church you know it is not intended to evoke your mirth but to invite your concern if not your anxiety.

“The round of fund drives, bazaars, luncheons, dinners and bake sales, the personal counseling to camps and clubs and countless conferences are admirable,’ Dr. Heuss said, ‘but it is not religion.’ The modern-day whirl of church activities with its day-to-day triviality is the church's worst enemy,’ the New York clergyman warned.

“A study of clerical duties made by the Russell Sage Foundation has found that today's ministers must not only be pastors but administrators, counselors, financial planners, educators, organizers and social actionists. The package demands on the time of the man dedicated to the rescue of souls have become so varied that a great many clergymen fear that the secondary functions of the church are beclouding and superseding the primary one. There is a tendency to place record memberships above solid spirituality and to mistake a seeking after social activities for religious fervor.

“Church bulletins are tightly packed with announcements of picnics, square dances, affairs for the young, schedules of bowling leagues and other sports, sponsorship of style shows and garden parties. They emphasize finances and plans for physical expansion of

church plants with gymnasiums and recreation halls. An activity of a strictly spiritual nature may be mentioned only if there is any space left.

“The public was amused years ago when drugstores, in order to bolster their trade in medicines, advertised rose bushes and triple-deck sandwiches to lure additional customers to their counters but the public takes it in stride today when the churches have to promote parties, picnics, and *smörgåsbords* in the hope that they may entice some to prayer. Dr. Ralph Sockman, noted New York pastor, compares the church to a jewelry store where most of the patrons are content to take away cheap substitutes instead of genuine religious products. . . . Kermit Eby, a University of Chicago social scientist, observes that the trouble is ‘the church has become respectable, a please-the-crowd institution instead of an unfettered champion of principle. . . . This trend to respectability and conformity has undermined the church as an instrument of God.’

“The Rev. Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, minister emeritus of Riverside Church in New York, offers this picture of the ‘more familiar kinds’ of church-goers: ‘Formal observers of decent conventional fashions on Sunday morning; fans of popular preachers, as of movie stars; people who think that the churches in general are a good thing, that church attendance is a useful family practice, and not unhelpful to one's reputation; sectarian minds coming from church with all of their bigotries sharpened and confirmed; mere peace-of-mind seekers, lulled by music and prayer into easy-going tranquillity; and even hypocrites covering unworthy lives under the outward show of religious respectability.’

“He might have said we are like customers coming out of a drugstore carrying a rose bush because the tonic the store was built to purvey had been obscured by the alluring by-products.”

"where your TREASURE is there your HEART will be"

"Be on the alert and on guard against every kind of covetousness, because even when a person has an abundance his life does not result from the things he possesses."

—Luke 12:15, NW.



WHERE is your heart? Is it toward your Maker, Jehovah, or does it move you to act as the godless, degenerate world acts? You must always keep in mind that "Jehovah . . . sees what the heart is." (1 Sam. 16:7, NW) Without question the Most High God of the universe can discern your motives; he knows what treasures you seek. King David told Solomon: "Know the God of your father and serve him with a complete heart and with a delightful soul, for all hearts Jehovah is searching and every inclination of the thoughts he is discerning. If you search for him he will let himself be found by you, but if you leave him he will reject you forever." (1 Chron. 28:9, NW) Everyone whose heart is for God can find him. But those who turn their back on God he will not help. No one can hide his deeds from view, because "the ways of man are before the eyes of Jehovah."—Prov. 5:21, AS.

² Paul realized this. He first tried to

serve Jehovah God under the then rejected Mosaic law system, as a Pharisee, and thought it his duty as a Jew to persecute Christ's followers, "both men and women" of "the Way"—this newly formed religion. (Acts 9:1, 2, NW) However, when he was forcefully shown the truth he turned around, forsook his old religious practices, now outmoded, and became "a slave of Jesus Christ and called to be an apostle." (Rom. 1:1, 2, NW) From the old system of things

that existed in his day Paul was "separated to God's good news." His heart was no longer in the old Jewish, hypocritical system of things. He had learned of the resurrected Christ Jesus; so of the hope of life eternal he had now become a zealous minister. Paul was known throughout all Palestine, Asia Minor, and Greece, as well as Rome, because he would "from day to day tell the good news of salvation by him." (Ps. 96:2, NW) In his many travels he had a fine opportunity to observe how mankind was living. Visiting place after place in a very corrupt world he was "not ashamed of the good news; it is, in fact, God's power for salvation to everyone having faith." He preached to Jews and Greeks, meaning believers and nonbelievers in Jehovah God. Through this message of good news God's righteousness was being revealed. Paul had learned God's Word by diligent study. He knew that "the righteous man will live by means of faith." —Rom. 1:16, 17, NW; Hab. 2:4, AS.

1. Why are heart purity and upright action necessary now?

2-4. (a) How did Paul demonstrate where his heart was? (b) What delinquencies described by him may we avoid, and why?

³ As a true Christian Paul was not hesitant about telling of the wrath of God

against all ungodliness and unrighteousness. In his letter to the Romans he wrote very plainly. You can easily understand what he means by reading Romans 1:18-32 (NW). According to Paul's argument, God had manifested himself to all men and the Almighty's invisible qualities were clearly seen from the world's creation onward. Even though men and women of the world knew God they certainly did not glorify him as God, nor did they thank him for all the good things they had. Instead, they were empty-headed in their reasonings and their unintelligent hearts became darkened. Nearly all humans became extremely foolish. Men and women stooped to a very low, depraved manner of living. Paul's description proves his day was no different from ours. Right now we, like Paul, can say: "That is why God gave them up to disgraceful sexual appetites." They were then and are now "violently inflamed in their lust toward one another," both males and females "working what is obscene." While they had opportunity to hear the truth and act properly, they did not approve of holding God in accurate knowledge, saying, "Why spend time taking in knowledge of God when we can run wild with the world?" Unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness filled the world of Paul's day. People did injury to one another. They were full of envy, strife, deceit and murder. These things were rampant and all were insolent and haughty, haters of God. Children were disobedient to their parents. Natural affection was unknown among them; all were merciless. After vividly describing his day, Paul added: "Although these know full well the righteous decree of God, that those practicing such things are deserving of death, they not only keep on doing them but also approve those practicing them."—Rom. 1:32, NW.

^{bc} Today Paul's strong words are equally applicable. To all mankind, in Christendom

and parts of the world where worship of heathen gods prevails, we, with Paul, now can say: "You are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are, if you judge; for in the thing in which you judge another, you condemn yourself, inasmuch as you that judge practice the same things. Now we know that the judgment of God is, in accord with truth, against those who practice such things. But do you have this idea, O man, while you judge those who practice such things and yet you do them, that you will escape the judgment of God?" (Rom. 2:1-3, NW) In other words, "The ways of man are before the eyes of Jehovah." So where is your heart—with this debauchery or against it?

⁵ Foremost statesmen of this present evil world are telling people everywhere how to run their affairs, how government should be handled, and how to live at peace. But what do we find? Anxiety among the rulers, depravity among the peoples, distress among the nations. Today all nations (regardless of claims still by some to be Christian) have hardened their hearts against God and his kingdom. They do not want that kingdom. (Matt. 6:10; 24:9) They are against being ruled by God, Jehovah, and by His enthroned King, Christ Jesus. (Ps. 2:1-3; Dan. 2:44; 12:1, AS; Acts 4:24-30; Matt. 24:9, 15; Rev. 11:15, NW) Apply Paul's words, therefore, to the nations now: "According to your hardness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath and of the revealing of God's righteous judgment. And he will render to each one according to his works: everlasting life to those who are seeking glory and honor and incorruptibility by endurance in work that is good; however, for those who are contentious and who disobey the truth but obey un-

5, 6. When and why is God's righteous judgment to be revealed, and toward what persons on earth?

righteousness there will be wrath and anger, tribulation and distress, upon the soul of every man who works what is injurious, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory and honor and peace for everyone who works what is good, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For there is no partiality with God."—Rom. 2:5-11, NW.

⁶ The fact that you are a citizen of a certain nation or a member of a particular religion will not shield you from God's wrath. Where is your heart? Where is your treasure? Do you love righteousness? Do you want to live? If you do, then know the one true God of Abraham, of Moses, of David, of Jeremiah, of Jesus Christ, of Paul and other early Christians and of today's true Christians, and with all of those God-fearing men and women "serve him [Jehovah] with a complete heart and with a delightful soul." Remember, it is written: "He will render to each one according to his works."

WRONG THINKING

⁷ Now the majority of the people get mixed up in their thinking. It is unpopular to be too religious-minded, or to be talking to friends about the Bible. Christendom's religion is something one uses only on Sunday, and on that day it is thought on for just an hour while the people listen to grand organ music, join themselves in singing a few songs and also enjoy choir singing. They listen to the hired clergyman talk for twenty minutes or so from the pulpit. His talk may be based on the Bible or some other book or even politics. For the great majority of people who practice some religion that is the extent of their religious thinking for one week. There are a few, but very few, who regularly read and study God's Word, the Bible, and talk

it unashamedly to others. As for being guided by God's Word, very little thought is given to the Bible. Recently it was reported that in the United States 100,162,529 persons belong to some religion. (*New York Times*, September 10, 1956, pages 1, 25) That leaves about 68,000,000 of this country's people unaffiliated with any religious organization. Quoting the report:

"The statistics were gathered by the council [National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.] from 258 religious bodies. They reported a total membership of 100,162,529, or 60.9 per cent of the population. These religious bodies define membership in different terms. The Roman Catholic Church counts all baptized persons, including infants. Protestant churches usually count only those who have attained full membership. Most are 13 years of age or older. . . . Church membership increased by 2.8 per cent." But what about child delinquency and crime in the United States? Such things too have increased. According to news reports day by day the moral standard is very low. To quote from the *New York Times* (September 27, 1956, page 37):

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation predicted today [Sept. 26] that if present trends continued 2,500,000 major crimes would be committed in the country this year. It would be the highest total in history."

"On the basis of current records, 1956 will be the fifth consecutive year in which major crimes have exceeded the 2,000,000 figure, according to J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the F.B.I."

"He made public reports showing a 14.4 per cent increase in major crimes in the first six months of the year, the largest recorded since the corresponding period in 1946."

"Major crimes, in the F.B.I. lexicon, are murder, negligent manslaughter, rape, rob-

7. How are today's conditions in Christendom's leading nation measured by (a) religionists, (b) law enforcers?

bery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and automobile theft. There were 1,191,120 offenses in these categories in the first half of the year. This was an increase of 162,770. . . ." The question must be asked, Is Christendom's religion helping America? Is it helping the world?

⁸ With adults and youth having little or no spiritual guidance, how can one expect their thinking to be along righteous lines? All Christendom must bear the responsibility for the world's condition, together with America as one of its leading nations. Their fruits do not prove them to be Christian. Being so absorbed in the things of this world, praying for its wars, instilling hatred between nations and letting their flocks be scattered, the false religious organizations have set the pattern of life for their shepherds and their flocks. Their moral condition today is exactly like that of Paul's time. Life's material things have made big inroads upon the thinking and daily acts of those in Christendom. Spiritual-mindedness has been crowded out. Very few really seek the kingdom of God. (Matt. 6:33) In childhood millions had been taught the prayer Christ Jesus taught his followers to pray, 'Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.' (Matt. 6:9-13) Now ask yourself, How many people who have prayed this prayer once or more times in their lives are really seeking the kingdom of God? Early Christians prayed it, believed it, lived it, preached it. 'From day to day they would tell the good news of salvation by Jehovah.' But how many in Christendom do that today? Today's thinking is wrong! The people have no inclination for spiritual things, "where neither moth nor rust consume, and where thieves do not break in and steal." (Matt. 6:20, NW) That is why Paul

wrote to faithful followers of Christ: "Finally, brothers, we request you and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, just as you received the instruction from us on how you ought to walk and please God, just as you are in fact walking, that you would keep on doing it more fully. For you know the orders we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is what God wills, the sanctifying of you, that you abstain from fornication; that each one of you should know how to get possession of his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in covetous sexual appetite such as also those nations have which do not know God; that no one go to the point of harming and encroach upon the rights of his brother in this matter, because Jehovah is one who exacts punishment for all these things, just as we told you beforehand and also gave you a thorough witness. For God called us, not with allowance for uncleanness, but in connection with sanctification. So, then, the man that shows disregard is disregarding, not man, but God, who puts his holy spirit in you."—1 Thess. 4:1-8, NW.

⁹ Paul knew that the influence of the world would affect those taking up the Christian course. So he constantly gave them sound admonition. He knew that the early Christians who were seeking God's kingdom were walking properly and so he said, 'You are walking the right way.' But he urged them to do it more fully. There was a little slipping on their part and he knew that eventually this would lead to others' doing the same thing until the material riches of this world would become more attractive than the spiritual riches. Paul knew, as Jesus had taught, that where the heart of a Christian was, there his treasure would be. But if the Christian no longer tried to store up treasures in heaven, then that one would have begun to store up treasures on earth, where moth and

8, 9. (a) What are some fruits of wrong thinking in Christendom? (b) Scripturally viewed, what are fruits of right thinking?

rust would begin to corrupt. When one looks at Christendom he sees it as a worldly organization, barren of all spirituality. A person who wants to be pleasing to Jehovah must come out of her and seek good food, life-sustaining words from Jehovah, and turn to God. He must 'serve Jehovah with a complete heart.' Christendom and its shepherds have failed its people. All Christendom's nations and all other nations and peoples have forsaken God and his kingdom. The only way for you to gain the favor and blessing of Jehovah is: "If you search for him he will let himself be found by you, but if you leave him he will reject you forever." (1 Chron. 28:9, NW) Search and you will find!

¹⁰ The individual who wants to serve God and truly dedicate his life to Jehovah and sanctify himself, by setting himself aside for righteous service to preach God's good news, is going to find it hard going. He will be running against the broad current of modern-day civilization. He will meet up with much tribulation. But it is worth it, because you will be on the right side, Jehovah's side. Concerning our time Jesus clearly stated: "Then people will deliver you up to tribulation and will kill you, and you will be hated by all the nations on account of my name. Then, also, many will be stumbled and will betray one another and will hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and mislead many; and because of the increasing of lawlessness the love of the greater number will cool off. But he that has endured to the finish is the one that will be saved. And this good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for the purpose of a witness to all the nations, and then the accomplished end will come."—Matt. 24:9-14, NW.

10. What does choosing to serve God bring, and why?

TRUE RICHES

¹¹ Today from the ends of the earth, as well as from Christendom, have come hundreds of thousands of persons who have dedicated themselves to Jehovah's service. They have expressed themselves as wanting to do his will. They have studied the Word of God and are continuing to do so, for they want to store up treasure in heaven. A true Christian experiences a rich blessing when he follows the commandments of Jehovah God. An individual wanting true riches, lasting riches, must come to appreciate that it is important for him to have a close relationship with the Creator. In Proverbs 10:22 (AS) it is written: "The blessing of Jehovah, it maketh rich; and he addeth no sorrow therewith." No one acquainted with world conditions will say that in this world there is no sorrow. It is filled with sorrow. The world is not rich in spiritual knowledge. Yet scattered throughout this whole world, but not a part of it, are found true Christians, rich in spiritual qualifications. These have received of the undeserved kindness of Jehovah; they have recognized his Son, Christ Jesus, and they are determined to walk in his footsteps and do his work that must be done in these last days of the Devil's organization.

¹² Such faithful followers of Christ Jesus can say: "For we all received from out of his fullness, even undeserved kindness upon undeserved kindness. Because the law was given through Moses, the undeserved kindness and the truth came to be through Jesus Christ."—John 1:16, 17, NW.

¹³ According to the Scriptures the law given by Jehovah to Moses served as a schoolmaster to lead certain people to Christ Jesus. (Gal. 3:23-25; Matt. 5:17) Now we appreciate that Christ Jesus, the Son of God, has come. He has laid down his

11, 12. How may true riches be gained?

13. Why is God's written Word essential for gaining enduring riches?

life for redeeming obedient ones of mankind, and he has made it possible for individuals to become Christians, Christlike, his followers. (Heb. 5:9; 1 Pet. 2:21; 1 John 2:2) This has all been accomplished by the undeserved kindness of God and the truth Jehovah revealed to Christians through Christ Jesus. This truth, written in the Bible, is now available in nearly all languages of earth. Anyone who wants to have access to the Bible today can get one and read it or have it read to him. The Bible has had the greatest circulation of any book ever published. Jehovah's witnesses are doing everything they possibly can to distribute the Bible itself in all parts of the world, as well as to aid people to understand that written Word of God.

¹⁴ Jehovah's witnesses appreciate the undeserved kindness of God, for it has had a telling effect upon their lives. While they, as faithful followers of Christ Jesus, have tasted of the undeserved kindness of God it is the Devil's purpose to turn all of them away from God and bring them back into his fold. While Jehovah operates on the principle of love, the Devil operates on the theory of selfishness and he has had his whole worldly organization work accordingly. Selfishness breeds covetousness; so the Bible contains much warning against being covetous. Jesus said: "Be on the alert and on guard against every kind of covetousness, because even when a person has an abundance his life does not result from the things he possesses." (Luke 12:15; Ex. 20:17, NW) Life is a gift from God through his Son, Christ Jesus. It is not something that Jehovah God owes us. God would have all men living together in peace and prosperity and loving their neighbors just as they love themselves; but that is not man's inclination today. He inclines toward selfishness, because he does not know God

and God's ways, and because he prefers to serve the interests of this old world and the Devil, Jehovah's adversary. Through today's selfish system of things minds of young and old alike are constantly stirred to 'be rich.' Most people seriously think that life depends on one's abundance, so they put forth every effort to get that abundance, even to losing good name, reputation, health and friends. For benefit of all Christians Paul wrote: "However, those who are determined to be rich fall into temptation and a snare and many senseless and hurtful desires which plunge men into destruction and ruin. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of injurious things, and by reaching out for this love some have been led astray from the faith and have stabbed themselves all over with many pains."—1 Tim. 6:9, 10, NW.

¹⁵ Yes, some who have even lived as Christians drift back to old-world ways and do all sorts of injurious things. But they hurt principally themselves. They stray from the fundamental teachings of Christ Jesus and before they know it they have stabbed themselves all over and they are filled with pain. Sorrows fill their days, rather than the joy and happiness Jehovah God gives to those who love and trust him. Today, as in Jesus' time, we find some who work day and night to accumulate wealth to fill their own storehouse. They think their security and life come from the abundance they themselves have gathered. We read the rich man's words: "So he said: . . . 'Soul, you have many good things laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, enjoy yourself.' But God said to him: 'Unreasonable one, this night they are demanding your soul from you. Who, then, is to have the things you stored up?' " "So it goes with the man that lays up treasure for himself but is not rich toward God." (Luke 12:18-21, NW) Earthly riches one can quickly lose. Look how millions in Eu-

14, 15. (a) Scripturally defined, what are false riches? (b) Seekers of false riches have had what experiences in days of the present generation?

rope lost all their savings, their homes, their farms, their business, because some selfish dictator directed his forces to annihilate them. Two world wars of our time and all previous wars have helped the Devil to turn men's minds away from God. For loss of their gathered material riches many bitterly blame God. But if such persons had been enriched with the Word of God, then they would have known in advance the futility of storing up earthly riches that thieves steal and moth and rust corrupt. In times of stress spiritual riches have sustaining power and keep one thinking straight. Dictators have come and gone, and there are still some existing today who feel that the world was made for them to rule, that all people should be under their heel. There are big dictators and little dictators. Both kinds are selfish, whether running a nation or a small business. The dictator's mind is centered just around himself and the abundance that he can gather together. He does not realize that life does not result from the things that he possesses. All the old world's possessions a person may have will not give him everlasting life.

A GIFT FROM GOD

¹⁶ God's Word clearly declares that life is a gift from God. (Rom. 6:23; Rev. 2:10, NW) Through undeserved kindness on Jehovah's part life comes to creatures; and it was because of his kindness that he sent his only-begotten Son to earth. Man was doomed for death, and had been dying for 4,000 years before Jehovah's Son came upon the scene. All who died remained in their graves, none having gone to heaven or to a 'hell' of 'eternal torment,' because "the dead know not any thing." (Eccl. 9:5, 10) Sin entered the world by one man and death by sin, so that death passed upon all men. (Rom. 5:12) All under that con-

demnation have died. But now through Jehovah's undeserved kindness man has an opportunity for life. Life is given to him by God, not by the things man possesses. We read: "He that exercises faith in the Son has everlasting life; he that disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him." (John 3:36, NW) So then faith and obedience to the Word of the true God are his requirements. It must be faith that grows and fills your whole life, faith that takes you on to a greater understanding of Jehovah's Word by a study of that Word, faith that moves you to keep on serving God with spirit and truth. (John 4:23; Gal. 6:8, 9, NW) Paul, quoting Jehovah's own earlier utterance, wrote: "My righteous one will live by reason of faith. If he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." (Heb. 10:38; Hab. 2:4, LXX) Christians are not the kind that shrink back. But even any of them who do shrink back are going into destruction along with this system of things.

¹⁷ Study of God's Word, searching of the Scriptures and observing the continuing fulfillment of God-given prophecy make one's faith strong. "Faith is the assured expectation of things hoped for, the evident demonstration of realities though not beheld. For by means of this the men of old times had witness borne to them." (Heb. 11:1, 2, NW) One with faith in God, with love for Him and for his neighbor, will prolong his days, because love puts away all covetousness. "He that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days." (Prov. 28:16, AS) His right thinking, his proper use of accurate knowledge, bring life. "This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ."—John 17:3, NW.

¹⁸ Gaining of everlasting life depends on

16. Why are human creatures given life by God?

17, 18. How are knowledge and life linked in the Bible?

our knowledge, our continually taking in knowledge of the Sovereign Ruler of the universe, Jehovah God, and of his Son, Christ Jesus. However, Satan, the god of this world, will always want us to think that life comes through possession of property, material things, rather than through right knowledge and understanding of Jehovah's purposes. (2 Cor. 4:3, 4, NW) Life, to begin with, is because God is love and has shown it through undeserved kindness.

He is not obliged to give us this life. It is his gift to all those who "serve him with a complete heart."

¹⁹ Some think that all material prosperity they receive is due to God's blessing upon them. But, as Paul declared, "the love of money is a root of all sorts of injurious things." If you put money first because of what it can get you—ahead of the Word of God and what it surely will bring to you in the way of eternal life—you will be sidetracked: you will no longer be seeking first the interests of God's kingdom. Jesus, explaining his own parable of the sower, said:

"Now the illustration means this: The seed is the word of God. . . . As for that which fell among the thorns, these are the ones that have heard, but, by being carried away by anxieties and wealth and pleasures of this life, they are completely choked and bring nothing to perfection." (Luke 8:11-15, NW) Millions upon millions have heard the Word of God. They became very much interested in it, but only for a short period of time; for while they were studying this Word of God they were also being carried away by the anxieties and wealth and pleasures of this life. So, then,

19, 20. What essentials for gaining life were described by Jesus?

these individuals were completely choked. No sweet breath of truth could get to them, because of their anxieties. The seed of truth was completely crowded out of their lives. These had had the full opportunity of hearing the truth, but they were just carried away with the things of this world. They wanted that way; it was their own choice.

²⁰ This can happen even to those who now have the truth. They can still be choked if the lifeline is cut. If we cease feeding upon the Word of God we can starve to death. Hence the question: Can you make yourself the right kind of soil on which this seed, the Word of God, falls? That is possible, for Jesus

said: "As for that on the right soil, these are the ones that, after hearing the word with a right and good heart, retain it and bear fruit with endurance." (Luke 8:15, NW) Yes, there must be a right and good heart. Our motive in life must be to advance the Kingdom interests, not selfish gains. We must be interested in righteousness, following out the command of Christ Jesus to preach this good news of the Kingdom in all the world for a witness. It means not just for a short time, as a kind of diversion or pastime—for a year or two; but to bear fruit means that we shall keep at it continually and let the fruit come on to maturity. It means endurance.

²¹ It is this endurance as a Christian that has caused many people trouble. Not trouble that they could not endure, but trouble from the old world. Many who have learned Jehovah's purposes think that now that they have come to an understanding of God's Word and the New World, which

21. Why is endurance necessary now?



they have prayed for, the New World should be established right away. Just as soon as they hear the truth, or perhaps a year or so afterward, they want all the blessings of that new world of righteousness. This is a kind of covetousness. They do not want to wait on Jehovah God until he is ready to establish it. By the way they live they show they are not sure that God's time is worth waiting for. They are not willing to get into the race and endure to the end in order to receive the blessings of everlasting life. Then, on the other hand, we see those willing to endure all kinds of hardship, like Jehovah's witnesses in Russia who have gone to concentration camps, labor camps, into Siberian exile. They do not turn back; they do not seek communism or the things of this world in place of the spiritual blessings that they receive from Jehovah God. They know that life does not result from the things that they possess in the way of this world's material things. They hold fast to their integrity. Remaining true and loyal to Jehovah God they go through the suffering that comes their way because of their maintaining integrity. So it is with Jehovah's witnesses in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Hungary, and many other parts of earth. Firmly these have stood under the greatest stress and pressure ever brought upon Christians to break their faith. They have been stripped bare of all their possessions. Husbands have been separated from their wives; families have been torn apart. Satan would like to break their faith, their integrity. He would like them to think that life comes through material things that they can possess. But Jehovah's witnesses, in lands behind the "iron curtain" and in all other parts of the world, fully appreciate that life comes through the undeserved kindness of God and the provisions he now makes for them to keep on taking in knowledge of him,

and their continuing to preach the good news of his established kingdom.

²² These faithful Christians who have gone through ordeals greater than the Catholic inquisition of centuries ago are not interested in saving their lives so that they might have the pleasures and comforts of this old world. They have read the words of Jesus: "For whoever wants to save his soul will lose it; but whoever loses his soul for my sake will find it. For what benefit will it be to a man if he gains the whole world but forfeits his soul? or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt. 16:25, 26, NW) In this world there are some persons who think more of one meal and the personal possession of that than of their own lives. So it was with Esau, "who in exchange for one meal gave away his rights as firstborn." (Heb. 12:16; Gen. 25:34, NW) Jesus declared: "Really, what does a man benefit himself if he gains the whole world but loses his own self or suffers damage?"—Luke 9:25, NW.

²³ When we pray the Lord's prayer all we ask for is the bread for the day. With that the majority of earth's people can be content; but just think of the contentment of one who has godly devotion with it! "To be sure, it is a means of great gain, this godly devotion along with self-sufficiency. For we have brought nothing into the world, and neither can we carry anything out. So, having sustenance and covering, we shall be content with these things." (1 Tim. 6:6-8, NW) Today Christendom's people do not love God's Word, nor do they want to live according to its commandment. They choose to go on in their own selfish way, hurting themselves. Even if one of Jehovah's witnesses becomes so wrapped up in the affairs of this world, his secular work, his possessions or the gathering together of them, eventually he

22, 23. (a) For one to choose to 'lose his soul' means what? (b) How do God-fearing persons avoid hurting themselves and maintain contentment?

could be sucked out of the New World society into that wicked organization doomed to destruction at Armageddon. Why? Because he tried to save his life in his own way.

²⁴ When one loses sight of the undeserved kindness of Jehovah it is not very long before he stops meeting with God's people. Maybe just by staying away from one meeting he can earn many more dollars and pay part of the mortgage or buy some new furniture or make a payment on a car. But which is worth more, the taking in of knowledge at the meetings and associating with Jehovah's witnesses, or the earning of those few extra dollars at the expense of becoming more tired, so that even after those extra hours you cannot do any other kind of work in the service of Jehovah? Why should a man be working day and night, double shift, or why should his whole family be working double shift? They lose out on meeting and associating with God's people, and at the same time their children are permitted to run the streets. Maybe they are getting the things they want materially; but if you are one of such persons pause and ask yourself: Am I getting happiness? (Matt. 5:3, NW) Am I enjoying the things that I am getting, or am I losing the bigger things in life? Am I losing my husband (or wife), my family? More than that, am I losing the truth? Am I losing life itself? Am I losing God and his beloved Son? Am I losing the new world? Are you thus losing just to have a bigger television, a bigger car, bigger home, bigger barns? Are there things in your life that are pulling you away from true Christianity, genuine worship of the Sovereign Ruler of the universe and the giving to him of your exclusive devotion?

²⁵ Jehovah God knows our need of shel-

ter, food, clothing—life's necessities; but he knows too that we do not *need* anything else. Look at what Adam had in the garden of Eden: Just a garden; no large mansion; not any of today's "modern conveniences." But Adam did have the opportunity to live eternally had he been faithful to Jehovah God. While "modern conveniences" can only momentarily lighten man's burden, still even these things, rightly used, should enable us to put more time in Jehovah's service, to magnify his name, and to allow us greater freedom to preach the good news of his kingdom. They should be time-savers rather than time consumers.

²⁶ Stop and think! you Christians, are you giving Jehovah God exclusive devotion? Are you speaking to your neighbors and friends, or people you have never met before, about the good things that you have learned concerning the undeserved kindness of God? Are you bringing tithes into his storehouse? That is, are you attending all the meetings, taking part in them? Are you helping with the expenses in your Kingdom Hall? Are you proving by your works that you really are living your dedication to Jehovah? Do you prove yourself to be one of Jehovah's witnesses by your association with that great crowd of people, scattered throughout the earth, announcing Jehovah's kingdom? Do you claim to be a minister of Jehovah God; and if so, then what about your ministerial service? Are you growing toward maturity? Are you gaining accurate knowledge of the truth? Are you able to explain the Word of God better to people as days go by? Are you bringing up your children in the nurture and discipline and authoritative advice of Jehovah? Do you give them the attention that they need? Do you study with them? Do you play with them? Do you bring them to the meetings? Do you provide for them

24. Keeping conscious of one's spiritual need includes what right practices?

25. How may "modern conveniences" be used aright?

26, 27. For what purposes do followers of Christ keep on taking in accurate knowledge?

spiritually? Do they love you as children should love parents? Are you interested in having your boys and girls grow up to become missionaries? And are you, like many happy parents, rejoicing that your children have gone off into missionary service in foreign fields; and are you continuing to encourage them to stay in those fields to do the great work that Jesus said would be done in these last days in taking the good news of the Kingdom to the ends of the earth and there discipling all kinds of people?

²⁷ These questions Christians should ask themselves. They should be able to answer aright, not in words but in deed, in God's sight—in their daily lives as proof of where their hearts are, because that is where their treasure will be.

²⁸ Are you, as one of Jehovah's witnesses, doing what the psalmist said we should be doing in these last days: "From day to day tell the good news of salvation by him"? (Ps. 96:2, NW) Only Jehovah God can provide salvation for human creatures. Are you, as one dedicated to Jehovah's service, spreading his good news of salvation that Jehovah has arranged for? Are you doing it from day to day? Are you telling all persons that you can about this good news? If you are, then you certainly are storing up treasures in heaven and you

28. Why do genuine worshipers of the living God 'daily tell the good news of salvation by him'?

certainly know where your heart is. It is in Jehovah's service.

²⁹ Paul wanted everyone to see that he kept in the right course, and that is why he wrote: "I give you orders that you observe the commandment in a spotless and irreprehensible way until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Tim. 6:13, 14, NW) Remember, too, how he said some would be stabbing themselves all over with many pains, hurting themselves, being led astray from the faith. But to counteract this, so that they would not hurt themselves, Paul said: "On the other hand, you, O man of God, flee from these things. But pursue righteousness, godly devotion, faith, love, endurance, mildness of temper. Contend for victory in the right contest of the faith, get a firm hold on the everlasting life for which you were called and you declared the right confession publicly before many witnesses."—1 Tim. 6:11, 12, NW.

³⁰ Desiring to get a firm hold on the real life, we actually shall want to 'stop storing up for ourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break in and steal.' "Rather, store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consume, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."—Matt. 6:19-21, NW.

29, 30. How can we avoid covetousness and gain enduring wealth?

The Prayer Dog

²⁹ The prayer dog lives in Tibet. The animal, a Tibetan spaniel, resembles the Pekingese. Small ones are kept in monasteries, where they are trained to turn prayer wheels. On the outside of the prayer wheels and on strips of paper within, Tibetans write the sacred Buddhist formula, "O, the Jewel in the Lotus, Amen." When recited it is supposed to ensure rebirth after death in the heaven ruled by the Buddha of eternal light. Every time the prayer dog revolves the prayer wheel the Tibetan considers that all the written prayers have been duly said.

"Feed My Little Sheep"



THE Master was alive. The great Preacher of Jehovah's kingdom was there on the seashore. Already Christ Jesus had built a fire and had fish broiling upon it; bread also there was for the disciples to break their fast. Peter, as usual, impulsive, had put on his garments (for he was naked) and had jumped off the boat and swum ashore. The others had rowed to shore in the small boat. To them Jesus spoke in the same manner that he had spoken before his resurrection. To those hungry disciples he said, "Come, take your breakfast." Not one had courage or need to ask him, "Who are you?" They realized it was their Master.

² "Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish likewise." Prior to this postresurrection appearance of Christ Jesus there had been six others: among these, one to Mary Magdalene, then to the group of women, to the two on the way to Emmaus, and also to Peter. John reports: "This was now the third time that Jesus appeared [especially] to the disciples [to apostles in a group] after his being raised up from the dead." Remember, "out of fear of the Jews the doors were locked where the disciples were, Jesus came and

stood in their midst"; also "his disciples were again indoors, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and he stood in their midst." (John 21:12-14; 20:19, 26, NW) Here now was ample evidence; alive again was the Redeemer of mankind!

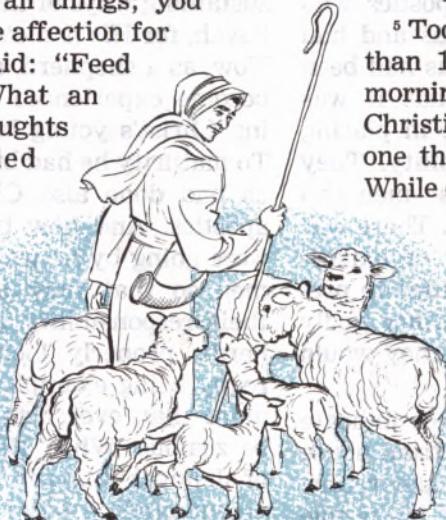
³ John, vividly describing this breakfast scene, adds the impressive conversation between Jesus and Peter, which very indelibly remained on Peter's mind. Jesus speaks directly to Simon Peter: "'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him: 'Yes, Master, you know I have affection for you.' " When Jesus first propounded this question he may have had in mind what he had previously said to his disciples and Peter's reply. That earlier conversation Mark reports: "Jesus said to them: 'You will all be stumbled, because it is written, "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered about." But after I have been raised up I will go ahead of you into Galilee.' But Peter said to him: 'Even if all the others are stumbled, yet I will not be.' " However, everyone in the world who since then has ever read the life of Christ knows how

1, 2. How was the fact of Jesus' resurrection established to guide Peter and the other faithful apostles?

3, 4. (a) Before his death, how and why did Jesus describe to his disciples their foretold scattering? (b) After his resurrection, where and how did Jesus give vital instruction particularly to what seven disciples?

Peter three times denied Christ, and how truly Jesus prophesied when he said: "You today, yes, this night, before a cock crows twice, even you will disown me three times." But then Peter had profusely retorted: "If I have to die with you, I will by no means disown you." All the other disciples also then had said the same thing.—Mark 14:27-31, NW.

⁴ Jesus was a marvelous teacher. Using illustrations, he also indelibly impressed the minds of his listeners with what he desired to get into their minds and into their very hearts. So Jesus, at the seaside breakfast, with Peter's three denials in mind, continued talking directly to Peter, a second time asking: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter replied: "Yes, Master, you know I have affection for you." Jesus then said to him, "Shepherd my little sheep." Then a third time Jesus (using now Peter's own variant term *affection*) asked: "Simon son of John, do you have affection for me?" Grieved, Peter now insisted: "Master, you know all things; you are aware that I have affection for you." Then Jesus said: "Feed my little sheep." What an avalanche of thoughts must have hurtled through Peter's mind while Jesus was talking to him, repeatedly asking him the same question and then three times telling him, 'Feed my lambs; shepherd my little sheep; feed my little sheep!' Jehovah's greatest



Teacher knew that when he would shortly afterward permanently ascend into the heavens the whole load of responsibility would fall upon those who had followed

him; he knew that they would be the overseers of his sheep. He realized they would be the ones responsible for seeing to it that all those who had begun to put faith in him as Jehovah's anointed Leader, and in his new teaching, would have to be shepherded. Would he have trustworthy men—men that would never turn aside? He eagerly made sure that this one, Peter, would be diligent in his work. Each of the other six faithful disciples present at that seaside breakfast the Master (here using Peter as the example or "sounding board") thus also instructed. Upon those other six also Jesus thus adroitly impressed the importance of their own individual responsibility as lovers of him, as his sheep's loving tenders and feeders. So it was by repetition, by three true testimonies or "witnesses," that Jesus emphasized the feeding and shepherding of *his* sheep.—John 21:15-17, NW.

"PRESIDE IN A RIGHT WAY"

⁵ Today, though removed by more than 1900 years from that sublime morning at Galilee's shore, faithful Christians keenly sense its lesson as one they must vividly keep in mind. While each dedicated servant of Jehovah God bears a responsibility to preach the good news of His kingdom, they all, individually, also must recognize the organization, the grand, unified association, of these qualified ministers. They all must and do clearly visualize their now having been brought together into the congregation, the assembled

earth-wide army or society of Jehovah's new world! Indeed, they see among themselves Jehovah's provision of qualified

5. Recognizing what provision of Jehovah is essential to living today as obedient Christians, and why?

overseers, equipped to look after their welfare and to supervise their united, orderly, ever-expanding joyful activity in obedience to Jehovah and Christ Jesus.

⁶ In the New World society the principal overseer in a local congregation is the congregation servant. Paul, the faithful twelfth apostle of the Lamb, was deeply interested in these servants too; hence he urged: "He that presides, let him do it in real earnest." (Rom. 12:8, NW) To Timothy and to Titus Paul wrote detailed instructions for overseers and ministerial servants. He informed them how circumspectly they must walk. Naturally, men in the truth and acquainted with God's Word the longest would be the ones to preside over the congregation because of their qualifications and faithfulness. That is why Paul admonished Timothy: "Let the older men who preside in a right way be reckoned worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard in speaking and teaching." (1 Tim. 5:17, NW) Clearly Paul saw that the other faithful apostles who actually had walked with Jesus and had been personally taught by Jesus had been carefully chosen. Paul saw that it was necessary to be very selective in placing men in positions of responsibility. They must be men rich in right works—men who work hard in Kingdom service. There was no question about that. Older or experienced men, too, would be qualified to preside in the right way; to all other godly persons they would speak and they would teach.

⁷ In the Bible many scriptures indicate that true Christians should go from house to house; that they should make return visits; and that in the homes of the people they should help them to study the Bible. Truly, then, every individual who claims to be a genuine follower of Christ must be

6, 7. Overseers' presiding in a right way includes what, and for what end?

able to teach, even as Jesus, their Leader, taught—setting the pattern. But among all of these teachers there must necessarily be older or experienced men who can and will preside in Jehovah's right way, exercising true leadership, setting the proper example for each less-experienced willing one.

⁸ Peter was permanently impressed by the wise counsel Jesus gave him during that memorable breakfast session. Years later Peter wrote: "To the older men among you I give this exhortation, . . . Shepherd the flock of God in your care, not . . . as lording it over those who are God's inheritance, but becoming examples to the flock." (1 Pet. 5:1-3, NW) Yes, Peter had been a fisherman. (Mark 1:17; Matt. 4:18-20, NW) But now he had become, under Jesus' patient and marvelous training, not a *mere* 'fisher of men' but a truly godlike shepherd of sheeplike humans—not merely to 'catch' them (as fish are caught) but to tend and feed and rightly lead them on and on in righteous, life-sustaining ways of the Great Shepherd, Jehovah, for His name's sake. (Ps. 23:3, NW) Now, as a shepherd, a good one, Peter had become experienced in tending and feeding Christ's young lambs and little sheep. To maturity he had brought many of them, as had done also Christ's other faithful apostles. And now because Peter's years were going by he was counseling the older men so that they too could clearly see their responsibility to act like true shepherds, properly looking after the flock, really being examples to the flock. Today, more than ever before, an overseer must be zealous. Why? Because today the zeal of Jehovah himself is being exercised in an outstanding way for advancement of his newly begun government in the hands of Christ Jesus. (Isa. 9:6, 7, AS) Today the

8. (a) How are Jesus' instructions to Peter about feeding and shepherding the Master's sheep applicable today? (b) Why is zeal a prime essential now in every qualified overseer?

zealous overseer must be equipped to teach. He must be able to give the proper instruction to others in the congregation so that they will become firmly established and remain faithful and true. He must lead others aright and he himself must continue joyfully following in the footsteps of Christ Jesus.

"PAY ATTENTION TO YOURSELVES"

⁹ Paul, an experienced overseer, entreated his brother overseers, saying: "Pay attention to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the holy spirit has appointed you overseers, to shepherd the congregation of God, which he purchased with the blood of his own [Son]."⁹ (Acts 20:28, NW) Here, too, the emphasis is that an overseer must be a shepherd; he has a very responsible position. He must 'feed my sheep.' Today not only do overseers include those of individual congregations but there are overseers appointed to serve many congregations. According to the annual earth-wide report of activities of Jehovah's witnesses (see country-by-country chart, pages 24-26), they are seen to be organized into 16,240 congregations. Under the Society's arrangement, 1,107 circuit servants oversee those congregations. Still other experienced and trained men, district servants, oversee the circuit servants and congregation servants. Of these, 152 have been appointed to serve in different parts of the world. Today these appointed overseers—branch servants, zone servants, district servants, circuit servants, congregation servants—may not look upon their responsibilities lightly.—Ex. 18:25, 26; Deut. 1:9-15; Eph. 4:11-16, NW; Mic. 5:2-5, AS.

¹⁰ Indeed such overseers may picture themselves at Galilee's shore, where Peter once fished with his father and where, later, Peter attentively heard Jesus say to him:

9. How are instructions given to overseers by Paul useful today?

10, 11. Responsibility for shepherding described by Jesus to Peter is how extensive at present, and why?

"Feed my young lambs."
"Shepherd my little sheep."
"Feed my little sheep."

Here Jesus placed a full load of responsibility upon Peter, one of his appointed overseers, to do something very necessary. But were the other six chosen "fishers of men" who also at the same time heard Jesus' weighty instruction to Peter—were those other six excluded? Did Jesus expect those other faithful apostles of his to do from then on whatever each of them privately and personally desired to do? Jesus' own answer is clear: "You *continue* following me."—John 21:22; 17:15-21; Acts 1:6-8; Rev. 14:1-5, NW.

¹¹ As the united apostles' work grew and more people who loved truth and righteousness were being gathered to this wonderful religion that Jehovah's greatest Prophet, Jesus, had introduced it called for many more mature men. More overseers would have to be appointed. And now, in this climactic harvesttime, especially, when we see associated with Jehovah's New World society 591,556 ministers, all dedicated to Jehovah God, the need is a hundredfold greater. As these ministers are now gathered into thousands of local congregations with their qualified overseers and ministerial servants, all unitedly announcing Jehovah's kingdom, every one of them must give to Jehovah God exclusive devotion. Those overseers by their deeds and works are reckoned worthy of double honor. Those within Jehovah's organization "who work hard in speaking and teaching" are the ones who must and do "feed my little sheep."—John 4:21-24; 1 Tim. 5:17, NW.

¹² To everyone it should be clear that "if any man is reaching out for an office of overseer, he is desirous of a right kind of work." (1 Tim. 3:1, NW) However,

12. Why and how may one rightly reach out for becoming an overseer?

1956 SERVICE YEAR REPORT OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES WORLD-WIDE

Country	1955 Av. Pubs.	1956 Av. Pubs.	% Inc. over 1955	Peak Pubs. 1956	Av. Plo. Pubs.	No. Public Meet'gs	No. of Cong's	Total Literature	Total Hours	New Subs.	Individual Magazines	Back-Calls	Av. Bible Studies
U.S. of America	163,875	169,835	4	185,010	5,957	137,050	3,597	8,511,591	26,475,456	687,596	27,133,723	8,413,873	106,001
Alaska	124	126	2	144	8	60	4	9,166	23,659	858	22,535	7,830	112
Bermuda	23	26	13	29	1	29	1	2,687	3,305	270	3,319	1,602	25
Fr. Equ. Africa	810	981	21	1,168	5	269	13	12	118,149	1	110,804	317	
Guam	36	42	17	52	2	1	1	3,124	7,430	212	4,909	2,041	29
Iceland	9	11	22	13	3	1	1	10,542	6,237	213	2,634	2,325	13
Islands (Light)	4	4			4	33		917	3,868	58	1,585	1,427	18
Israel	18	31	72	46	21	33	2	1,438	6,529	55	770	2,146	20
Tangier		7	New	13	5	4	1	2,135	6,601	91	3,266	3,361	16
Argentina	3,504	3,757	7	4,054	139	2,402	119	222,105	630,726	16,763	510,168	323,410	2,854
Australia	7,603	8,244	8	8,937	339	4,009	296	489,362	1,239,954	22,284	1,072,347	358,706	4,104
American Samoa	8	19	138	22	6	7	1	3,586	10,927	63	4,666	4,233	47
Fiji Islands	47	51	9	62	4	90	1	7,053	12,597	308	10,118	5,441	96
New Caledonia	3	3	9	9				288	568	16	202	139	3
Papua	37	67	81	90	4	1	3	1,144	7,963	33	727	2,005	18
Solomon Islands	1	1		1				81	106		27	46	
Western Samoa	23	27	23	28	1	6	1	1,402	9,159	39	1,741	2,730	24
Austria	3,880	4,122	6	4,431	87	3,222	168	134,166	557,769	3,478	460,849	241,141	2,004
Bahamas	101	116	15	136	14	64	3	7,321	30,227	363	22,591	11,490	188
Belgium	3,911	4,009	3	4,411	89	2,179	99	168,616	497,403	4,398	351,803	169,591	1,596
Bolivia	149	159	7	189	37	149	5	11,747	69,968	1,504	41,974	24,386	240
Brazil	7,931	8,953	13	9,596	177	4,637	174	420,766	1,195,668	31,563	928,951	451,072	4,617
British Guiana	441	460	4	540	53	334	17	28,777	115,414	1,169	97,047	39,548	532
British Honduras	101	116	15	133	22	105	7	4,025	44,233	109	25,409	16,686	208
British Isles	28,073	30,342	8	32,836	933	26,860	733	2,061,703	4,346,932	56,688	4,540,810	1,768,137	16,619
Eire	179	199	11	223	47	288	6	19,150	82,098	268	30,304	25,372	187
Malta	7	3		5		1		87	335	4	141	135	4
Burma	104	108	4	125	15	77	2	37,575	34,605	1,008	19,383	13,071	123
Canada	25,306	25,677	1	28,540	813	16,703	740	645,224	3,036,845	50,654	2,548,190	891,072	9,819
Ceylon	78	97	24	109	19	67	2	12,984	36,067	715	19,848	12,706	110
Chile	1,034	1,130	9	1,232	99	881	31	56,357	244,597	4,139	198,893	105,955	1,457
China	47	38		57	3	1		451	4,486			3,408	65
Colombia	612	677	11	719	70	482	22	48,423	187,564	1,149	95,688	82,327	1,008
Costa Rica	1,749	1,788	2	1,934	44	899	45	33,060	206,727	958	59,667	63,577	1,029
Cuba	9,656	9,342		10,317	233	7,239	307	114,490	1,257,790	5,993	565,476	422,054	6,703
Cyprus	356	364	2	381	19	94	10	8,083	53,692	487	10,832	19,932	251
Denmark	8,101	8,095		8,678	115	6,707	192	115,359	818,532	4,738	592,126	315,526	3,054
Faroë Islands	9	11	22	13	3	63	1	1,267	4,540	136	4,566	1,588	11
Greenland	3	3		3	2	12		1,487	2,502	18	1,390	1,187	1
Dominican Republic	425	521	23	563			50	1,166	52,709			28,859	432
Ecuador	265	303	14	336	42	228	10	20,946	88,670	941	61,894	39,822	432
Egypt	259	287	11	313	21	229	8	14,791	62,826	908	18,748	21,863	228
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	10	12	20	16	2	11	1	1,180	3,205	224	1,396	1,116	11
El Salvador	321	353	10	382	36	547	10	14,326	85,597	1,028	50,443	33,032	424
Ethiopia	61	76	25	90	13	246	5	7,782	33,729	282	3,965	12,189	180
Eritrea	2	4	100	13	1	32	1	484	2,582	12	536	945	12
Finland	5,810	5,901	2	6,394	194	6,102	368	220,367	773,627	13,523	668,048	231,633	2,399
France	8,512	8,867	4	9,766	153	6,270	194	451,517	973,888	15,216	869,841	410,431	3,110
Algeria	47	63	34	69	7	44	1	19,032	18,655	1,028	22,999	11,830	83
Cameroun	1,673	2,187	31	2,747	39	3,185	43	19,834	617,477	184	6,219	261,496	1,258
Morocco	3	8	167	12	3	1		6,043	4,655	200	5,939	2,678	12
Saar	663	702	6	716	7	376	12	18,929	77,603	911	69,306	35,991	225
Senegal	10	14	40	18	3	2	1	2,943	4,393	57	1,825	2,156	12
Tunisia	29	24		30	3	24	1	4,677	8,630	302	8,495	3,797	29
Germany, West	48,446	47,375	7	50,530	765	33,533	759	1,294,434	6,088,527	42,297	5,583,405	2,174,156	17,187

Gold Coast	5,861	6,207	6	6,727	183	4,005	133	142,476	1,467,413	1,974	166,172	398,112	4,300
Gambia	3	3		3		2		242	818	2	158	349	3
Ivory Coast	34	53	56	61	4	29	1	638	19,286	47	1,448	6,192	70
Togo	114	123	8	162	8	94	4	3,908	39,583	36	1,830	10,148	178
Greece	4,693	5,010	7	5,667	18	1,174	260	44,537	378,891	2,444	160,590	201,199	1,415
Turkey	100	139	39	159	6	14	4	5,925	21,163	352	4,323	9,980	124
Guadeloupe	130	129		136	3	63	6	7,742	19,369	275	12,559	6,154	59
Martinique	5	10	100	13	3	41	1	5,150	5,304	277	5,007	2,038	23
Guatemala	474	498	5	530	38	742	15	25,998	106,539	1,366	75,639	40,145	548
Haiti	204	269	32	299	26	206	9	16,415	68,195	824	45,027	23,655	345
Hawaii	812	826	2	896	52	469	16	52,788	169,284	5,106	158,582	61,216	887
Canton Island		1	New	1				20	25		88	16	1
Honduras	407	343		363	38	447	14	16,621	96,980	1,267	56,970	35,388	447
Hong Kong	94	91		106	25	104	2	26,122	36,720	1,281	13,846	14,714	213
India	883	965	9	1,003	86	605	46	97,299	235,546	2,031	72,700	73,857	741
Indonesia (Java)	197	206	5	230	10	144	7	23,126	33,329	2,194	46,703	13,790	186
Sulawesi	28	29	4	31	2	8	1	2,792	6,532	252	3,166	1,551	14
Sumatra	11	23	109	26	7	21	1	10,805	11,938	1,253	16,388	4,213	66
Italy	2,829	3,229	14	3,491	131	859	139	129,279	453,959	4,030	304,613	217,593	1,805
Libya	52	53	2	65	2	1	1	570	9,095	11	207	4,772	45
Jamaica	3,191	3,216	1	3,517	88	2,884	153	63,473	460,910	1,239	172,584	156,119	2,950
Cayman Islands		6	New	8	4	5		881	3,075	21	1,066	1,143	20
Japan	466	546	17	592	88	604	19	106,349	183,022	4,207	179,938	82,556	832
Okinawa	15	19	27	26	3	9	1	12,559	7,585	453	14,680	4,190	26
Taiwan	1,482	1,398		1,907	59	224	30	4,530	170,572	3	84	89,223	483
Korea	1,170	1,469	26	1,699	76	505	28	89,517	294,735	3,525	114,424	106,552	1,165
Lebanon	419	405		432	25	385	11	13,619	61,289	1,106	17,469	16,180	160
Iran		3	New	3	2			194	653	20	147	153	23
Iraq	6	10	66	14	4	33	1	3,875	7,623	546	5,322	2,649	35
Jordan	74	69		83	5	22	3	1,100	13,690	110	1,219	3,979	45
Saudi Arabia	2	2		3				176	297	5	30	50	7
Syria	86	66		89	5	22	4	1,791	11,974	146	991	3,560	32
Leeward Islands (Antigua)	52	52		56	5	76	2	1,756	12,180	94	10,351	4,809	55
Anguilla	3	3		4	1			22	652		52	173	6
Dominica	69	80	16	83	3	94	3	876	12,124	39	7,048	3,937	56
Montserrat	8	9	13	11	1	11	1	335	3,809	12	1,563	1,140	19
Nevis	23	25	9	28	2	32	2	200	4,381	9	2,232	2,231	21
St. Kitts	56	55		63	4	34	2	680	10,653	48	7,794	3,781	45
St. Martins	7	7		12	1	34	1	579	1,327	19	724	422	4
Liberia	144	187	30	227	19	177	5	17,541	84,894	349	23,048	21,122	245
Luxembourg	127	161	27	183	6	126	7	10,968	23,771	166	16,157	10,437	86
Mauritius	23	24	4	31	4	11	3	6,916	7,243	243	9,770	2,929	38
Madagascar		7	New	8	2	14		3,612	3,738	1,047	4,529	1,372	11
Mexico	11,873	13,230	11	14,511	224	7,326	501	243,977	1,530,256	10,644	617,688	430,629	6,385
Netherlands	8,692	8,801	1	9,599	197	2,895	157	104,335	1,120,876	3,942	659,810	385,853	3,075
Neth. Antilles (Curacao)	99	106	7	118	9	65	2	10,827	22,949	778	29,114	10,259	100
Aruba	86	95	10	100	7	120	2	4,583	18,246	610	16,281	6,622	89
Bonaire	8	9	10	10	1	25	1	587	2,560	63	894	880	12
Newfoundland	262	307	17	367	26	374	28	12,860	54,807	1,181	44,287	16,428	144
New Zealand	2,214	2,431	10	2,811	79	1,322	85	76,208	304,499	6,019	302,642	101,792	1,168
Nicaragua	169	183	8	196	27	122	10	12,324	57,247	739	45,665	21,884	290
Nigeria	18,666	19,590	5	20,814	606	13,819	437	174,964	3,889,349	3,833	164,325	704,112	10,151
Dahomey	583	690	18	798	31	459	22	3,342	216,606	107	1,631	44,880	611
Northern Rhodesia	24,377	24,740	1	26,838	127	3,412	368	141,904	4,156,669	5,439	135,820	935,780	17,133
Belgian Congo	67	156	133	250		2	49	28,222	5	23	10,350	191	
Kenya	2	4	100	7	1	2	1	211	883	17	153	418	7
Tanganyika	266	281	6	349	6	72	14	4,220	76,561	98	853	16,601	360
Uganda	8	13	63	19	10	1		649	1,479	117	1,043	438	5
Norway	2,568	2,604	1	2,890	81	1,192	120	118,022	328,593	4,456	347,942	123,460	841
Nyasaland	12,137	12,012		12,531	389	10,698	329	71,715	2,762,840	1,348	54,632	811,607	8,319
Portuguese E. Afr.	158	119		190	3	112	3	568	18,558	75	334	4,305	69
Pakistan	64	67	5	74	13	104	4	6,650	27,673	760	12,792	10,363	87

Country	1955 Av. Pubs.	1956 Av. Pubs.	% Inc. over 1955	Peak Pubs. 1956	Avg. Plo. Pubs.	No. Public Meet'gs	No. of Cong's	Total Literature	Total Hours	New Subs.	Individual Magazines	Back-Calls	Avg. Bible Studies
Panama	906	5	1,039	664	58	36	31	387	178,796	1,585	105,571	68,224	967
Paraguay	188	201	7	1,228	79	15	8	742	34,903	689	32,789	12,634	123
Peru	460	524	14	585	76	669	13	907	162,089	2,181	114,545	64,146	874
Philippines	22,898	21,473	32	23,011	640	5,650	576	265,820	2,878,888	11,008	476,541	650,031	11,140
Portugal	147	194	32	211	10	5,650	4	14,481	33,877	217	5,342	13,936	116
Azores	18	17	20	13	2	2	2	327	1,590	12	222	997	12
Madeira Islands	9	16	11	988	70	513	28	100,371	186,900	8,942	256,065	70,843	926
Puerto Rico	834	896	7	988	70	2	2	614	3,834	87	2,409	2,447	32
St. Croix (V.I.)	33	21	26	1	21	5	2	72	3,735	6	252	246	2
St. John's (V.I.)	4	3	3	5	5	1	1	893	4,419	89	4,139	1,539	17
St. Thomas (V.I.)	27	39	44	45	2	21	1	881	2,635	12	1,281	967	20
Tortola (V.I.)	10	10	11	13	2	2	2	381	6,221	3	21,236	12,248	116
Sierra Leone	106	107	1	117	14	253	5	8,592	36,735	159	21,236	12,248	116
Singapore	102	93	100	105	9	42	4	34,142	19,724	870	15,278	7,382	112
North Borneo	12,253	12,181	4	12,679	627	9,421	1	411	3,449	315	93	53	17
South Africa	26	25	26	444	6	156	2	334,385	2,808,637	21,489	754,930	644,228	8,316
Angola	76	64	92	92	14	86	5	765	6,221	3	7,794	2,787	53
Basutoland								970	28,539	52	1,014	835,455	12,991
Bechuanaland	93	92	92	154	9	117	2	435	29,556	13	461	5,983	77
St. Helena	43	38	38	44	1	59	2	273	4,294	6	1,518	5,502	17
South-West Africa	31	32	3	199	43	156	2	5,372	14,024	316	7,803	5,398	68
Swaziland	168	175	4	12,412	858	204	8	722	41,905	29	7,776	8,639	111
Southern Rhodesia	10,776	11,238	4	12,412	858	12,506	324	200,284	3,003,400	3,958	283,085	835,455	12,991
Spain	327	442	35	514	23	173	13	24,308	76,539	169	6,316	43,585	440
Surinam	134	165	23	200	14	173	4	14,401	36,440	522	36,884	13,135	165
Sweden	6,307	6,457	2	6,847	202	6,179	322	208,694	872,771	952,938	327,293	2,582	
Switzerland	3,474	3,554	2	3,790	273	1,764	108	156,252	436,487	565,306	185,564	1,824	
Thailand	194	212	9	236	31	155	13	26,553	54,888	1,531	18,458	16,517	197
Trinidad	1,321	1,303	1,393	62	1,084	42	42	36,389	238,890	2,120	136,432	88,012	1,260
Barbados	521	451	2	478	22	733	24	7,128	87,080	559	38,062	29,338	475
Bequia	14	24	126	154	10	18	2	2,715	8,890	24	1,453	3,077	42
Grenada	131	126	126	38	4	2	2	2,715	33,596	231	9,016	8,951	162
Carriacou													
St. Lucia	50	56	12	64	9	151	2	1,047	18,922	104	7,768	7,203	115
St. Vincent	52	48	57	7	59	5	5	791	16,705	58	3,500	6,788	101
Tobago	29	38	31	54	5	57	1	1,190	14,304	156	6,419	5,077	86
Uruguay	682	764	12	807	71	498	26	36,764	201,837	2,560	108,609	79,665	943
Falkland Islands	4	2									230	403	6
Venezuela	886	1,071	21	1,169	79	621	22	46,387	253,690	1,975	112,225	95,489	1,068
Yugoslavia	1,215	1,388	14	1,491	202	1,038	75	38,899	46,978	4	12,002	30,450	
5 Other Countries	64,997	69,884	8	73,196	30,301	3,042	1	441,941	6,007,575	3,374	741,250	1,931,645	30,411
Grand Total	570,694	591,556	3,6	640,347	16,783	395,770	16,240	19,326,817	87,353,772	1,136,826	55,735,715	27,746,348	333,330

when he reaches out for such a position he should be sure he has qualifications to fulfill its requirements and to be a man who will bear the full responsibility that goes with that position. He must grow on to maturity. This may take years within the organization of the New World society. To qualify as an overseer, whether district servant, circuit servant, or similar supervisory task, he should be able first to fulfill the position of a pioneer or special pioneer, advancing then to the greater responsibilities in circuit and district service, or probably to duties of a branch servant overseeing Kingdom activities in an entire country.

QUALITY INCREASE

¹³ It brings real joy to the hearts of all ministers of God to see the won-

13. How have special pioneers shared in helpful shepherding during the past year?

derful work that has been accomplished in another year. One of the finest witnesses to the Kingdom ever given by Jehovah's witnesses was performed during the service year 1956. Throughout the year the Society tried diligently to add more persons to the special pioneer work, to serve needy ones in isolated regions of earth, along with missionaries, and to preach there the good news of the established Kingdom. Special pioneers have increased by 519 over the previous year; 2,637 are now working in isolated territories, organizing new congregations and taking on the responsibility of overseeing when a local group gathers. In years of human life some of these special pioneers may be young, but as to other Christians in their midst they are older or experienced men, able to preside in a right way; and these new ministers who have dedicated themselves to God see that these special pioneers have worked hard in their speaking and in their teaching, and they are pleased to have their helpful shepherding.

¹⁴ A fine growth within the organization of Jehovah's witnesses in the past twelve months is now apparent. In 162 lands throughout the world an average of 591,556 Kingdom publishers has been preaching every month. This is a 3.6-percent increase over the 1955 service year. While this numerical or *quantity* increase is not so great as in some other years, growth or *quality* increase within the association of brothers is very healthy, outstanding. Consciousness of the earth-wide forward movement of the united, peaceful New World society members is broadening and deepening among all of them. They see more clearly that their delightful work is a gathering in of the other sheep, which makes our hearts glad. One and a half million more hours were spent in joyful field activity during the past

twelve months than during the previous year. That included gathering 136,000 more new subscriptions for *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Not only do Jehovah's witnesses go from house to house and preach short sermons to the people, interesting them in home Bible study, talking and reading to them directly from the Bible, but they try to leave with willing ones printed sermons so that after the Kingdom minister departs to serve someone else the householder visited may privately consider such sermon or several sermons of greater length. During the service year 19,326,817 books, booklets and Bibles have been placed. Additionally, *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*—the two principal journals Jehovah's witnesses use in helping people in Bible study—were distributed to the number of 55,735,715 copies. Magazine distribution alone, from house to house and on street corners, has increased over 19,000,-000 copies. Of course, there are many hundreds of thousands of subscribers for *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* This required regular distribution, through the Society's many branches and printing plants, of millions of copies of these publications. To supply the needs of Jehovah's witnesses in more than a hundred languages the Society printed 130,992,362 Bibles, books, booklets and magazines, all of which assisted them in proclaiming world-wide the good news of Jehovah's established kingdom.

"TELL THE GOOD NEWS"

¹⁵ In all of this we rejoice. It truly makes our hearts glad to have had a share in spreading this comforting message unto the ends of the earth. Always Jehovah's witnesses have in mind, in their work day by day, the words of Jesus: "This good news of the kingdom will be preached in

14. Quantity and quality increases among Kingdom ministers have included what during the past year?

15, 16. (a) Why is 'telling the good news from day to day' vitally important now? (b) What other reported results of the past year's world-wide activities of Jehovah's witnesses may we now consider, and why?

all the inhabited earth for the purpose of a witness to all the nations, and then the accomplished end will come." (Matt. 24:14, NW) That is why they have chosen for this year a very energizing text, one filled with life and responsibility: "From day to day tell the good news of salvation by him." (Ps. 96:2, NW) The New World society looks forward to 1957 with unusual vim, vigor and vitality, to tell this message of comfort to every willing listener in all the world. Last year God's kingdom ministers spent 87,353,772 hours going from house to house preaching, telling people about the wonderful hope before them. Not only have they gone from house to house with sermons, but they made many, many a back-call. In fact, during the year they made 27,746,348 back-calls. Out of these they were able to establish 333,330 home Bible studies. What a joy it is to see ministers, not hired to stand on a pulpit but ministers at heart, going out to all the nations of the world and helping people there to see the truth!

¹⁶ Jehovah's witnesses fully appreciate that there still are many things to be done, many places to be visited, many hearts to comfort. They know, too, that many more persons have to be helped to grow to maturity, to gain accurate knowledge and a clear understanding of the Bible. Last year at the Memorial service of Jehovah's witnesses there were 919,994 persons in attendance. Only 16,302 of these professed to be of the anointed, striving for the position of being joint heirs with Christ Jesus in heavenly glory. All of the other hundreds of thousands are, we believe, eager to live here on earth in the new world of righteousness, according to the will of Jehovah. But they need help. Not all of these 919,994 are ministers—only 591,556 have identified themselves as ministers, and they have much work to do. For some reason they conducted 4,000 fewer Bible studies

in the homes of the people than during the preceding year. Not quite as many of them went out in the preaching work during the year. There were only 640,347. But even though 2,582 fewer publishers report having worked sometime during the year, this does not disturb Jehovah's witnesses. They are determined to take care of the other sheep. And having in mind the texts considered in this review, and having specially in mind Jesus' words, "Feed my little sheep," every one of Jehovah's witnesses, not only overseers but every minister of every congregation, by Jehovah's undeserved kindness will put forth greater effort than ever before to tell this good news from day to day. Why will they do this? Because they see that some are not taking on the responsibility that was placed upon Peter. Such ones do not feel the seriousness of it. Therefore it will be necessary for all of Jehovah's witnesses to call on more people, spend more time with those in the truth and those not yet in the truth, so that they might be brought on to maturity.

¹⁷ Here is another interesting thing: During the past seven years 394,024 were baptized. Every one of these has declared himself before Jehovah God that he has chosen to do Jehovah's will. Today His will is that His servants preach the good news of His kingdom. But when we go back in our reports seven years we find that at the end of the service year 1949 there were only 279,421 regular ministers in the field. Add that to those baptized during the past seven years and you have 673,445 people that should be publishers of the Kingdom. But the record shows that there are only 591,556 working ministers. Very easily the question can be asked: Where are the other 80,000? Have they died? No, not all of them; at least not physically. They are not

17, 18. How does considering now the past seven years' record of baptisms enable us to see other opportunities and responsibility for the year ahead?

in their graves. But some have become sick spiritually and they need the help of those who have come on to maturity.

¹⁸ Remember what Jesus said: "Feed my little sheep." The responsibility falls upon every one of Jehovah's witnesses worldwide to do that very thing. Are you doing it? Will you do it? Will the year 1957 be outstanding as far as you are concerned in doing the will of Jehovah God? Do you hear Jesus



saying to you, "Feed my little sheep"? And will it bring real joy to your heart to have in mind and to live the text Jehovah's witnesses will keep before them during 1957: "From day to day tell the good news of salvation by him"? Do you appreciate your responsibility as an overseer, as a ministerial servant, as a minister in the great congregation of God? Jesus' words, "Feed my little sheep," apply to you, the Christian.

Christendom's Plight

Spiritual Famine Spreads as Churches Boom

Churches may be overflowing with new members, but the hunger for spiritual food has not been satisfied. Ravaging Christendom is a spiritual famine; it spreads and intensifies in spite of increased church attendance. This ought to start some people thinking. It has. An enlightening article by Louis Bromfield in the Mansfield (Ohio) *News-Journal* of September 18, 1955, had the heading "Famed Mansfield Author Takes Look at Churches, Religion." Said the writer:

"One of the extraordinary reactions of our time, it seems to me, is the growing hunger of great numbers of people, not only here in the U.S. but all over certain parts of the world, for something to live by. . . . Oddly enough, the churches do not seem to be supplying what is needed. . . . Occasionally I get absurd or preposterous letters of protest from clerics. . . . The burden of these letters is, oddly enough, almost unanimous. The writers assume that because they are preachers or priests they have a special status and know more about God than any decent, kindly citizen. This, I doubt very much. Judging from a few of the letters, some of the writers are not only deficient intellectually and spiritually, but are apparently downright wicked. Certainly they could give comfort and assurance to none but the most terrified and ignorant. . . . All this is a most interesting phenomenon,

which is increasing rather than diminishing in force."

Babylonian Captivity Admitted

Suburban churches in America are thriving, financially and numerically speaking. As a result, according to cleric Gibson Winter of Brighton, Michigan, "suburbia has introduced its concept of success into the very center of church life." What has the suburban "concept of success" done for the people? Declares Episcopalian Winter, as reported in *Time* magazine for October 10, 1955:

"The Biblical faith is rarely met with in suburbia despite growing church membership and activity. . . . Despite a nominal church background, this is an unconverted, untrained mass of people who make the problem of church membership comparable to what it was in the time of Constantine, when Christianity became a recognized institution of Roman society. . . . The task of the churches as witnesses to Christ's lordship . . . has been submerged. . . . The test of every parish enterprise is whether it will bring monetary and numerical progress. . . . The captivity of the church is a national tragedy of the first order. . . . [It] may well be God's word of judgment upon us as his church. For our trespasses and complacency, we have been delivered to Babylon."

GIVE JEHOVAH EXCLUSIVE DEVOTION

"**J**EHOVAH your God am I a God exacting exclusive devotion." Thus Jehovah God calls attention to the fact that he tolerates no rivals. Devotees of pagan religions may have a pantheon, but not those worshiping the unique God Jehovah.—Ex. 20:5, NW.*

Today, far from giving exclusive devotion to Jehovah, the great majority of mankind has succumbed to the snare of materialism. Men are lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, worship the creature instead of the Creator and say: "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we are to die."—1 Cor. 15:32, NW.

All of this represents a clear and present danger that dedicated Christians may be likewise ensnared. One safeguard for us is a wholesome fear, awe and respect for Jehovah, in view of his attributes of justice, wisdom, love and power. That will make us want to give him exclusive devotion, for it makes us realize that we cannot oppose his will without harming ourselves.

But even more, a sense of love and gratitude should tell us that we owe Jehovah exclusive devotion. Is he not our Creator and Life-giver? In view of our first parents' rebellion, is it not solely because of his undeserved kindness that "we have life and move and exist"? Truly "every good gift and every perfect present is from above," from Jehovah.—Jas. 1:17, NW.

What does it mean to give Jehovah exclusive devotion? It means that we dedicate our hearts and lives to Jehovah God, that we make the doing of his will the most important thing in our lives, that we be jealous for the honor of his name, defending it and clearing it of reproach at every opportunity and at the same time being careful not to bring reproach upon it by any wrongdoing. Exclusive devotion requires that we

love those whom God loves and hate those whom he hates and who hate him. It requires of us that instead of pursuing materialism we keep on "seeking first the kingdom and his righteousness."—Matt. 6:33, NW.

Exclusive devotion also requires that we love Jehovah with all our heart, mind, soul and strength; which, in turn, means that "we observe his commandments." In view of the imminent approach of the battle of Armageddon, where he will vindicate his name by wiping out his enemies, his paramount commandment for us today relates to the making known of his name and purposes.—1 John 5:3, NW.

Exclusive devotion, therefore, requires our living up to the name Jehovah's witnesses; preaching the good news of God's kingdom in favorable season and in troublesome season and doing so full time, if we are at all able to do so. It also requires equipping ourselves by the study of and meditation on God's Word, by prayer and by gathering together with other Christian ministers of Jehovah, where we can "hold fast the public declaration of our hope."—Heb. 10:23, NW.

Further, giving Jehovah exclusive devotion means being alert to buy out the opportune time by giving oral and printed explanations of God's Word and purposes to all who will hear. We may not idly fold our hands waiting for such opportunities to come to us, but we must look for and create them by going from house to house, by making return visits and by offering passers-by literature on street corners, not being easily discouraged because of inclement weather. At the same time we want to be alert to any opportunities to preach in our everyday activities.

In all such ways we can give God exclusive devotion.

* For details see *The Watchtower*, January 1, 1956.

Questions from Readers

● Is it to be taken as literally true that the clothing of the Israelites did not wear out during the forty years in the wilderness, or is it merely a way of saying that the clothing supply did not give out?—R. H., United States.

Deuteronomy 8:3, 4 (NW) shows that Jehovah continued "to feed you with the manna, which neither you had known nor your fathers had known, in order to make you know that not by bread alone does man live but by every expression of Jehovah's mouth does man live. Your clothing did not wear out upon you, nor did your foot become swollen these forty years." The provision of manna was a continuing miracle, and so was the provision of clothing that did not wear out. That is where the miracle comes in. If the supplies were merely renewed no miracle would be seen in that. It is literal relative to the clothing not wearing out, just as the account is literal about the feet not swelling during the forty years in the wilderness. No practical difficulty would be involved in using the same clothing for forty years, because as youngsters grew out of their clothes they would grow into larger sizes available, and their clothing would be handed down to younger children. Adults died, leaving their wardrobes behind. It is noted that the numbers of the Israelites were about the same at the end of the wilderness journeyings as at the beginning, so the original clothing supplies would be about right throughout the forty years' sojourn.

● Was Judas present when Christ instituted the memorial celebration or not?—W. E., United States.

By comparing Matthew 26:20-25 with John 13:21-30 we learn that Judas was not present when Christ instituted the Lord's evening meal. One Gospel account tells some details that the other one does not tell, but by harmonizing the two the complete picture can be obtained. Matthew tells us how a questioning arose as to who would betray Jesus. John tells us that before that subject was dropped the betrayer was identified by being given the morsel that Jesus had dipped, and immediately Judas went out into the night. Matthew goes on to describe how Jesus then served the remaining eleven apostles the emblems of the memorial, while John, who wrote his account after Matthew did his, does not repeat the procedure of the evening meal but instead gives some of the extended remarks Jesus made on that occasion, as recorded in chapter 13. Jesus' discoursing and praying with his disciples, however, as recorded at John chapters 14 to 17, were not part of the Lord's evening meal, but came after it.

Thus do these two apostles and eyewitnesses of the described events agree as to the time element, for John's account in no way contradicts Matthew's as to the time of departure of Judas. The account of Luke (22:14-23) is not to be taken as contradicting this time order either. Luke was not an eyewitness of the events. He tells of the same events, but he does not necessarily do so in the exact chronological order, as do the two who actually witnessed the occasion. Additionally, Luke 22:28-30 could not have included Judas, so he must have left prior to its being stated. See *The Watchtower*, January 15, 1951, pages 46 and 61.

Five-Dollar "Soul"

¶ A church in Clarksville, Tennessee, recently held a revival with a visiting evangelist from Texas officiating. Each person attending was given a small part of a shoe sole as he entered. As the services began, the worshipers were informed that the shoe sole represented their soul and that if they valued their soul they were just to wrap their part of the shoe sole in a \$5 bill and place it in the collection plate—another evidence that the false shepherds are busy fleecing the sheep today instead of feeding them.

✓✓ CHECK YOUR MEMORY ✓✓

After reading this issue of "The Watchtower", do you remember—

- ✓ Why you must show love even when your family does not? P. 4, ¶2.
 - ✓ How the pope approves of evolution? P. 5, ¶4.
 - ✓ Whether the Bible can be bent to fit evolution? P. 7, ¶1.
 - ✓ How churches are like drug and jewelry stores and please-the-crowd institutions? P. 8, ¶7.
 - ✓ What vigorous example Paul set of demonstrating where the heart is? P. 9, ¶2.
 - ✓ How to gain the most valuable riches? P. 13, ¶11.
 - ✓ How to strengthen your faith? P. 15, ¶17.
 - ✓ What pointed questions everyone claiming

- ✓ to be Christian should ask himself? P. 18, ¶26.
 - ✓ How Jesus, speaking to Peter, showed how we should show affection for him? P. 21, ¶4.
 - ✓ How many congregations, circuits and districts of Jehovah's witnesses there are throughout the world? P. 23, ¶9.
 - ✓ How much time was spent in preaching, how many return visits were made and how many home Bible studies Jehovah's witnesses conducted last year? P. 27, ¶15.
 - ✓ What materialistic danger man faces today? P. 30, ¶2.
 - ✓ Whether the Israelites' clothing really did not wear out during the forty years in the wilderness? P. 31, ¶2.