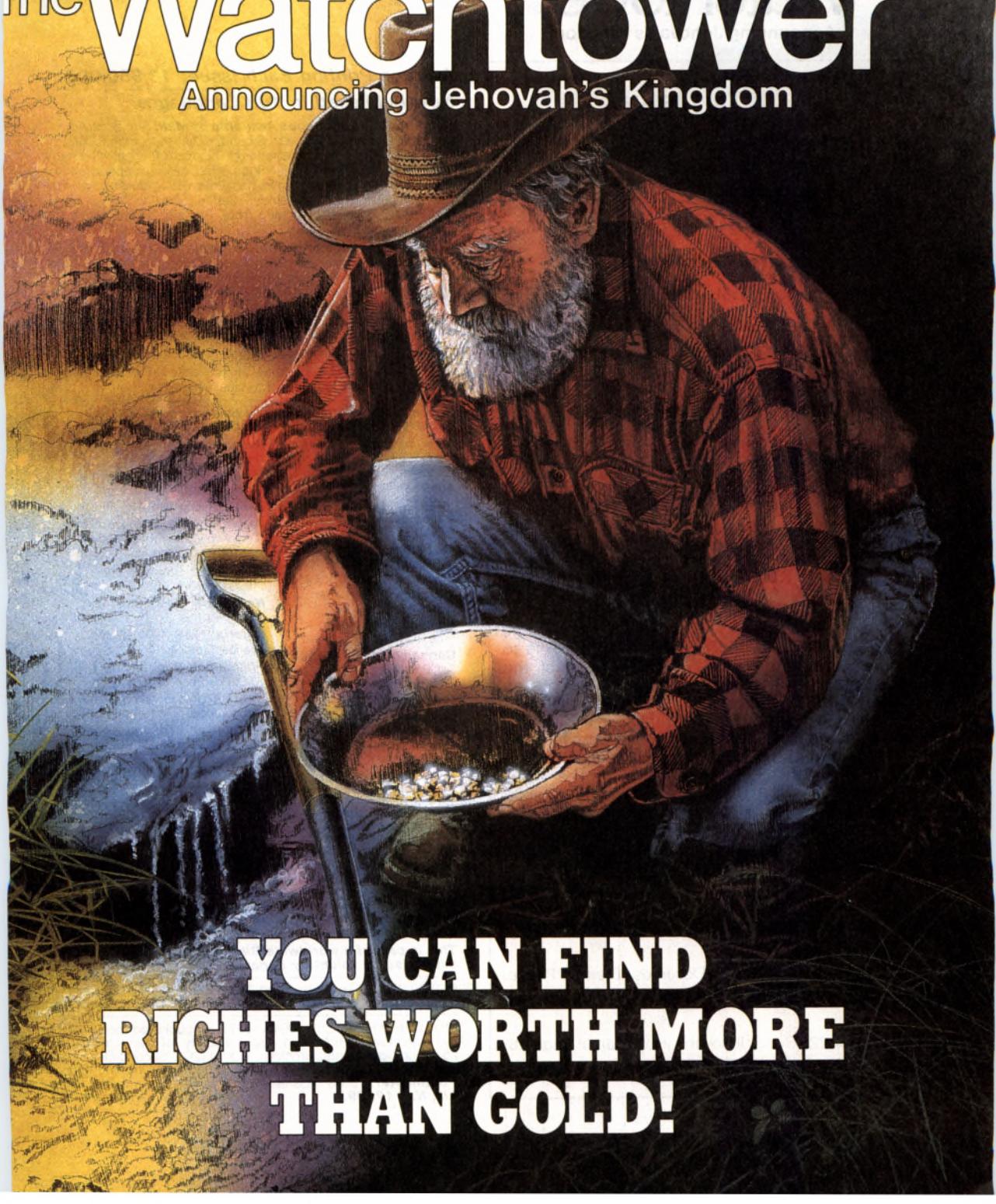


September 15, 1990

The Watchtower

Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom



A detailed illustration of a man with a long white beard and a wide-brimmed hat, wearing a red plaid shirt and blue jeans. He is crouching at the edge of a rocky stream, holding a metal pan over the water. Small gold-colored particles are visible in the pan. In the background, there are mountains under a yellow sky, suggesting either sunrise or sunset.

**YOU CAN FIND
RICHES WORTH MORE
THAN GOLD!**

In This Issue

You Can Find Riches Worth More Than Gold!	3
Get the Whole Truth!	5
Concluding Prayer in the Upper Room	8
Jehovah Deserves Eternal Praise	10
Bless Jehovah's Holy Name!	16
Control Your Spirit!	21
Conduct That Adorns the Teaching of God	23
"Do All Things for God's Glory"	24
"Keep Testing Whether You Are in the Faith"	26
The Meaning of the Proverb	28
Insight on the News	29
Why Réunion Has So Many Kingdom Halls	30

THE PURPOSE OF *THE WATCHTOWER* is to exalt Jehovah God as the Sovereign of the universe. It keeps watch on world events as they fulfill Bible prophecy. It comforts all peoples with the good news that God's Kingdom will soon destroy those who oppress their fellowmen and that it will turn the earth into a paradise. It encourages faith in the now-reigning King, Jesus Christ, whose shed blood opens the way for mankind to gain eternal life. *The Watchtower*, published by Jehovah's Witnesses continuously since 1879, is nonpolitical. It adheres to the Bible as its authority.

WATCHTOWER STUDIES FOR WEEKS OF

October 15: Jehovah Deserves Eternal Praise.
Page 10. Songs to Be Used: 223, 85.

October 22: Bless Jehovah's Holy Name! Page 16.
Songs to Be Used: 1, 136.

Average Printing Each Issue: 13,950,000

Now Published in 108 Languages.

Semimonthly Languages Available by Mail: Afrikaans, Arabic, Cebuano, Chichewa, Chinese, Cibemba, Danish,* Dutch,* Efik, English* (also Braille and cassettes†), Finnish,* French,* German,* Greek,* Hiligaynon, Hungarian, Igbo, Iloko, Italian,* Japanese,* Korean, Malagasy, Maltese, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese,* Rarotongan, Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Sepedi, Sesotho, Shona, Spanish,* Swahili, Swedish,* Tagalog, Thai, Tsonga, Tswana, Ukrainian, Xhosa, Yoruba, Zulu

Monthly Languages Available by Mail: Armenian, Bengali, Bicol, Bislama, Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Fijian, Greenlandic, Gujarati, Gun, Hausa, Hebrew, Hindi, Hiri Motu, Icelandic, Kannada, Macedonian, Malayalam, Marathi, New Guinea Pidgin, Pangasinan, Papimenta, Samar-Leyte, Sango, Serbian, Silozi, Sinhalese, Slovenian, Solomon Islands-Pidgin, Sranan Tongo, Tahitian, Tamil, Telugu, Tongan, Turkish, Tuvaluan, Urdu, Venda, Vietnamese

* Study articles also available in large-print edition.

† Outside the United States and Canada, write U.S. office concerning certification for the blind and visually impaired.

Subscription requests should be sent to the office in your country or to Watchtower, Wallkill, N.Y. 12589, U.S.A.

America, United States of,	India , Post Bag 10, Lonavla, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201
Australia , Box 280, Ingleburn, N.S.W. 2565	Ireland , 29A Jamestown Road, Finglas, Dublin 11
Bahamas , Box N-1247, Nassau, N.P.	Jamaica , Box 180, Kingston 10
Barbados , Fontabelle Rd., Bridge town	Japan , 1271 Nakashinden, Ebina City, Kanagawa Pref., 243-04
Canada L7G 4Y4 , Box 4100, Halton Hills (Georgetown), Ontario	Kenya , Box 47788, Nairobi
England NW7 1RN , The Ridgeway, London	Liberia , P.O. Box 10-0380, 1000 Monrovia 10
Germany, Federal Republic of , Postfach 20, D-6251 Selters/Taunus 1	New Zealand , P.O. Box 142, Manurewa
Ghana , Box 760, Accra	Nigeria , P.M.B. 1090, Benin City, Bendel State
Guyana , 50 Brickdam, Georgetown 16	Philippines, Republic of , P.O. Box 2044, 1099 Manila
Hawaii 96819 , 2055 Kam IV Rd., Honolulu	South Africa , Private Bag 2067, Krugersdorp, 1740
Hong Kong , 4 Kent Road, Kowloon Tong	Trinidad and Tobago, Rep. of , Lower Rapsey Street & Laxmi Lane, Curepe
	Zambia, Rep. of , Box 21598, Kitwe
	Zimbabwe , 35 Fife Avenue, Harare

Changes of address should reach us 30 days before your moving date. Give us your old and new address (if possible, your old address label).

The Bible translation used is the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*, unless otherwise indicated.

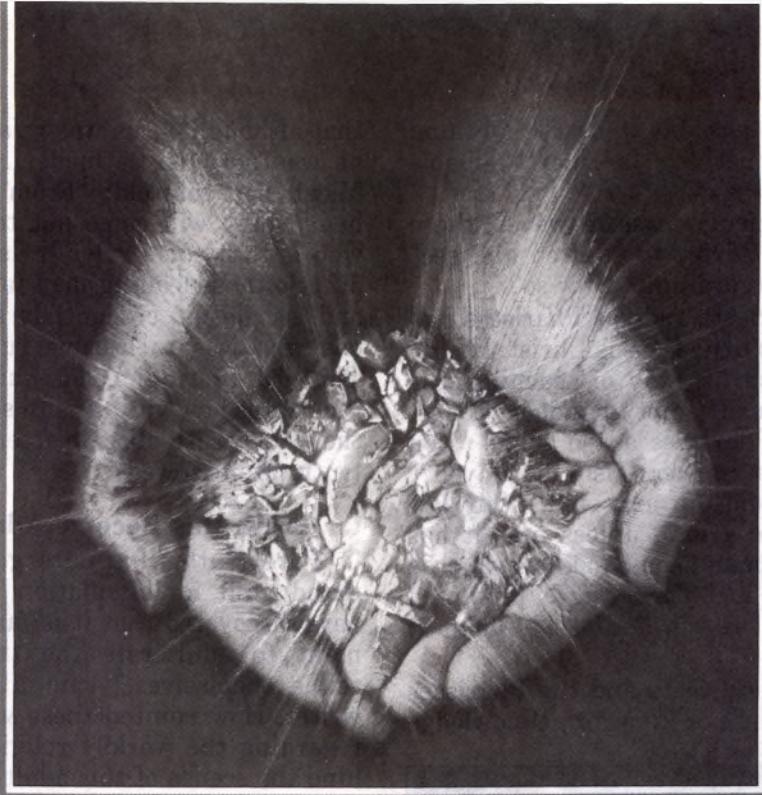
Would you welcome more information or a free home Bible study? Please write Watch Tower, using the appropriate address above.

This is part of a worldwide Bible educational work that is supported by voluntary donations.

© 1990 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. All rights reserved. Frederick W. Franz, President

The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) is published semimonthly by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201. Second-class postage paid at Brooklyn, N.Y., and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Watchtower, Wallkill, N.Y. 12589. Printed in U.S.A.



YOU CAN FIND RICHES WORTH MORE THAN GOLD!

THE truths in the Bible may be likened to gold, silver, or other hidden treasures. Though you may never have prospected for literal gold or silver, likely you realize that doing so requires much hard work and persistence. And often the prospector meets with disappointment.

However, such disappointment never results when you seek hidden treasures in the Bible. Note this encouraging guarantee: "If you keep seeking for it as for

silver, and as for hid treasures you keep searching for it, in that case you will understand the fear of Jehovah, and you will find the very knowledge of God." (Proverbs 2:4, 5) But you must search.

"Search and See"

"Search and see that no prophet is to be raised up out of Galilee." This was the advice that some first-century Jewish Pharisees gave to Nicodemus, also a Pharisee. "Search and see." Good advice,

indeed. It was possible to search and find the truth—something far more valuable than gold.

In that particular case, however, those who gave the advice to “search and see” failed to act accordingly. How so?

The chief priests and the Pharisees had sent officers to arrest Jesus Christ. Highly impressed with his way of teaching, the officers returned empty-handed. Consequently, the Pharisees asked them: “You have not been misled also, have you?” Nicodemus spoke up and said: “Our law does not judge a man unless first it has heard from him and come to know what he is doing, does it?” These words prompted the advice to “search and see.”—John 7:32, 45-52.

How had the priests and the Pharisees failed? They did not know or acknowledge

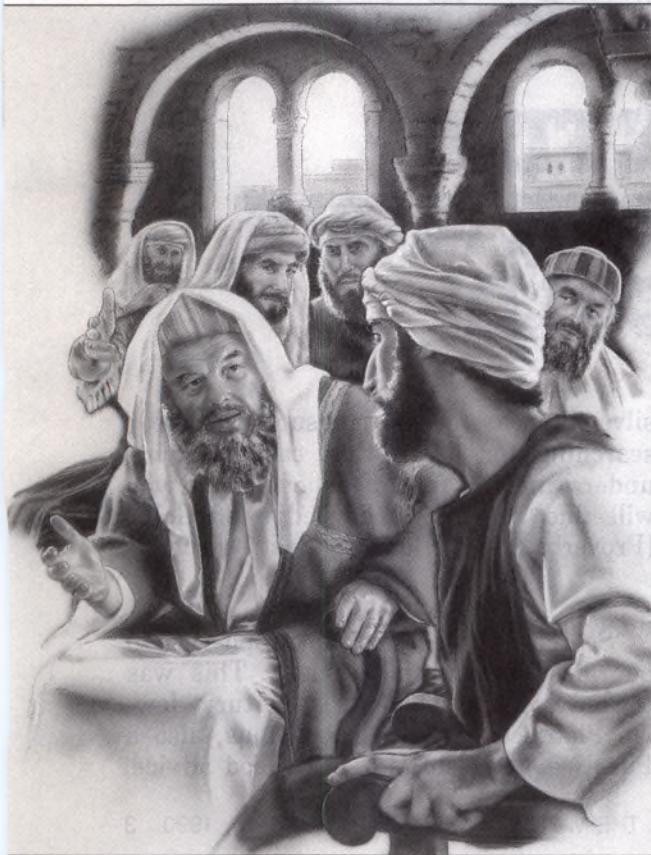
that although Jesus was raised in Galilee, he was born in Bethlehem. The prophet Micah had foretold: “From you [Bethlehem] there will come out to me the one who is to become ruler in Israel.” (Micah 5:2) So those leading men failed to search and see Jesus’ credentials as a prophet, one who was to become ruler in Israel. This led to tragic consequences, and it illustrates how vital it is to search and get the whole truth about matters. But how is truth often viewed?

Truth Has Become Adulterated

“Pure truth, like pure gold, has been found unfit for circulation, because men have discovered that it is far more convenient to adulterate the truth than to refine themselves,” said a 19th-century writer. How pointed these words still are regarding the worldly religious field! Behind the scenes of this adulterating of the truth is “the father of the lie,” Satan the Devil. (John 8:44; Revelation 12:9) He uses false religion to adulterate true teachings on such vital questions as these: Who is God? What is Jesus’ relationship to him? What is the destiny of the earth and mankind?

The priests and the Pharisees could have searched for and found the truth. They could have found riches worth much more than gold. Yes, they could have obtained the whole truth about Jesus by ‘hearing from him and coming to know what he was doing,’ as Nicodemus suggested. If they had been sincere in doing this, no doubt Jesus would have explained things to them, as he did to his disciples. (Mark 4:34) But where can we find the pure truth today? Indeed, is there any guarantee that we can successfully search for and get the whole truth?

Religious leaders could have obtained the whole truth about Jesus by ‘hearing from him’



GET THE WHOLE TRUTH!

"I NEVER saw that name in my Bible," remarked Francisco. The name Jehovah had just come up in a discussion with one of Jehovah's Witnesses. True, he could not have seen the divine name in his Bible, a 1969 edition of the Portuguese Almeida version. The name Jehovah does not appear in it. As a Brazilian Catholic, Francisco regularly attends Mass on Sundays and enjoys reading the Bible in his home. But the name Jehovah intrigued him.

Who Is God?

The next week, the Witness brought him another edition of the Almeida version. They compared the two editions at Psalm 83:18. And what did they find? Why, in that 1966 edition, this text reads: "You, to whom alone the name JEHOVAH belongs, are the Most High over the earth"! However, in the 1969 edition, instead of "JEHOVAH" the term "LORD" is used. "You see, they changed something here," said the Witness, and then he asked: "'Lord' is certainly not a name, is it?" "No," said Francisco. Somewhat indignant, he added: "How could they do that?"

This opened the way for a little research about God's name. For instance, Francisco learned that according to *The Catholic Encyclopedia* (1910), Jehovah is "the prop-



er name of God in the Old Testament." He also learned that in the "Old Testament," most of which was written in the Hebrew language, that name appears almost 7,000 times. No translator has the right to change the proper name Jehovah to the indefinite title Lord. Francisco wanted the truth about the name Jehovah, and he got it from the Bible itself and through properly guided research.

What Is Jesus' Position?

As noted in the previous article, worldly religions have adulterated many truths. Incidentally, in their house-to-house ministry, Jehovah's Witnesses have the opportunity to determine what the people believe. Of course, this may vary from place to place, but some concepts are typical. For instance, when asked, 'Who is

God?' some householders say, 'Jesus.' By this they mean that Jesus is Almighty God. But does this concept represent the truth?

Think about the following points. Jesus prayed to his Father: "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) Did you notice that Jesus referred not to himself but to his heavenly Father as "the only true God"? Therefore, Jesus' early disciples were right when they said to him: "You are really God's Son." Jesus himself said: "I am God's Son." Therefore, the truth is that Jesus is not Almighty God, but he is the *Son* of Jehovah God.—Matthew 14:33; John 10:36.

What Is Earth's Destiny?

What about the destiny of this generation and of the earth? John F. Kennedy, late president of the United States, said in an address to the UN General Assembly: "We have the power to make this the best generation of mankind in the history of the world—or to make it the last." Present-day world leaders apparently feel the same way. What Jehovah's Witnesses often hear in their ministry is that at the end of the world, planet Earth will be destroyed by fire or by a nuclear war. In support of this belief, some point to Revelation 21:1, which says: "I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea is no more."

The Bible often uses the term "earth" in a figurative sense, referring to mankind. An example is found at Genesis 11:1, which says: "All the earth continued to be of one language and of one set of words." (See also 1 Kings 2:1, 2; Psalm 96:1.) At Revelation 21:1, "the former earth" refers, not to this planet, but to wicked human society that will be destroyed. This will

open the way for the restoration of Paradise on earth. (Luke 23:43; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9; Revelation 21:4) And this agrees with the rest of the Bible, which indicates that the literal earth will never be destroyed. For instance, Psalm 104:5 states that God "has founded the earth upon its established places; it will not be made to totter to time indefinite, or forever." (Compare Ecclesiastes 1:4.) Indeed, Jehovah 'formed the earth to be inhabited' eternally.—Isaiah 45:18.

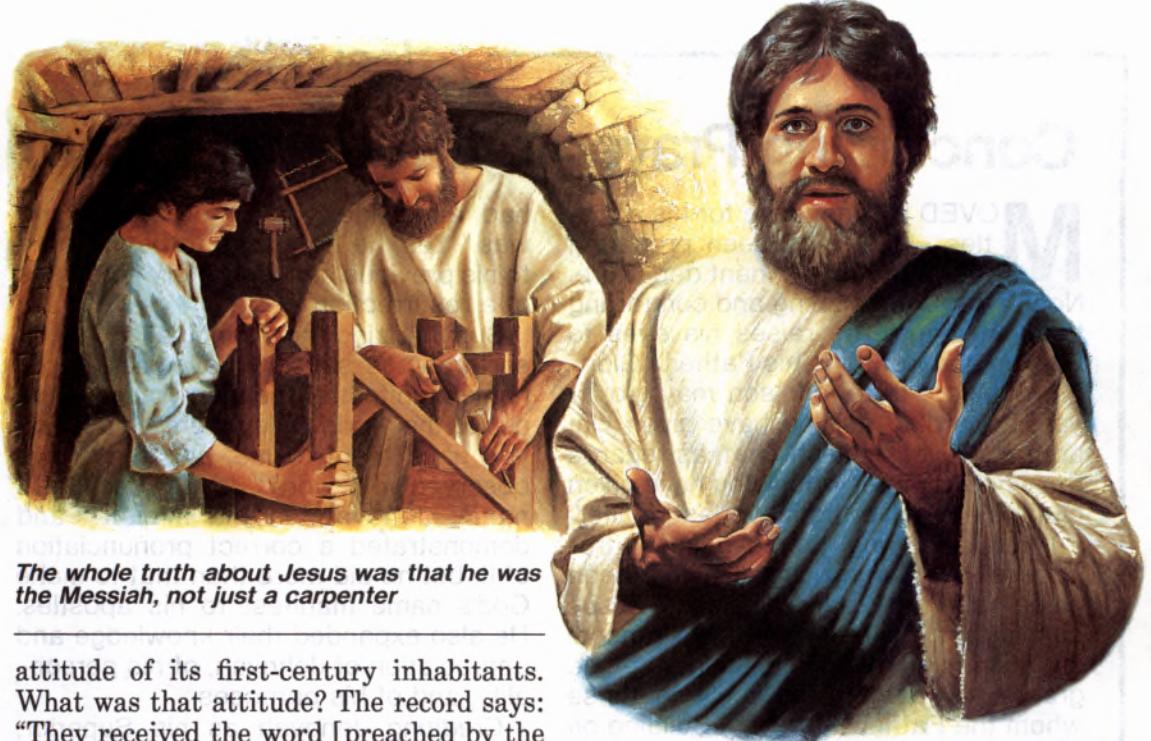
Why Get the Whole Truth?

The foregoing are just examples of erroneous concepts so common today. However, when a householder is willing to reason, as was the case with Francisco, Jehovah's Witnesses are delighted that the way is open for an enlightening discussion of Scriptural truths.

Not getting the whole truth may lead to regrettable consequences. To illustrate: When Jesus was on earth, many were persuaded to believe that he was just another son of Mary and Joseph, only a former carpenter from Nazareth. Hence, they did not pay much attention to him. To a certain extent, they were right. Jesus was the son of Mary, conceived by holy spirit. He was the adoptive son of Joseph, and he really had worked as a carpenter. (Mark 6:3) However, was that the whole truth about him? No! He was nothing less than the Messiah and the prospective "King of kings"! (Revelation 17:14; Luke 1:32-35; Acts 2:36) Not getting the whole truth about Jesus led many people to lose out on a never-to-be-repeated privilege—enjoying personal association with Jesus on earth.

Search for the Whole Truth

The city of Beroea (now called Véroia) in ancient Macedonia is well-known to Bible readers because of the commendable



PETER MUNICH 1989

The whole truth about Jesus was that he was the Messiah, not just a carpenter

attitude of its first-century inhabitants. What was that attitude? The record says: "They received the word [preached by the apostle Paul] with the greatest eagerness of mind, carefully examining the Scriptures daily as to whether these things were so." The result? "Many of them became believers, and so did not a few of the reputable Greek women and of the men." —Acts 17:11, 12.

No less meritorious was the attitude of God's prophets of old. They made "a diligent inquiry and a careful search" concerning the salvation that was to come through the Messiah. (1 Peter 1:10) God blessed their efforts. Obviously, then, there is no shortcut. Persistently searching for and carefully examining teachings —this is the way to get the whole truth from the Bible!

You may wonder, 'Where should I start?' After reading some Christian publications, one woman living in Brazil wrote: "We [she and her husband] soon realized that we needed more of that kind of knowledge, to get the answers to the

many questions we had . . . Please, how can I get a Bible and other books that will help me to know more about our heavenly Father?" She was on the right track: reading the Bible along with truthful Bible-based literature. If you too want the whole truth, open your heart to Jehovah God and ask for his help. And please note these encouraging words: "If any one of you is lacking in wisdom, let him keep on asking God, for he gives generously to all and without reproaching; and it will be given him. But let him keep on asking in faith, not doubting at all." —James 1:5, 6.

Millions of people are discussing the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses, thus making a diligent inquiry and a careful search for the truth. Taking in and applying such accurate knowledge of the true God and of Jesus Christ means everlasting life. (John 17:3) That can be your grand blessing if you search diligently and get the whole truth.

Concluding Prayer in the Upper Room

Moved by deep love for his apostles, Jesus has been preparing them for his imminent departure. Now, after admonishing and comforting them at length, he raises his eyes to heaven and petitions his Father: "Glorify your son, that your son may glorify you, according as you have given him authority over all flesh, that, as regards the whole number whom you have given him, he may give them everlasting life."

What a stirring theme Jesus introduces—everlasting life! Having been given "authority over all flesh," Jesus can impart the benefits of his ransom sacrifice to all dying humankind. Yet, he grants "everlasting life" only to those whom the Father approves. Building on this theme of everlasting life, Jesus continues his prayer:

"This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ." Yes, salvation is dependent upon our taking in knowledge of both God and his Son. But more is needed than just head knowledge.

A person must come to know them intimately, developing an understanding friendship with them. One must feel as they do about matters and see things through their eyes. And above all, a person must strive to imitate their matchless qualities in dealing with others.

Jesus next prays: "I have glorified you on the earth, having finished the work you have given me to do." Having thus fulfilled his assignment up to this point and being confident of his future success, he petitions: "Father, glorify me alongside yourself with the glory that I

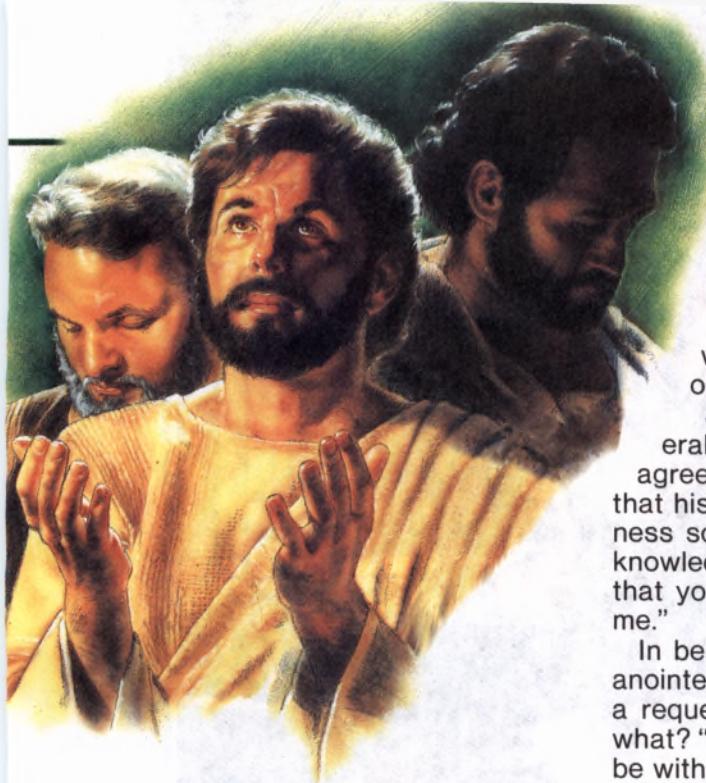
had alongside you before the world was." Yes, he now asks to be restored to his previous heavenly glory by means of a resurrection.

Summarizing his principal work on earth, Jesus says: "I have made your name manifest to the men you gave me out of the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have observed your word." Jesus used God's name, Jehovah, in his ministry and demonstrated a correct pronunciation of it, but he did more than that to make God's name manifest to his apostles. He also expanded their knowledge and appreciation of Jehovah, of his personality, and of his purposes.

Crediting Jehovah as his Superior, the One under whom he serves, Jesus humbly acknowledges: "The sayings that you gave me I have given to them, and they have received them and have certainly come to know that I came out as your representative, and they have believed that you sent me."

Making a distinction between his followers and the rest of mankind, Jesus next prays: "I make request, not concerning the world, but concerning those you have given me . . . When I was with them I used to watch over them . . . , and I have kept them, and not one of them is destroyed except the son of destruction," namely, Judas Iscariot. At this very moment, Judas is on his despicable mission to betray Jesus. Thus, Judas is unknowingly fulfilling the Scriptures.

"The world has hated them," Jesus continues to pray. "I request you, not to take them out of the world, but to watch



over them because of the wicked one. They are no part of the world, just as I am no part of the world." Jesus' followers are in the world, this organized human society ruled by Satan, but they are and must always remain separate from it and its wickedness.

"Sanctify them by means of the truth," Jesus continues, "your word is truth." Here Jesus calls the inspired Hebrew Scriptures, from which he continually quoted, "the truth." But what he taught his disciples and what they later wrote under inspiration as the Christian Greek Scriptures is likewise "the truth." This truth can sanctify a person, change his life completely, and make him a person separate from the world.

Jesus now prays "not concerning these only, but also concerning those putting faith in [him] through their word." So Jesus prays for those who will be his anointed followers and other future disciples who yet will be gathered

into "one flock." What does he request for all of these? "That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in union with me and I am in union with you, . . . that they may be one just as we are one."

Jesus and his Father are not literally one person, but they are in agreement on all things. Jesus prays that his followers enjoy this same oneness so that "the world may have the knowledge that you sent me forth and that you loved them just as you loved me."

In behalf of those who would be his anointed followers, Jesus now makes a request of his heavenly Father. For what? "That, where I am, they also may be with me, in order to behold my glory that you have given me, because you loved me before the founding of the world," that is, when Adam and Eve conceived their first offspring. Long before that, God loved his only-begotten Son, who became Jesus Christ.

Concluding his prayer, Jesus again emphasizes: "I have made your name known to them and will make it known, in order that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in union with them." For the apostles, learning the name of God has involved personally coming to know the love of God.

John 17:1-26; 10:16; Proverbs 8:22, 30.

- In what sense has Jesus been given "authority over all flesh"?
- What does it mean to take in knowledge of God and his Son?
- In what ways did Jesus make God's name manifest?
- What is "the truth," and how does it "sanctify" a Christian?
- How are God, his Son, and all true worshipers one?
- When was "the founding of the world"?



JEHOVAH DESERVES ETERNAL PRAISE

"All day long I will bless you, and I will praise your name to time indefinite, even forever."—PSALM 145:2.

JEHOVAH'S loyal servant David had many reasons to praise God. This well-known king of ancient Israel knew of Jehovah's greatness and goodness and realized that His kingship was eternal. The Most High deserved praise for satisfying the desire of every living thing and for extending mercy to his faithful servants.

1. Why did David have many reasons for praising Jehovah?

² David offered such praise to God in the 145th Psalm. Each verse of this acrostic psalm starts with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet, though one letter (*nun*) was omitted. The acrostic arrangement may have served as a memory aid. Psalm 145 extols Jehovah, as in the words: "All day long I will bless you, and I will

2. (a) How is Psalm 145 arranged? (b) What questions will we consider?

praise your name to time indefinite, even forever." (Psalm 145:2) But how can this psalm affect us? What can it do for our relationship with God? To find out, let us first consider verses 1 to 10.

Jehovah's Greatness Unsearchable

³ David was a king, but he acknowledged Jehovah's sovereignty over him, saying: "*I will exalt you, O my God the King, and I will bless your name to time indefinite, even forever.*" (Psalm 145:1) With similar reverence, Jehovah's Witnesses lift up the name of God and praise him earth wide. Our life is enriched as we share in such activity. Like David, we owe obedience and subjection to Jehovah as 'our God the King.' And why not? He is the "King of eternity." (Revelation 15:3) Moreover, the Greater David, Jesus Christ, who has been reigning from heavenly Mount Zion since 1914, provides us with a splendid example of subjection to Jehovah, the King Eternal.

⁴ David said that he would 'bless God's name.' How is this possible for a mere human? Well, among other things, to bless someone means to speak well of him. Blessing God's name indicates that we have strong love for him and his holy name, Jehovah. We never complain about God, never find fault with him, never question his goodness. Only if we have that attitude, have made a dedication to Jehovah, and maintain integrity as his baptized Witnesses can we say with David that we 'will bless God's name forever.' If we keep ourselves in God's love, we will receive the gift of everlasting life and thus be able to bless Jehovah eternally.
—Jude 20, 21.

⁵ If we truly love our Life-Giver, we will

3. Like David, what do we owe to 'our God the King,' and why?

4. How can we 'bless God's name'?

5. The desire to bless Jehovah "all day long" should have what effect on us?

say with David: "*All day long I will bless you, and I will praise your name to time indefinite, even forever.*" (Psalm 145:2) How barren a day would be if we did not bless God! May we never be so busy or so anxious about material things that we fail to speak well of our heavenly Father or pray to him daily. Jesus implied that we should pray every day when he said in the model prayer: "Give us our bread for the day according to the day's requirement." (Luke 11:3) Many in full-time service praise God daily as they engage in the Christian ministry. But whatever our circumstances, our heart should move us to praise God in some way each day. And just think! As Jehovah's dedicated Witnesses with the hope of eternal life, we have the grand prospect of praising his name forever.—John 17:3.

⁶ We surely have reason to praise God all day long, for David added: "*Jehovah is great and very much to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.*" (Psalm 145:3) So great is Jehovah that he is matchless, and his sovereignty is absolute. Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar had to admit: "There exists no one that can check [God's] hand or that can say to him, 'What have you been doing?'" (Daniel 4: 34, 35) Jehovah "is fear-inspiring above all other gods." (Psalm 96:4) No wonder he is "very much to be praised." Why, no words of praise are too lofty when lauding Jehovah! He deserves unlimited, eternal praise.

⁷ Jehovah's "greatness is unsearchable." Regardless of how large he is bodily, his greatness rests in the kind of God he is. Yes, the things he has created are too wonderful for us to understand, and we ourselves are "wonderfully made." (Psalm 139:14; Job 9:10; 37:5) Moreover, how

6. Why is Jehovah "very much to be praised"?

7. What proves that God's "greatness is unsearchable"?



Do you tell your children about Jehovah's mighty acts, as did godly parents in ancient Israel?

grandly Jehovah God conducts himself! He faithfully keeps his promises and lovingly reveals his purposes. Yet, we will never know everything about God. Throughout eternity, we will be able to grow in knowledge of him, his creation, and his purposes.—Romans 11:33-36.

Commend Jehovah's Works

⁸ So much can be said in praise of our unsearchably great God that David was moved to say: “*Generation after generation will commend your works, and about your mighty acts they will tell.*” (Psalm 145:4) Successive generations of mankind

8. (a) How has “generation after generation” commended Jehovah’s works? (b) If we teach our children about Jehovah’s works and acts, how are they likely to view worship of him? (c) As a joyful “generation,” what has the anointed remnant done?

have commended Jehovah’s works and recounted his mighty acts. What a privilege it is to relate these things to those with whom we conduct home Bible studies! For example, we can tell them that God created all things. (Genesis 1:1-2:25; Revelation 4:11) We can speak about his mighty acts at the time he delivered the Israelites from Egyptian bondage, helped them to vanquish Canaanite foes, preserved them from genocide in ancient Persia, and much more. (Exodus 13:8-10; Judges 4:15; Esther 9:15-17) And are we not moved to tell our children about Jehovah’s works and acts? If we give our offspring such instruction and they see us joyously serving God, they are likely to view worship of him as a delight and to grow up with ‘the joy of Jehovah as their stronghold.’ (Nehemiah 8:10; Psalm 78:1-4) The anointed remnant constitute one joyful “generation” of Jehovah’s Witnesses that commends God’s works to the “great crowd,” part of the generation that will inhabit the Paradise earth.—Revelation 7:9.

⁹ As we reflect on God’s works and mighty acts, we become even more convinced that “Jehovah will not desert his people for the sake of his great name.” (1 Samuel 12:22; Psalm 94:14) When we face trials, hardships, and persecution, we

9. As we reflect on God’s works and mighty acts, of what can we be certain?

can be tranquil and confident that “the peace of God” will guard our hearts and mental powers. (Philippians 4:6, 7) So how fitting it is that we tell others about our loving, protective heavenly Father!

¹⁰ We should take time to meditate on Jehovah’s majesty and works, for David added: “*The glorious splendor of your dignity and the matters of your wonderful works I will make my concern.*” (Psalm 145:5) God’s dignity is fear-inspiring and unequaled. (Job 37:22; Psalm 148:13) Thus, David made the glorious splendor of Jehovah’s dignity his concern. The psalmist also concerned himself with matters of God’s “wonderful works.” These include the exercise of divine justice in destroying sinners and preserving the godly, as at the Flood. (Genesis 7:20-24; 2 Peter 2:9) Meditation on such matters strengthens our relationship with Jehovah and enables us to tell others about his dignity and wonderful works. During 40 days in the wilderness, Jesus was fortified against temptation by meditating on the things that the opened heavens had brought to his attention. (Matthew 3:13-4:11) He thereafter talked to others about Jehovah’s dignity and wonderful works.

¹¹ When we speak about God’s dignity and works, we prompt others to talk about them. Said David: “*And they will talk about the strength of your own fear-inspiring things; and as for your greatness, I will declare it.*” (Psalm 145:6) Rahab spoke of the fright that fell upon Jericho’s residents when they heard how Jehovah had rescued the Israelites at the Red Sea and made them victorious over two Amorite kings. There must have been much

10. Jehovah’s “wonderful works” include what, and how do we benefit from meditating on them?
11. (a) Why had fright fallen upon the residents of Jericho? (b) With what spirit do Jehovah’s Witnesses talk about God’s “fear-inspiring things” and his “greatness”?

talk about such “fear-inspiring things” in Jericho. (Joshua 2:9-11) And surely the imminent “great tribulation” will be fear-inspiring. (Matthew 24:21) But things so frightening to people alienated from God inspire within righteous hearts “the fear of Jehovah,” a wholesome awe of him. (Proverbs 1:7) With such a reverential spirit, Jehovah’s Witnesses talk about manifestations of God’s power. Why, the great Wonder-Worker is the main subject of conversation between the anointed and their earthly companions! And even persecution does not prevent them from telling others about these things and the “greatness” of Jehovah.—Acts 4:18-31; 5:29.

Praise Jehovah for His Goodness

¹² God deserves praise not only for his greatness but also for his goodness and righteousness. So David said: “*With the mention of the abundance of your goodness they will bubble over, and because of your righteousness they will cry out joyfully.*” (Psalm 145:7) Jehovah’s goodness is so great that we “bubble over” with joyous expressions concerning it. In the Hebrew, the idea is that of water gushing from a fountain. So may we bubble forth grateful praise to God, just like a torrent. (Proverbs 18:4) To their great spiritual injury, Israel forgot Jehovah’s goodness. (Psalm 106:13-43) But let our heart overflow with such gratitude that others repent after they learn how good Jehovah is to his dedicated Witnesses.—Romans 2:4.

¹³ May manifestations of divine justice and righteousness also move us to cry out joyfully. If we feel this way, we will seek first not only God’s Kingdom but also his righteousness. We will always want our

12. How does Jehovah’s goodness make us “bubble over”?
13. Manifestations of divine justice and righteousness should have what effect on us?

conduct to bring praise to Jehovah. Yes, we will be regular Kingdom proclaimers with plenty to do in God's service. Our praise to Jehovah will never be buried in a tomb of silence.—Matthew 6:33; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Hebrews 10:23.

Jehovah Is Merciful

¹⁴ Citing additional praiseworthy qualities of God, David said: “*Jehovah is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and great in loving-kindness.*” (Psalm 145:8) God is gracious in that he is wholly good and generous. (Matthew 19:17; James 1:5) He does good things even for those not serving him. (Acts 14:14-17) Jehovah is also merciful, compassionate, “remembering that we are dust.” He does not despise a crushed heart or deal with us according to our sins but is far more merciful than the most loving human father. (Psalm 51:17; 103:10-14) Why, in the greatest display of mercy, he sent his beloved Son to die for us so that we might be reconciled to God and really taste of his graciousness!—Romans 5:6-11.

¹⁵ Our heavenly Father is slow to anger. He does not unleash blind rage. Jehovah is also “great in loving-kindness.” Here the Hebrew denotes kindness that stems from love and attaches itself to an object. It does so until its purpose with regard to that object is realized. An alternate rendering is “loyal love.” Among other things, God's loving-kindness, or loyal love, is displayed in acts of deliverance, preservation, protection, relief from troubles, and recovery from sin through the ransom. (Psalm 6:4; 25:7; 31:16, 21; 40:11; 61:7; 119:88, 159; 143:12; John 3:16) The fact that Jehovah did not bring Armageddon right after the ‘war in heaven’ enables

14. What evidence is there that “Jehovah is gracious and merciful”?

15. Why can it be said that Jehovah God is “slow to anger” and “great in loving-kindness”?

multitudes to gain salvation, a great expression of divine loving-kindness.—Revelation 12:7-12; 2 Peter 3:15.

¹⁶ In view of God's mercy, it might be said that he has a big heart. David declared: “*Jehovah is good to all, and his mercies are over all his works.*” (Psalm 145:9) Yes, God was good to the Israelites. For that matter, “he makes his sun rise upon wicked people and good and makes it rain upon righteous people and unrighteous.” (Matthew 5:43-45) In Eden, Jehovah promised a “seed” that would be a blessing. Later he told Abraham: “By means of your seed all nations of the earth will certainly bless themselves.” (Genesis 3:15; 22:18) And God's goodness is so great in this “time of the end” that anyone can ‘come and take life's water free.’ (Daniel 12:4; Revelation 22:17) Jehovah is willing to do good to all intelligent creatures, and his goodness should draw us ever closer to him.

¹⁷ Jehovah's “mercies are over all his works” in that he makes ample provision for humans and animals. He is “the One giving food to all flesh.” (Psalm 136:25; 147:9) God does not honor the rich and scorn the downtrodden, exalt the haughty and despise the humble, elevate the foolish and debase the wise. Sinful men do so but not our merciful heavenly Father. (Psalm 102:17; Zephaniah 3:11, 12; Ecclesiastes 10:5-7) And how great God's mercy, goodness, and loving-kindness are in making salvation possible through the ransom sacrifice of his beloved Son!—1 John 4:9, 10.

Loyal Ones Bless Jehovah

¹⁸ God deserves praise from every quarter. As David put it: “*All your works will*

16. How has Jehovah proved to be “good to all”? 17. In what sense are Jehovah's ‘mercies over all his works’?

18. (a) How do God's works “laud” him? (b) When should we be moved to laud Jehovah?



laud you, O Jehovah, and your loyal ones will bless you." (Psalm 145:10) God's works of creation "laud" him, even as a well-built house is a credit to its builder and a lovely vase to its skillful potter. (Compare Hebrews 3:4; Isaiah 29:16; 64:8.) So wonderful are Jehovah's creative works that they have moved angels and humans to praise him. Angelic sons of God joyously shouted in applause when he founded the earth. (Job 38:4-7) David said that 'the heavens declare God's glory and the expanse tells of the work of his hands.' (Psalm 19:1-6) We may well laud Jehovah when we see a falcon soaring in the heavens or a gazelle bounding over a verdant hill. (Job 39:26; Song of Solomon 2:17) Praise is fitting when we harvest crops or enjoy a meal with friends. (Psalm 72:16; Proverbs 15:17) Our marvelously de-

As a well-built house is a credit to its builder, so Jehovah's creative works bring Him praise

signed bodies may also prompt expressions of grateful praise to God.—Psalm 139:14-16.

¹⁹ Today, Jehovah's spirit-anointed "loyal ones" on earth bless him. They speak well of him and yearn to see his will done on earth as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:9, 10) As the anointed ones tell others about God's wondrous works, the great crowd respond in ever-increasing numbers. Along with the anointed loyal ones, they serve zealously as Kingdom proclaimers. Is gratitude moving you to have a regular share in this work to God's praise?

²⁰ As Jehovah's Witnesses, we are like David in giving God praise. To us the sanctification of Jehovah's holy name and the praising of it are matters of vital concern. Since the divine name will be sanctified by God's Kingdom, this Bible teaching of the Kingdom is a prominent feature of the good news we declare. Does Psalm 145 provide spiritual enlightenment in this regard? What will our discussion of the rest of this psalm reveal? In what other ways does it prove that Jehovah deserves eternal praise?

What Are Your Comments?

- How can we bless Jehovah's name?
- What are some of God's commendable works?
- How will we act if we appreciate Jehovah's goodness?
- God's mercy has been shown in what ways?

19. Who are the "loyal ones," and what do they do?
20. (a) How will Jehovah's name be sanctified? (b) Concerning Psalm 145, what questions remain for consideration?

BLESS JEHOVAH'S HOLY NAME!

"The praise of Jehovah my mouth will speak; and let all flesh bless his holy name to time indefinite, even forever." —PSALM 145:21.

JEHOVAH is unquestionably the Universal Sovereign. But Satan has challenged the righteousness and rightfulness of God's rulership. (Genesis 2:16, 17; 3:1-5) The Devil has also called into question the integrity of all servants of God in heaven and on earth. (Job 1:6-11; 2:1-5; Luke 22:31) So Jehovah has allowed time for all intelligent creatures to see the bad fruitage of rebellion against his rulership and to show where they stand on these issues.

² Psalm 145 helps us to take a firm stand for God's rulership. How so? What does David say about Jehovah's kingship? And how does God treat its advocates? Helpful answers appear at Psalm 145:11-21.

Talk About Jehovah's Kingship

³ Jehovah's rulership was of great concern to David, who said: "About the glory of your kingship they will talk, and about your mightiness they will speak, to make known to the sons of men his mighty acts and the glory of the splendor of his kingship." (Psalm 145:11, 12) People talk about things that interest them. So a man speaks of his family, his home, his crops. "A good man brings forth good out of the good treasure of his heart," said Jesus. (Luke 6:45) If God's rulership is dear to our heart, we will pray for his Kingdom to come, and we will tell others about the

1, 2. (a) In what way has Satan challenged God's rulership? (b) What questions are raised concerning Psalm 145:11-21?

3. If Jehovah's kingship is dear to us, what will we do?

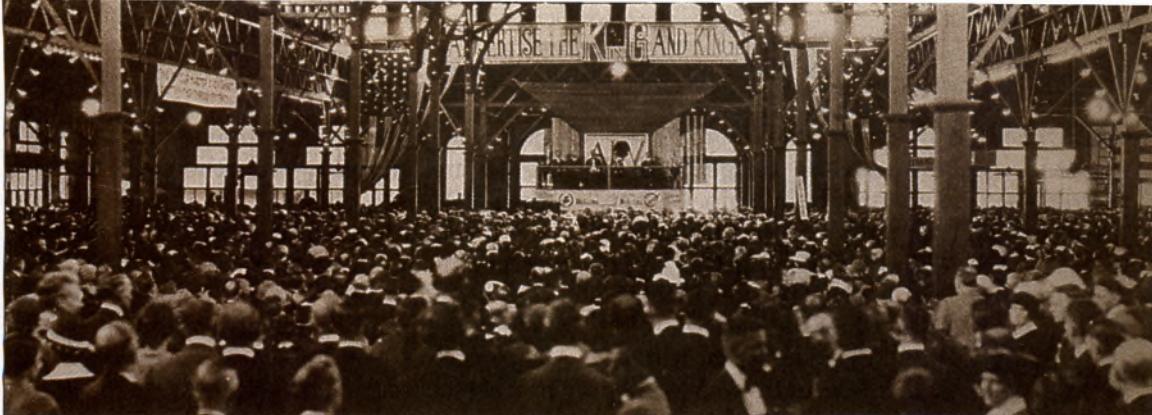
justice, peace, and righteousness that will prevail under its rule. We will praise Jehovah as the "King of eternity," and we will speak about the expression of his sovereignty through the Messianic Kingdom in the hands of his dear Son, Jesus Christ. (Revelation 15:3; Isaiah 9:6, 7) What a privilege it is to speak about the heavenly glory of Jehovah's kingship, which will soon be reflected in the beauty of an earthly paradise filled with perfectly happy creatures!—Luke 23:43.

⁴ Appreciation will also move us to speak about Jehovah's "mighty acts." Though "he is exalted in power," he never misuses it. (Job 37:23) He used his power to create the earth and mankind and will exercise it to destroy the wicked. We have occasion to speak about God's mightiness when we declare the good news. And are we not grateful that this ultimate Source of strength empowers us to do this work? (Isaiah 40:29-31) Yes, as Jehovah's Witnesses, we are sustained in sacred service by God's strength and spirit. It is only in this way that the Kingdom message is being proclaimed with marvelous success worldwide.—Psalm 28:7, 8; Zechariah 4:6.

⁵ There is a need for us to make known to the sons of men the "mighty acts" of Jehovah, even as the Israelites told their children about the way God delivered them

4. When do we have occasion to speak about Jehovah's "mighty acts," and how are we sustained in such activity?

5. Since multitudes do not know about Jehovah's "mighty acts," what should we do?



In 1922 the words 'advertise the King and the Kingdom' spurred advocates of Jehovah's kingship on to greater action

from Egyptian bondage. (Exodus 13:14-16) Men build monuments to humans whose deeds they consider notable, but how many know about the mighty acts of God? As one scholar put it: "They inscribe the deeds of their heroes upon brass, but the glorious acts of Jehovah are written upon the sand, and the tide of time washes them from present memory." Those acts are not really washed away, though they are unknown to multitudes. So in our house-to-house work, when conducting home Bible studies, and on other occasions, let us zealously speak of God's mighty acts.

⁶ We should also zealously make known the glory of God's kingship. Zeal for such Kingdom service surely was evident when, in 1922, J. F. Rutherford, then president of the Watch Tower Society, addressed conventioners at Cedar Point, Ohio, and said: "Since 1914 the King of glory has taken his power . . . The kingdom of heaven is at hand; the King reigns; Satan's empire is falling; millions now living will never die. Do you believe it? . . . Then back to the field, O ye sons of the most high God! Gird on your armor! Be sober, be vigilant, be active, be brave. Be faithful and true witnesses for the Lord. Go forward in the fight until every vestige of Babylon lies desolate. Herald the message far and wide. The

6. (a) On what occasion years ago was the zealous spirit with which we carry out our ministry well expressed? (b) In essence, what was said in 1922 about advertising the Kingdom?

world must know that Jehovah is God and that Jesus Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords. This is the day of all days. Behold, the King reigns! You are his publicity agents. Therefore advertise, advertise, advertise, the King and his kingdom."

⁷ What a joy to 'think upon God's name,' to tell others about his rulership, and to advertise the Messianic Kingdom of his dear Son! (Malachi 3:16) As Kingdom proclaimers and advocates, we cherish our privilege of declaring the good news and turning the hearts of others toward God, Christ, and the Kingdom. Within us, there should be a burning desire to tell others about the glorious splendor of Jehovah's kingship.—Compare Jeremiah 20:9.

⁸ We should be moved to announce God's Kingdom with great zeal, for David next said: "*Your kingship is a kingship for all times indefinite, and your dominion is throughout all successive generations.*" (Psalm 145:13) As the psalmist's meditations on Jehovah's kingship continued, he changed pronouns from "his" to "your," addressing his prayerful words directly to

7. How should we feel about our activity as Kingdom proclaimers?

8. (a) In what is Jehovah's rulership represented today? (b) Why can it be said that God has dominion "throughout all successive generations"?

God. Of course, Jehovah's rulership as represented in the Messianic Kingdom does not replace God's eternal kingship. In fact, when obedient mankind has been uplifted to perfection, Christ will hand the Kingdom over to his Father. (1 Corinthians 15:24-28) So God does have dominion "throughout all successive generations." Jehovah was King when Adam was created and will have dominion over righteous humans forever.

⁹ In this acrostic psalm, the Masoretic text omits a verse starting with the Hebrew letter *nun*. But in accord with the Greek *Septuagint*, the Syriac *Peshitta*, and the Latin *Vulgate*, one Hebrew manuscript reads: "Jehovah is faithful in all his words, and lovingly kind [or, "loyal"] in all his works." (*New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures—With References*, footnote) God fulfills all of his promises and is loyal, loving, and kind to all who appreciate his goodness.—Joshua 23:14.

Jehovah's Support Never Fails

¹⁰ The King Eternal never ignores the plight of his servants. Thus, David could say: "*Jehovah is giving support to all who are falling, and is raising up all who are bowed down.*" (Psalm 145:14) Since the days of Abel, Jehovah has supported His worshipers. Left to ourselves, we would fall many times under our burdens. We lack sufficient strength to bear all of life's woes and the persecution that comes our way as God's people, but Jehovah upholds us. The form of the Hebrew verb used here indicates that God continuously 'gives us support.' It may be noted that John the Baptizer and God's own Son helped to raise up fallen sinners morally. When these individuals repented and became Jehovah's ser-

9. In Psalm 145, what can be said about a verse beginning with the Hebrew letter *nun*?
10. How does God 'give us support'?

vants, they enjoyed the wonderful blessing of divine support.—Matthew 21:28-32; Mark 2:15-17.

¹¹ It is comforting to know that 'Jehovah is raising up all who are bowed down' by various trials. He cheers the despondent among us, comforts our grieving ones, and helps us to speak his word boldly when we are persecuted. (Acts 4:29-31) Never does he allow our burdens to crush us if only we accept his help. (Psalm 55:22) So, like the "daughter of Abraham" who was "bent double" but was physically cured by Jesus, we should "glorify God" when he lovingly raises us up spiritually. (Luke 13:10-17) Anointed ones bowed down in Babylonish bondage were grateful when God raised them up in 1919, and he has been raising up appreciative "other sheep" since 1935.—John 10:16.

¹² Jehovah never fails his people, as David next made clear by saying: "*To you the eyes of all look hopefully, and you are giving them their food in its season. You are opening your hand and satisfying the desire of every living thing.*" (Psalm 145:15, 16) It is as though the eyes of all living creatures are turned in hope to the Universal Sovereign. The angels look to God for continued life. And as a child looks to a parent for things needed, we look to our heavenly Father. In fact, from him humans and animals alike receive sustenance. No one else can satisfy their needs. God gives them "their food in its season," that is, when it is needed.

¹³ God 'opens his hand and satisfies the desire of every living thing.' (Psalm 104:10-28) True, some animals die for lack of food. Many humans hunger as victims of

11. In what way does Jehovah 'raise up all who are bowed down'?
12. How is it that "the eyes of all look hopefully" to God?
13. In what ways does Jehovah 'open his hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing'?

selfishness, oppression, and misuse of resources. Moreover, Jesus foretold that "food shortages" would be a feature of "the sign" of his presence in these last days. (Matthew 24:3, 7) But none of this occurs because Jehovah is stingy or unable to provide. Think of the thousands of millions of creatures that are sustained! Moreover, this psalm provides assurance that under Kingdom rule, when 'man does not dominate man to his injury,' God will satisfy our material and spiritual needs. (Ecclesiastes 8:9; Isaiah 25:6) Even today, we need not hunger for spiritual food, for God provides it abundantly in its season through "the faithful and discreet slave." (Matthew 24:45-47; 1 Peter 2:2) Spiritually speaking, Jehovah's Witnesses are the best-fed people on earth. Do you show deep appreciation for such bounties?

Jehovah Guards Those Loving Him

¹⁴ Our foolishness may 'distort our way' and bring hardships upon us, but never should we blame God for these difficulties. (Proverbs 19:3) David shows why when he says: "Jehovah is righteous in all his ways and loyal in all his works." (Psalm 145:17) God always acts in an upright, just, and merciful way. Especially is his mercy evident in his provision for salvation through Jesus' ransom sacrifice. (Acts 2:21; 4:8-12) Jehovah is also "loyal in all his works," always faithful, loving, and impartial. As "imitators of God," then, let us be upright, just, merciful, impartial, and loyal.—Ephesians 5:1, 2; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 7:10; 25:8; Isaiah 49:7; Acts 10:34, 35.

¹⁵ Since God is righteous and loyal, we are drawn to him. Moreover, David assures us: "Jehovah is near to all those calling upon him, to all those who call upon him in

14. Why could David say that "Jehovah is righteous in all his ways and loyal in all his works"?
15. How have we 'called upon God in trueness,' and what has resulted from our doing so?

trueness." (Psalm 145:18) In getting baptized as dedicated believers, we called on the name of Jehovah. (Acts 8:12; 18:8; Romans 10:10-15) Since we thus drew close to God, he draws near to us. (James 4:8) We "call upon him in trueness" because we do so in the true way, through Jesus Christ. And Jehovah will remain near if we worship him "with spirit and truth," exhibit "faith without hypocrisy," and 'continue steadfast as seeing the One who is invisible.' (John 4:23, 24; 1 Timothy 1:5; Hebrews 11:27) Then we will not pray in vain or have to face Satan's world alone, but we will continue to enjoy divine help and guidance. (Psalm 65:2; 1 John 5:19) What security that means!

¹⁶ We have true security, too, because of other things Jehovah does in our behalf. Said David: "*The desire of those fearing him he will perform, and their cry for help he will hear, and he will save them.*" (Psalm 145:19) Jehovah 'performs our desire' because we have deep reverence for God and a wholesome fear of displeasing him. (Proverbs 1:7) Our obedient heart has moved us to make a dedication to Jehovah, and our attitude is, "Let your will take place." Since it is his will that we declare the Kingdom message, he fulfills our desire to do that work. (Matthew 6:10; Mark 13:10) God 'performs our desire' because we do not pray selfishly but ask for things in harmony with his will. He grants what is in accord with his will and is for our good. —1 John 3:21, 22; 5:14, 15; compare Matthew 26:36-44.

¹⁷ As Jehovah's loyal Witnesses, we may also be sure that our "cry for help" will never fall on deaf ears. God delivered David from calamity and saved Jesus, even resurrecting him from the dead. Under enemy

16. Why and how does Jehovah 'perform the desire of those fearing him'?
17. Why can we be sure that our "cry for help" will be heard by God?

assault, especially during Gog's attack, we may be sure that Jehovah will deliver us. (Ezekiel 38:1-39:16) In fact, during any time of trouble, like David we can confidently pray: "Show me favor, O Jehovah, for I am in sore straits. . . . I have heard the bad report by many, fright being on all sides. When they mass together as one against me, it is to take away my soul that they do scheme. But I—in you I have put my trust, O Jehovah. I have said: 'You are my God.'"—Psalm 31:9-14.

¹⁸ Jehovah God is always ready to help us. As David says: "*Jehovah is guarding all those loving him, but all the wicked ones he will annihilate.*" (Psalm 145:20) Yes, if we love God, he will bless and keep us. (Numbers 6:24-26) He 'rewards the haughty exceedingly' but safeguards his humble servants, letting nothing happen that will do them permanent injury. Since Jehovah is with us, let us be courageous. (Psalm 31:20-24; Acts 11:19-21) 'No weapon formed against us will succeed.' (Isaiah 54:17; Psalm 9:17; 11:4-7) That is the experience of those who prove their love for God as his faithful dedicated servants. As a group, Jehovah's Witnesses will safely pass through "the great tribulation" brought upon the wicked. (Revelation 7:14) And what a blessing the settling of the great issue of Jehovah's universal kingship will be to "all those loving him"!

Continue to Bless Jehovah's Holy Name

¹⁹ David concludes this moving psalm with the words: "*The praise of Jehovah my mouth will speak; and let all flesh bless his holy name to time indefinite, even forever.*" (Psalm 145:21) As Jehovah's Witnesses,

18. How do we benefit from knowing that Jehovah 'guards all those loving him' but will 'annihilate the wicked'?

19. Why do our mouths speak "the praise of Jehovah"?

we appreciate God's greatness, goodness, benevolent kingship, unfailing support, and tireless watchcare. So, like David, our mouths speak the praises of God. We are moved to give him exclusive devotion, thank him for his many blessings, and praise his "beauteous name."—1 Chronicles 29:10-13; Exodus 20:4-6.

²⁰ Since Jehovah blesses us daily, let us regularly bless him, or speak well of him. Let us preach the good news zealously in praise of God, telling others that soon 'all flesh will bless his holy name.' How splendid it will be to live when all inhabitants of the earth—indeed, all intelligent creatures in the universe—will sing praises to our heavenly Father! (Psalm 148:1-13) Blessed be Jehovah for revealing his name and granting us the privilege of being his Witnesses. (Psalm 83:18; Isaiah 43:10-12) May we deport ourselves in a manner befitting those who hold that name sacred and pray for its sanctification. (Luke 11:2) Let us serve God loyally, so that in his new system, our voice may be heard in the chorus of those who bless Jehovah's holy name forever.

20. With eternity in view, what should now be our determination?

What Are Your Comments?

- What will we do if Jehovah's kingship is dear to us?
- In what is God's kingship represented today?
- How does Jehovah 'raise up all who are bowed down'?
- In what ways does God 'open his hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing'?
- How can we bless Jehovah's holy name?

CONTROL YOUR SPIRIT!

"**A**NGRY, cynical people are five times as likely to die under 50 as people who are calm and trusting, a psychiatrist has found." So reported *The New York Times* of January 17, 1989. Dr. Redford B. Williams, a professor at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina, "based his findings on numerous studies." "Trusting hearts last longer, he said, because they are protected from the ravages of the sympathetic nervous system," reported the *Times*.

Anger can raise blood pressure, cause respiratory problems, and have other bad effects. Rage can upset thinking processes, and the aftermath is often a period of extreme mental depression. Adverse, too, are the effects of anger on a person's spiritual health. No wonder the Bible says: "A calm heart is the life of the fleshly organism." (Proverbs 14:30) Yes, it is healthful to control your spirit. But note some other reasons for doing so.

Pursue a Course of Wisdom

Anyone in his right mind wants to act wisely. One way to do this is to display self-control. In this regard, Proverbs 29:11 states: "All his spirit is what a stupid one lets out, but he that is wise keeps it calm to the last."

In the Bible the word "spirit" often refers to the dominant attitude that motivates a person to pursue a certain course. "A stupid one" lets out all his spirit, for he has no mastery over it. He lets his anger explode without regard for the consequences. The spirit within a stupid person may first cause him to take on an angry countenance. Then his spirit

may vent itself in violent speech and in actions that are foolish.

However, the wise person keeps his spirit "calm to the last." He controls it and carefully weighs what might occur if he gives way to anger. Even if he has good reason to become angry, he realizes that acting instantly while in that indignant frame of mind might cause great harm. Hence, he exercises self-control and holds himself back from a careless, unrestrained expression of his anger. He looks to Jehovah for help, perhaps saying an urgent, silent prayer. At length, for the best interests of all concerned, the wise person is able to still his anger and to reason clearly in line with the Scriptures and God's will. Moreover, the wise individual realizes that he should not harbor anger because that might harden him into an unwise mode of action and the committing of sin.

A wise person also applies the apostle Paul's counsel: "Be wrathful, and yet do not sin; let the sun not set with you in a provoked state, neither allow place for the Devil." (Ephesians 4:26, 27) If you should justifiably become angry, do not maintain a provoked state, letting the sun set with you in that condition. Why? Because you would thereby allow place for Satan the Devil to take advantage of you, possibly inducing you to do something evil and to experience God's disapproval. (Psalm 37:8, 9) Rather, control your spirit and act quickly to settle difficulties that may have aroused your anger.—Matthew 18:15-17.

Be Cool of Spirit

Another proverb says: "Anyone holding back his sayings is possessed of knowledge, and a man of discernment is cool of

spirit." (Proverbs 17:27) A person possessing knowledge of God's Word 'holds back his sayings' and does not let his words fly freely, in a torrent, especially when he is perturbed. Aware of his relationship with Jehovah and his proper place in God's organization, he will not let the heat of anger overpower him. Instead, "a man of discernment" endeavors to keep cool and balanced in thought. With such a spirit, you too can master circumstances that would drive a foolish person into sin. Along these lines, we read: "He that is slow to anger is abundant in discernment, but one that is impatient is exalting foolishness." (Proverbs 14:29) Being impatient when emotionally stirred up can lead to foolish actions. How much better it is to consider what could result from unbridled speech or conduct! Otherwise, a person may act impatiently and do what is unwise, thus "exalting foolishness." Therefore, be "slow to anger," as God is, and you will avoid impatient and unwise actions.—Exodus 34:6.

Avoid Pride

Because of pride, a person may be inconsiderate of others and even hot-tempered. So we read: "A man given to anger stirs up contention, and anyone disposed to rage has many a transgression." (Proverbs 29:22) If an individual does not control his spirit but is "given to anger," he may 'stir up contention,' even among friends. And a person "disposed to rage has many a transgression." Yes, he is sure to commit sin—something a wise and godly person would want to avoid.

Never forget that Jehovah disapproves of pride and of haughty outbursts of anger. (Proverbs 16:18) It is far better to seek God's help to endure a trial and act humbly than to yield to prideful anger or rage.—Proverbs 29:23.

Act With Mildness

Humility is needed if you happen to be reprimanded by someone in authority. At such a time, what might be your first impulse? Perhaps to respond with hasty, ill-advised speech. But the Bible counsels: "If the spirit of a ruler should mount up against you, do not leave your own place, for calmness itself allays great sins." (Ecclesiastes 10:4) How much wiser it is to reply with mildness! Indeed, "an answer, when mild, turns away rage." (Proverbs 15:1) It takes self-control to respond with mildness, but this wise course smooths out problems and promotes peaceful relations.

If you are the object of an undeserved reprimand, it is hoped that the person in authority will allow you to explain matters. Of course, any explanation should be made in a mild spirit with the hope that a mistaken view would thus be corrected. The individual in authority would need to control his spirit to permit such an explanation, and this would show that he has wisdom and strength.

Whether a Christian is in a position of authority or not, he should remember that "as a city broken through, without a wall, is the man that has no restraint for his spirit." (Proverbs 25:28) A person who is not mild-tempered and does not control his spirit is vulnerable to the invasion of improper thoughts that could move him to act in wrong ways. Jesus Christ, who set the perfect example, was "mild-tempered and lowly in heart." (Matthew 11:29) Moreover, mildness is a fruit of God's holy spirit, for which Christians should pray.—Luke 11:13; Galatians 5:22, 23.

Why Control Your Spirit?

We appreciate mild words, but often we do not know what has motivated an angry outburst. Why, an unprincipled individual

may even succeed in concealing his anger and his determination to get even with another person for a real or an imagined offense! Hypocritically, he may be waiting for an opportune time to say something damaging about the person for whom he has developed hatred. Surely, a Christian must not allow that spirit to develop in him, for the apostle John wrote: "He that hates his brother is in the darkness and is walking in the darkness, and he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes." John also said: "Everyone who hates his brother is a manslayer, and you know that no man-

slayer has everlasting life remaining in him."—1 John 2:11; 3:15.

If pride, hypocrisy, or any other ungodly trait is concealed, such camouflage does not fool God. Not even loud claims or a show of self-righteousness can hide from God what is in the heart. Says Proverbs 16:2: "All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but Jehovah is making an estimate of spirits." God is never deceived.

For your own welfare and for the Scriptural reasons we have discussed, then, be like Jesus and other wise individuals who have avoided pride and acted with mildness. By all means, control your spirit!

Conduct That Adorns the Teaching of God

Recently, the management of a company in Caracas, Venezuela, addressed a letter to the elders and ministerial servants of a nearby congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. In it they wrote: "We have received very good references about the people in your religion regarding their sense of responsibility and honesty. It is for this reason that we now approach you. Because of our present lack of personnel, we are in urgent need of two persons to fill the following positions: one to be a driver and the other to be our warehouse manager. We would very much appreciate any information you could provide with regard to someone in your congregation or in one nearby. We really do not desire to hire non-Witness personnel. Please, let us know even if there is no one available,

since we will wait for your response before making any decision."

After finding the letter under the Kingdom Hall door, one of the congregation elders visited the owner of the company in question. The owner had had dealings with Jehovah's Witnesses for 15 years and recalled having no serious problems with his Witness employees. He referred to them as serious, responsible, honest, and diligent workers. Then he added: "I know that you do not tolerate evildoers, and you disfellowship them. That shows that your congregation does not want to become an accomplice with such ones."

Such conduct adorns the teaching of God. (Titus 2:10) It is the result of a genuine desire to adhere closely to the moral principles outlined in the Bible.

"DO ALL THINGS FOR GOD'S GLORY"

Highlights From First Corinthians

JEHOVAH GOD'S glory is of vital concern to all who worship him "with spirit and truth." (John 4:23, 24) Hence, the apostle Paul told fellow Christians in ancient Corinth: "Whether you are eating or drinking or doing anything else, do all things for God's glory." (1 Corinthians 10:31) Doing this requires that we accept Jehovah's way of resolving our problems in this materialistic, immoral world steeped in false religion.

Corinthian Christians needed divine help to resolve problems, for they lived in a prosperous, immoral city full of false religion. Located on an isthmus between continental Greece and the Peloponnisos, Corinth was the capital of the Roman province of Achaia and had an estimated population of 400,000. Paul founded the congregation there in about 50 C.E.—Acts 18:1-11.

The Corinthians had written to Paul asking about marriage and the eating of meat that had been offered to idols. (7:1) He was distressed because divisions and a case of gross immorality existed in their midst. They needed advice on the proper way to observe the Lord's Evening Meal. There was even the threat of apostasy, and the congregation needed counsel on love. For such reasons, Paul wrote his first inspired letter to the Corinthians from Ephesus in about 55 C.E. But we too can benefit from it.

Unity and Moral Cleanliness Vital

If we "do all things for God's glory," we will not follow anyone seeking to cause division in the congregation—one of the problems faced by the Corinthians. (1:1-4; 2:1) Paul exhorted them to 'speak in agreement and be united in the same mind and in the same line of thought.'

Unity will exist if we follow this counsel and cultivate spiritual qualities. Instead of boasting in any sinful human, we should remember that though we 'plant and water, God makes it grow' spiritually. boastful ones in Corinth had nothing that they did not receive; so let us never consider ourselves better than fellow believers. Such a humble spirit will help us to promote unity.

If unity is to prevail, appointed elders must act to keep the congregation clean spiritually. (5:1-6; 20) Since "a little leaven ferments the whole lump," unrepentant fornicators, greedy persons, idolaters, revilers, drunkards, or extortioners must be disfellowshipped. Moral uncleanness, which defiles God's temple, must not be tolerated among Jehovah's people. Instead, they must do things that glorify God.

Be Considerate of Others

To "do all things for God's glory," we need to apply Paul's counsel on marriage and singleness. (7:1-40) Those united in wedlock are to render the sexual due with consideration. A married Christian should not separate from an unbelieving mate, for staying together may help that one gain salvation. While mar-

SURE TO DIE: More than once in his letters to the Corinthians, Paul alluded to death in the arena. For instance, he wrote: "It seems to me that God has put us the apostles last on exhibition as men appointed to death, because we have become a theatrical spectacle to the world, and to angels, and to men." (1 Corinthians 4:9) Paul may have been thinking about exhibitions of *bestiarii* (men who fought beasts) and gladiators (men who fought men). Some fought for wages, but criminals were compelled to fight. Allowed to use weapons at first, later these prisoners were brought out unclad, defenseless, and sure to die.

With "angels" and "men" (not just "the world" of mankind) as spectators, the apostles were like those about to die in such a final gory spectacle. Paul said he "fought with wild beasts at Ephesus," but some doubt that a Roman citizen would have been subjected to this and say that he alluded to beastlike opposers. (1 Corinthians 15:32) Yet, Paul's statement that God rescued him "from such a great thing as death" in the district of Asia (where Ephesus was located) fits an experience with real wild beasts in an arena better than it does human opposition.—2 Corinthians 1:8-10; 11:23; Acts 19:23-41.

riage brings increased anxiety, singleness can benefit a person desiring to help others spiritually by serving the Lord without distraction.

Showing consideration for the spiritual welfare of others is the duty of all Christians, whether single or married. (8:1-10:33) Hence, the Corinthians were counseled not to stumble others by eating foods that were offered to idols. To avoid hindering any from accepting the good news, Paul did not even exercise his right to receive material assistance. He also 'pummeled his body so that after preaching to others, he might not become disapproved.' Taking to heart the wilderness experiences of sinful Israel will help us to avoid idolatry and wrongdoing. Moreover, 'doing all things for God's glory' will help us to avoid stumbling anyone.

Show Respect and Maintain Order

'Doing all things for God's glory' requires that we show proper respect. (11:1-34) A first-century Christian woman showed respect for headship by wearing a head covering when praying or prophesying in the congregation. Similar respect for headship is shown by godly women today. More-

over, to avoid becoming like the Corinthians who needed correction, all of us must show respect for the Lord's Evening Meal.

To "do all things for God's glory," we must conduct meetings in an orderly way. (12:1-14:40) When early Christians met, such gifts of the spirit as speaking in tongues were to be used with respect and appreciation for their source and purpose. Though we do not now have these gifts, we bring glory to God by displaying love, which surpasses them. We also glorify Jehovah because our meetings are well organized, and we respectfully apply Paul's counsel: "Let all things take place decently and by arrangement."

'Doing all things for God's glory' calls upon us to respect Bible doctrine and stand firm spiritually. (15:1-16:24) Possibly influenced by Greek philosophy, some in the Corinth congregation said: "There is no resurrection of the dead." (Compare Acts 17:18, 32.) They may have held the apostate view that there would be no future resurrection but that living Christians had experienced a symbolic, spiritual one. (2 Timothy 2:16-18) Paul supported the true hope by citing Jesus' resurrection and also showed that anointed Christians must die in order to be raised to immortal heavenly life. In other ways too, his words help us to avoid apostasy and "stand firm in the faith."

Always Do Things for God's Glory

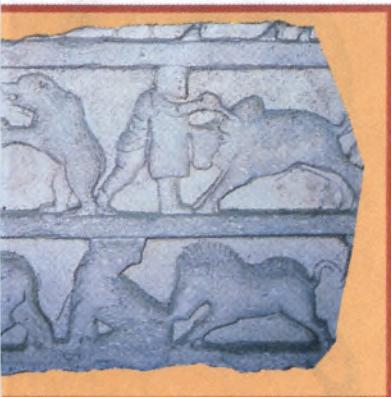
Paul's counsel in First Corinthians is as beneficial today as it was in the first century C.E. It moves present-day Witnesses of Jehovah to serve God in unity as a clean people. The apostle's words should motivate us to be



KEEP THE PRIZE IN VIEW:
Paul used features of ancient Greek games to illustrate vital points. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27) In such contests as the Isthmian Games held every two years near Corinth, the program was made up of running, boxing, and other events. While preparing for these contests, runners and boxers were to exercise self-restraint, live on a healthfully lean diet, and drink no wine for ten months. Instead of the perishable pine or ivy wreath bestowed upon winners of the Isthmian Games, however, an anointed Christian strives for the incorruptible crown of immortal life. To win that prize, he must keep his eyes fixed on it and exercise self-control. The same principle applies to Jehovah's Witnesses who have eternal earthly life in view.

considerate of others and show proper respect. What Paul said can also strengthen us to resist apostasy and stand firm for the true faith.

Surely, it is the heartfelt desire of every faithful servant of Jehovah to bless him, announce his Kingdom, and glorify his holy name. (Psalm 145:1, 2, 10-13) In fact, Paul's first letter to the Corinthians helps us to "do all things for God's glory."



KEEP TESTING WHETHER YOU ARE IN THE FAITH

Highlights From Second Corinthians

THE apostle Paul was concerned about the Christians in Corinth. How would they view the counsel given in his first letter to them? He was in Macedonia when Titus arrived with the favorable report that the letter had saddened the Corinthians into repenting. How that made Paul rejoice!—2 Corinthians 7:8-13.

Paul wrote Second Corinthians from Macedonia, probably after midyear in 55 C.E. In this letter, he discussed steps taken to keep the congregation clean, built desire to contribute to needy believers in Judea, and defended his apostleship. Much of what Paul said can help us to 'keep testing whether we are in the

faith.' (13:5) So, what can we glean from this letter?

Minister for the God of Comfort

The apostle showed that as God comforts us in all our tribulation, we should comfort others and pray for them. (1:1-2:11) Though Paul and his associates were under extreme pressure, God rescued them. Yet, the Corinthians could help with prayers in their behalf, even as we should pray for others who embrace the true faith. But what about the immoral man mentioned in 1 Corinthians chapter 5? Apparently he had been disfellowshipped but had repented. How he must have been comforted when the Corinthians extended forgiveness and lov-

ingly reinstated him in their midst.

Paul's words can increase our appreciation for the Christian ministry, strengthening our stand for the true faith. (2:12-6:10) Why, ministers of the new covenant are privileged to be in "a triumphal procession" with God in the lead! Paul and his fellow workers had the treasured ministry because of the mercy shown them. Like them, present-day anointed ones have a ministry of reconciliation. Yet, all Witnesses of Jehovah make others rich through their ministry.

Perfect Holiness and Be Generous

Paul shows us that Christian ministers must perfect holiness in the fear of Jehovah. (6:11-7:16) If we are to stand firm in the faith, we must avoid becoming yoked with unbelievers, and we need to be cleansed of fleshly and spiritual defilement. The Corinthians took cleansing action by disfellowshipping the immoral wrongdoer, and Paul rejoiced that his first letter had saddened them to repentance for salvation.

We also learn that God-fearing

REFLECT JEHOVAH'S GLORY: When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the tablets of the Testimony, his face emitted rays because God had spoken with him. (Exodus 34:29, 30) Paul mentioned this and said: "All of us, while we with unveiled faces reflect like mirrors the glory of Jehovah, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, exactly as done by Jehovah the Spirit." (2 Corinthians 3:7-18) Ancient hand mirrors were made of such metals as bronze or copper and were highly polished so as to have good reflecting surfaces. Like mirrors, anointed ones reflect God's glory that shines to them from Jesus Christ, progressively 'transforming them into the image' conveyed by Jehovah's glory-reflecting Son. (2 Corinthians 4:6; Ephesians 5:1) Through holy spirit and the Scriptures, God creates in them "the new personality," a reflection of his own qualities. (Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10) Whether our hope is heavenly or it is earthly, let us display that personality and cherish the privilege of reflecting God's glory in our ministry.



ministers are rewarded for their generosity. (8:1-9:15) Regarding contributions for needy "holy ones," Paul cited the fine example of the Macedonians. They had been generous beyond their ability, and he hoped to see the same kind of generosity on the part of the Corinthians. Their giving—and ours—should be from the heart, for "God loves a cheerful giver" and enriches his people for every sort of generosity.

Paul—A Caring Apostle

When we accomplish anything in Jehovah's service as ministers, let us boast in him, not in ourselves. (10:1-12:13) After all, only with spiritual weapons "powerful by God" can we overturn false reasonings. The boastful "superfine apostles" among the Corinthians could never match Paul's record of endurance as a minister of Christ. Yet, that he might not be overly exalted, God did not remove his "thorn in the flesh"—perhaps poor eyesight or those false apostles. Paul would rather boast in his weaknesses anyway so that "the power of the Christ" might remain over him like a tent. As a man who stood firm in the faith, he had not proved inferior to the superfine apostles. The Corinthians had seen the proofs of apostleship Paul had produced among them "by all endurance, and by signs and portents and powerful works."

As a minister and as an apostle, Paul had the spiritual interests of fellow believers at heart, even as we should have. (12:14-13:14) He 'would most gladly be completely spent for their souls.' But Paul feared that upon arrival in Corinth, he would find some who had not repented of works of the flesh. Hence, he ad-

"WEAPONS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS": One way that Paul and his associates recommended themselves as God's ministers was "through the weapons of righteousness on the right hand and on the left." (2 Corinthians 6:3-7) The right hand was used to wield the sword, and the left to hold the shield. Though assaulted from all sides, Paul and his fellow workers were armed to wage spiritual warfare. It was waged against false teachers and "superfine apostles" so that the Corinth congregation would not be led away from devotion to Christ. Paul did not resort to weapons of the sinful flesh—cunning, deceit, or trickery. (2 Corinthians 10:8-10; 11:3, 12-14; 12:11, 16) Rather, "the weapons" used were righteous, or just, means for furthering the cause of true worship against all assaults. Jehovah's Witnesses now use such "weapons of righteousness" for the same purpose.



vised all to keep testing whether they were in the faith and prayed that they "do nothing wrong." In conclusion, he urged them to rejoice, be readjusted and comforted, to think in agreement, and to live peaceably. What fine counsel for us too!

Keep On Testing!

Paul's second letter to Corinthian Christians thus suggests various ways to keep testing whether we are in the faith. His words certainly should move us to comfort others, even as God comforts us in all our tribulation. What the

apostle said about the Christian ministry should motivate us to carry it out faithfully while we perfect holiness in the fear of Jehovah.

Applying Paul's counsel may well make us more generous and helpful. Yet, his words should prompt us to boast in Jehovah, not ourselves. They should heighten our loving concern for fellow believers. And surely these and other points in Second Corinthians can help us to 'keep testing whether we are in the faith.'

The Meaning of the Proverb

Why Entreat a Hater's Kisses?

THE divinely inspired wise man made this observation: "The wounds inflicted by a lover are faithful, but the kisses of a hater are things to be entreated." (Proverbs 27:6) How are these words to be understood?

A person who loves you will inflict a figurative wound upon you in a faithful way. He may counsel you with love in his heart and in hopes of doing you good. You do not have to entreat a true friend for such help or even for reproof when you need it. And how wise you are if you graciously accept needed counsel, constructive criticism, or necessary reproof!

If you want someone who hates you to do a kind thing for you, however, you must entreat him. Why? Because his hatred would not naturally incline him to bestow kisses upon you. Rather, he would be inclined to treat you in a cruel way. Any possible kindness he would show you would be obtained from him only with considerable difficulty and much entreaty on your part.

Of interest in this regard is one of the parables of Jesus Christ. He once spoke of a widow who got justice from a judge who had no fear of God or respect for man. How did she succeed? The judge saw to it that the woman got the relief she deserved only because she kept on entreating him. Jesus used this illustration to impress his disciples with "the need for them always to pray and not to give up."—Luke 18:1-8.

How Do the Righteous Become Many When the Wicked Perish?

Proverbs 28:28 states: "When the wicked rise up, a man conceals himself; but when they perish, the righteous become many." How does this prove true?

The wicked may "rise up" in power, perhaps as harsh rulers. At such a time, a righteous man conceals himself. He may do so because of being fearful of their oppression. And why not? It is true that "man has dominated man to his injury."—Ecclesiastes 8:9.

When the wicked perish, however, righteous people "become many." How so? Apparently in that the righteous then come out of hiding and appear in public. They thus thrive and seem to have increased in number because they have no further need to conceal themselves. If the upright should then rule, they would punish wrongdoers and promote righteous conduct. That too could have the effect of reducing the number of unrighteous people and multiplying the righteous.—Compare Proverbs 28:12; 29:2.

Those who are upright will soon see the wicked perish from the earth in the rapidly approaching "day of Jehovah's anger." Therefore, seek righteousness and meekness according to divine standards, and you may be preserved into God's new world, where the righteous will indeed become many.—Zephaniah 2:2, 3; 2 Peter 3:11-13.

In Our Next Issue

■ Now Is the Time
for a New World

■ Keep Seeking the Kingdom
and God's Righteousness

■ Do You Follow Instructions?

Insight on the News

Confessing Their Bloodguilt

"We called the war [World War II] a holy war and sent people to battlefields," admitted Shin- gen Hosokawa, the secretary-general of the Temple Office of the Buddhist True Pure Land Otani Sect in Japan. "We cannot but be overwhelmed with shame in front of the holy Buddha." At a recent "Memorial Service for All War Dead," 45 years after the end of World War II, the sect, with over five million believers, admitted its responsibility in "willingly cooperating in [the war efforts of] World War II." "There is no precedent for a traditional Buddhist order clearly to state its own war responsibility at a religious ritual," noted the *Asahi Shimbun*.

However, should not far more religions be "overwhelmed with shame" for having urged many young men to go to war? According to the *Kodansha Encyclopedia of Japan*, virtually all Buddhist, "Christian," and Shinto denominations in Japan formed a Religious League in 1941 "to provide a spiritual bulwark for the nation in wartime."

Not surprisingly, referring to the world empire of false religion as "Babylon the Great," the Bible says: "Yes, in her was found the blood . . . of all those who have been slaughtered on the earth." (Revelation 18:2, 24) Will Jehovah God, the Giver of human life, call those religionists to account for their bloodguilt? The same chapter of Revelation graphically describes what will happen to Babylon the Great, stating: "A strong angel lifted up a stone like a great millstone and hurled it into

the sea, saying: 'Thus with a swift pitch will Babylon the great city be hurled down, and she will never be found again.'"—Revelation 18:21.

Lack of Priests

Buddhist sects in Japan are haunted by the problem of abandoned temples. Neighbors of temples without resident priests are objecting to vagrants' loitering in the temple area as well as to the danger of fire erupting. The Zen Buddhist Myoshinji sect decided to handle the problem by either disposing of temples or merging them with those nearby. More than 20 percent of the Myoshinji sect's 3,500 temples throughout Japan either do not have a resident priest or are served by priests from nearby temples.

Why the plight? "The sect is having difficulty finding successors to retiring priests," explains *The Daily Yomiuri*, "and young priests have resisted postings to temples in depopulated areas." The sect tried to train retired workers as priests but has already abandoned the scheme. Although the Myoshinji say that "this is not an age when the number of temples in existence is proof of strength," it is undeniable that their influence is waning.

Interestingly, the Bible book of Revelation foretells that the waters of the Euphrates, on which the worldwide religious system—"Babylon the Great"—is seated, will 'dry up.' (Revelation 16: 12; 18:2, 9, 11) What do the waters represent? "The waters that you saw . . . mean peoples and crowds and nations and tongues." (Revelation 17:15) A

drying up of "the waters," or supporters, is clearly taking place in the Oriental realm of Babylon the Great.

The Perfect Solution

"The looming threats we now face . . . have so much momentum that unless action begins now to reverse them, they will inevitably lead to paralyzing costly economic consequences and the collapse of social and political institutions," states Worldwatch Institute, based in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. Last year the institute's annual report warned that death-dealing heat waves, droughts, and floods were merely a foretaste of the more serious calamities yet to befall the already battered earth. Areas targeted in the report for immediate attention include population control, energy efficiency, reforestation, and famine prevention. However, the institute says that an immediate 'global plan of action' and 'profound changes in man's behavior pattern' are needed to obtain positive results.

Can we expect to see a global plan that will bring profound changes in our time? Yes, but not through the efforts of any man or group of men. Why not? Because the prophet Jeremiah wrote centuries ago: "To earthling man his way does not belong. It does not belong to man who is walking even to direct his step." Rather, the Bible promises that Jehovah God will "bring to ruin those ruining the earth" and will "set matters straight" to benefit earth's inhabitants.—Jeremiah 10:23; Revelation 11:18; Micah 4:3, 4.

Why Réunion Has So Many Kingdom Halls

ABOUT 400 miles east of Madagascar, the small island of Réunion rises abruptly from the vast Indian Ocean. Though only about 40 miles long by 30 miles wide, the island is noted for its volcanic domes and periodic fiery displays. The highest peak, at 10,069 feet above sea level, is the extinct volcano *Piton des Neiges* (Peak of the Snows). In the southeastern part of the island is the 8,612-foot active volcano aptly named *Piton de la Fournaise* (Peak of the Furnace). What a spectacular sight when it erupts at night! Many roads zigzag up and down precipitous slopes, providing breathtaking views of what has been called Réunion's terrifying beauty.

Why So Many Kingdom Halls?

The true beauty of Réunion, however, lies in the way that many of the islanders respond to the "good news of the kingdom" proclaimed by Jehovah's Witnesses. (Matthew 24:14) Their preaching work began in 1960, when two full-time ministers arrived from France. Now, 30 years later, 1,665 Witnesses are busy spreading the Kingdom message among the 582,000 inhabitants—a ratio of 1 Witness to every 350 persons on the island.

Such growth has required the building of suitable meeting places so that the Witnesses can carry on their worship and spiritual education. (Hebrews 10:24, 25) Already, 13 of Réunion's 19 congregations have built their own Kingdom Halls. Because of the frequent cyclones in this area, these are solid masonry structures that require considerable time—and expense—to construct. So how has it been possible to

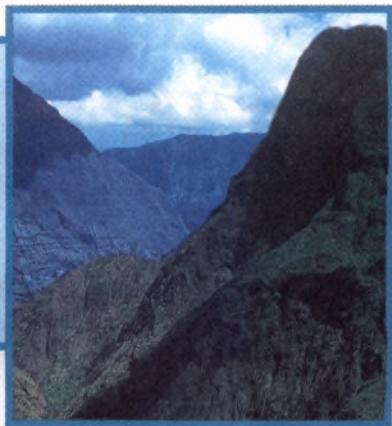
build such halls, since most Witnesses on this island earn average wages and have large families to support? In the words of the Bible, the answer is that 'Jehovah's hand is not short.'—Isaiah 59:1.

Obstacles Overcome

For example, consider how Jehovah moved the hearts of people to help with the construction of the Kingdom Hall in the little town of Saint-Louis, situated in the southwestern part of Réunion. When the plans were first approved, a young Witness told his masonry-class teacher that a Kingdom Hall was to be built by volunteer labor. The teacher not only volunteered his own services but also brought his entire class to the site to help dig the foundation. Later, he donated the steel needed for the foundation.

When over a hundred volunteers came together on a public holiday to lay concrete over an area of some 2,000 square feet, they were surprised to find that the town had turned off the water supply. How could they prepare the concrete without water? One of the workers who knew the chief of the fire department decided that he would explain the predicament to this kind man. A little later, a fire truck arrived at the site. The vehicle contained enough water for the project, and the fire department allowed it to remain there for the entire day! Understandably, all the volunteers were moved to put their whole heart into the work.

Jehovah's help was evident in the way other obstacles were overcome. For example, at one stage of construction, the ceiling was ready for the 22 special light



fixtures that had been ordered eight months earlier. But the company notified the brothers that the model they wanted was no longer being produced. What could be done? Would the whole design and the ceiling have to be changed? No, for just at the right time, the brothers heard of a local contractor who had similar lamps on hand for a project that never materialized.

"How many do you have?" he was asked.
"About 25," he replied.

With no further delay, the lights were bought and installed.

As the project progressed, a person who had just started to study the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses was deeply impressed by the fine building.

"Tell me," he asked, "is there anything else you need?"

"Yes," replied one brother. "We need sound-equipment."

With that, this newly interested person immediately took out his checkbook and donated nearly enough for a completely new sound-system. Such contributions, along with a generous loan from the Watch Tower Society's headquarters in the United States, helped the congregation to complete this fine Kingdom Hall.

To cap all of this off, the Saint-Louis Congregation was delighted to have Brother Carey W. Barber, a member of the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses, come and dedicate the Kingdom Hall in December 1988. Brother Barber was

scheduled to come from the Society's headquarters in Brooklyn, New York, to dedicate the new branch facilities on the neighboring island of Mauritius. When the brothers in Saint-Louis heard about this, in just three weeks, they raised enough money to cover the airfare for him and a member of the Mauritius Branch Committee to travel from Mauritius to Réunion. Because of growth since then, the Saint-Louis Congregation has had to divide. Now, two congregations share the new Kingdom Hall.

To Jehovah Goes the Credit

What about the other congregations in Réunion? Because of the fine response to the Kingdom-preaching work, meeting attendance at the Kingdom Halls has been from 150 to 200 percent of the number of Jehovah's Witnesses on the island. So it is clear why many Kingdom Halls are needed in Réunion. In fact, three more have been built since the one in Saint-Louis, and that has brought the total number to 13 for the 19 congregations on the island.

For all of this, the credit goes to Jehovah, who foretold: "The little one himself will become a thousand, and the small one a mighty nation. I myself, Jehovah, shall speed it up in its own time." (Isaiah 60:22) As in other parts of the earth, this prophecy has come true on this beautiful island.



When His Grandfather Died

A mother from Virginia Beach, Virginia, wrote earlier this year: "Last month I lost my father in death. He and my youngest son were very close, despite the distance that separated them. On notifying him that his grandfather had died, he began to cry sadly.

"I quickly looked for the tract *What Hope for Dead Loved Ones?* As soon as I found it, while his face was still wet with tears, I began to read it to him. When I finished, he was much calmer. Thank you for such valuable information, which was very practical at such a painful time."

...had a hard time coping with his loss. "He was a good man," says his son, "but he was also a bit of a... He would say things like, 'I'm not...'"

THE AUTHOR'S MOTHER—SEE PAGE 28

"When my wife died, we buried her in a small cemetery near our home. We had a simple service and then my son and I took turns reading from the Bible. It was a very peaceful service. We then had a meal together at a nearby restaurant. It was a wonderful way to remember her."



**What Hope
for Dead Loved Ones?**