

The **WATCHTOWER**

Announcing
**JEHOVAH'S
KINGDOM**

JANUARY 1, 1969

Semimonthly

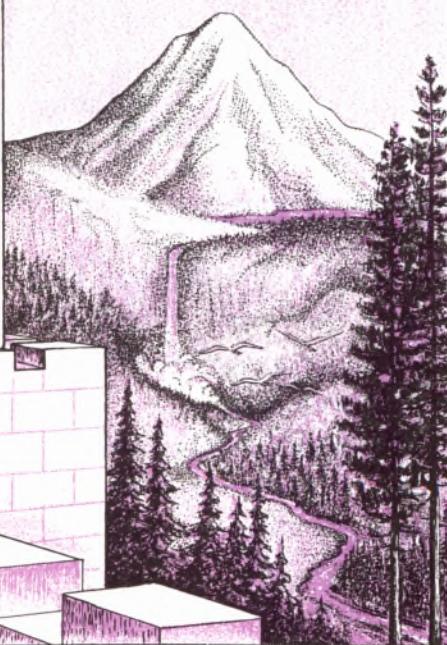
"YOU MUST NOT FORGET"

"DO NOT FORGET ALL HIS DOINGS"

LOVERS OF GOD'S NAME

IDENTIFYING THE CHRIST

©WTB&TS



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

THE PURPOSE OF "THE WATCHTOWER"

Every watchtower has its purpose. It serves as an elevated place for a wide-awake person with sharp vision. It enables him to see far ahead into the distance and tell those below for whom he is a watchman what is drawing near, whether it is a danger against which to prepare or it is something good over which to be glad with strong faith and hope.

Because of having the name "The Watchtower" this magazine justly has to render a similar useful service to the people of all nations. This is an international magazine and makes no racial distinctions, for we are all facing a common world danger; we are all hoping for a common good.

Ever since "The Watchtower" began to be published in July of 1879 it has looked ahead into the future, always striving to aid its readers to advance in knowledge and to gain a clearer picture of the glorious new order of things that is in store for righteous mankind. No, "The Watchtower" is no inspired prophet, but it follows and explains a Book of prophecy the predictions in which have proved to be unerring and unfailing till now. "The Watchtower" is therefore under safe guidance. It may be read with confidence, for its statements may be checked against that prophetic Book.

Among the many nations of today there are hundreds of differing religions. Which one does this magazine present? Not the confused religions of Christendom, but the religion of the oldest sacred Book on earth. Which Book? The Sacred Bible of the Holy Scriptures, written by inspiration in the name of the Creator of heaven and earth, the only living and true God.

The sacred, nonpolitical purpose of "The Watchtower" is accordingly to encourage and promote study of the Holy Bible and to give our many readers the needed unsectarian help to understand that Book of true religion and infallible prophecy. Thus this magazine will be helping them to prove worthy of perfect life and happiness in God's promised new order under His everlasting kingdom of righteousness.



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

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The Bible translation used in "The Watchtower" is the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures, 1961 edition. When other translations are used the following symbols will appear behind the citations:

AS -- American Standard Version
AT -- An American Translation
AV -- Authorized Version (1611)
Dy -- Catholic Douay version
JP -- Jewish Publication Soc.

Le -- Isaac Leeser's version
Mo -- James Moffatt's version
Ro -- J. B. Rotherham's version
RS -- Revised Standard Version
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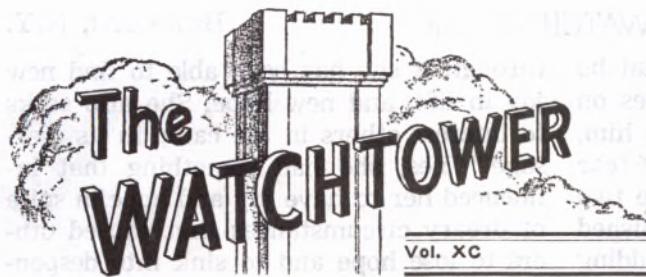
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Announcing
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Number 1

How "The Watchtower" Influences Lives

THE WATCHTOWER began to be published in July 1879 as a religious monthly. Its first edition consisted of 6,000 copies, most of which were sent to people who were not subscribers but were thought to be interested in Bible truth. In 1892 it began to be issued twice a month on a contribution of one dollar, which subscription rate has remained unchanged these seventy-seven years. In the eighty-nine and a half years since it was first published *The Watchtower's* circulation has increased to nine hundred and twenty-five times its original circulation, so that today more than 5,550,000 copies of each issue are printed in 72 languages.

Why is *The Watchtower* published? To influence the lives of its readers for good by shedding light on what the Bible has to say about the Creator's name, purposes and will for his creatures upon earth. It has truly served as a beacon light, a watchtower. (Isa. 21:8) As the official journal of Jehovah's witnesses it has contributed greatly to these Christians' being described as "people of conscience, of integrity, of will power—people whose lives reflect what they believe to an unusually large degree."—Albuquerque, New Mexico, *Tribune*, July 25, 1968.

Time and again *The Watchtower* gives counsel from the Bible regarding family life, including counsel for youths. How even youths benefit from this can be seen from a letter received from one of them:

"I was required to write some papers on the subject of my choice in my English class. I used the opportunity to write about family unity. I brought out what I had previously read in *The Watchtower* and showed how each family member could go to God's Word and receive instruction on right conduct. . . . When the teacher read the report, she told the whole class that I had written something different. . . . She said it was unusual for me to know about family matters and that she was going to make a copy of it to put in the church bulletin." Unusual for a youth to know about family unity? Not if he reads *The Watchtower*, which points to what the Bible has to say on the subject.—Col. 3:18-21.

And no matter how old a person might be, he can be influenced for good by what he reads in *The Watchtower*. Thus a few years ago on an island in the Bahamas a seventy-three-year-old man, though having lived with a woman without benefit of legal marriage for thirty years, deter-

mined to get married because of what he learned from the *Watchtower* articles on marriage. Many tried to discourage him, and his bride was hesitant because of fear of ridicule. But in a few months the two were married in the midst of astonished onlookers who had come for the wedding and the marriage talk. Yes, *The Watchtower* influenced this man, though seventy-three years old, to bring his life in line with such Bible principles as those stated at Hebrews 13:4.

The spiritual food in *The Watchtower* has enabled thousands upon thousands of the Christian witnesses of Jehovah to withstand the bitter persecution of the Nazis during Hitler's time and to endure the harassment of the Communists. It has enabled them to stand firm despite the strong opposition of religious dictators. And it has served to give people of all kinds hope, although they may be living in the most depressing circumstances. Thus some years after World War II the Watch Tower Society received a letter from a field representative of American Friends of Russian Freedom:

"I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. K_____. She lives in one of the hundreds of refugee camps which are still to be found throughout Germany. The surroundings in these camps are dreary enough to daunt even the most redoubtable soul, especially after years of sub-standard food, clothing and housing, and years of vain hope for a better life through emigration or employment. . . . But as soon as I entered her tiny room I saw how this woman differed from most of the people I had met. The room was tidy, and she was clean and neat, and good humored and hospitable. When I remarked on seeing a copy of the Russian edition of *The Watchtower* on her table, she replied that it had been her strongest support in recent months, and that

through it she has been able to find new joy in life, and new hope. She also seeks to interest others in the camp in its message." Yes, she had something that influenced her to have joy and hope in spite of dreary circumstances that caused others to lose hope and to sink into despondency.

The Watchtower also helps people to understand and embrace the basic doctrines of the Bible. Thus a woman in Mexico who had subscribed for it but did not appreciate its contents gave her copies to her neighbor lady. When the Witness who had obtained the subscription learned about this, he called on that neighbor lady who, by now, had obtained eight copies. He reported:

"The magazines had done a good job. From only eight issues the family learned the basic truths of God's Word and had become free from lies, idols and certain superstitions. The final result is that two of these persons are now baptized and two more have begun to share the good news of God's kingdom with others." Nor is that all. The family that appreciated *The Watchtower* told the woman from whom they got their copies in the first place: "You gave us the truth, and we want to give it to you." They were able to start a regular Bible study with her, and now she is coming to the meetings where *The Watchtower* is studied.

Yes, that is exactly what *The Watchtower* does, it influences for good the lives of people who read it; it strengthens their faith in the Bible as the Word of God; it discusses Bible prophecies and their fulfillment; it gives counsel on Christian conduct; it offers exposition on Christian doctrine and it admonishes all Christian ministers of Jehovah as to their commission to preach first this good news of God's kingdom. We trust that it will also influence your life for good!

"You MUST NOT FORGET!"

HERE was a very grave incident that occurred to the twelve tribes of Israel after they left Egypt in 1513 B.C.E. It was an action unprovoked and very unfriendly as well as unnecessary on the part of the people of Amalek. That is why the prophet Moses said to Israel: "There should be a remembering of what Amalek did to you in the way when you were coming out of Egypt, how he met you in the way and proceeded to strike in the rear of you all those straggling after you, while you were exhausted and weary; and he did not fear God. And it must occur that when Jehovah your God has given you rest from all your enemies round about in the land that Jehovah your God is giving you as an inheritance to take possession of it, you should wipe out the mention of Amalek from under the heavens. You must not forget."—Deut. 25:17-19.

Who were these Amalekites that went striking down those exhausted and weary ones? Who were these people that did not fear God? Amalek was a grandson of Esau. No wonder! Esau was the one who sold his birthright to his brother Jacob. So the offspring of Amalek were determined to perpetuate the hatred Esau had for his brother Jacob, even more than

"And it must occur that when Jehovah your God has given you rest from all your enemies . . . You must not forget."

—Deut. 25:19.

three centuries later. So they launched this unprovoked attack on the offspring of Jacob. Because of this dastardly action Jehovah God decreed that they

should be wiped out, which meant ultimate extinction of the Amalekites.

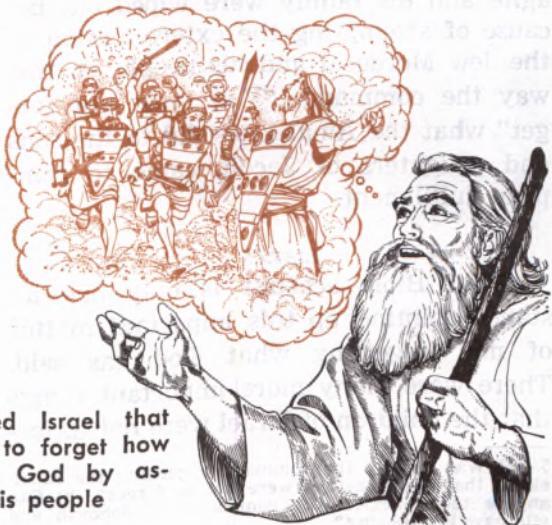
During the period of the judges of the nation of Israel the Amalekites continued to be adversaries of Israel and they shared with other nations in assaulting Israel. (Judg. 3:12, 13; 6:1-3, 33; 7:12; 10:12) About four centuries after the Israelites left Egypt, Samuel the prophet of God said to King Saul: "This is what Jehovah

3, 4. (a) What did God's prophet Samuel tell King Saul of Israel to do to Amalek? (b) What did King Saul actually do? (c) Who else had dealings with the Amalekites, and when finally was Jehovah's word toward them fulfilled?

Moses reminded Israel that they were not to forget how Amalek defied God by assaulting his people

1. What grave incident was Israel called upon to remember?

2. Who were the Amalekites, and so why was there little wonder that they hated the people of Israel?



of armies has said, 'I must call to account what Amalek did to Israel when he set himself against him in the way while he was coming up out of Egypt. Now go, and you must strike down Amalek and devote him to destruction with all that he has, and you must not have compassion upon him, and you must put them to death, man as well as woman, child as well as suckling, bull as well as sheep, camel as well as ass.' " (1 Sam. 15:2, 3) Jehovah did not forget!

⁴ King Saul struck the Amalekites down "from Havilah as far as Shur." However, Saul overstepped Jehovah's orders and he spared King Agag. The account says that "Saul and the people had compassion upon Agag." Nevertheless, God was not to be mocked, for "Samuel went hacking Agag to pieces before Jehovah in Gilgal." (1 Sam. 15:2-33) But this was not the complete wiping out of the Amalekites. During King David's time raids were made against the Amalekites. It was not until centuries later, during the reign of Hezekiah, that "some of the sons of Simeon" struck down the remnant of the Amalekites. (1 Chron. 4:42, 43) Finally in the fifth century B.C.E. Haman the Agagite and his family were wiped out because of attempting the extermination of the Jew Mordecai and his people. In this way the command, "You must not forget" what the Amalekites did to the sons and daughters of Jacob, came to complete fulfillment.

LISTEN

⁵ That Bible account is only one instance pointing up this important matter of not forgetting what God has said. There were many more important things that the children of Israel were not to for-

5. (a) Was it only the command regarding the Amalekites that the Israelites were not to forget? (b) Can anyone today neglect the commands of Jehovah and still have his blessing?

get, especially that they were Jehovah's nation, his inheritance. (Ps. 33:12) Eventually they forgot and the entire nation of Israel was cast off from God's favor. In view of what happened to the Israelites centuries ago, is it not more important for people today not to forget the judicial decisions and teachings of God if they want to "inherit the earth"? (Matt. 5:5) Moses said: "Listen to the regulations and the judicial decisions that I am teaching you to do, in order that you may live and may indeed go in and take possession of the land that Jehovah the God of your forefathers is giving you. You must not add to the word that I am commanding you, neither must you take away from it, so as to keep the commandments of Jehovah your God that I am commanding you." (Deut. 4:1, 2) No one, neither you nor the clergy of Christendom, has any right to tamper with the Word of God, to reject portions of it, or add to it, thinking that one has greater wisdom and knowledge than the Author of the Bible himself. If the Israelites wanted to live as individuals and as a nation, it was necessary for them to keep the commandments of Jehovah their God. Christians today are no different. When God speaks, Christians should listen! Most people, though, would like to forget God, ignore his sayings and teachings and live according to their own desires.

⁶ Regardless of what men think, the great God of the universe is still very much interested in his creation. In fact, 'God loved humankind so much that he gave his only-begotten Son to save them (not destroy them) and to have them enjoy everlasting life.' (John 3:16) When God's Son Jesus Christ came to the earth, he studied the Holy Scriptures. He quoted

6. How do we know that Jehovah is very much interested in humankind?

scriptures to prove his teachings. As to his speaking he said: "I do not speak of my own originality." (John 14:10) He read, believed and spoke from God's Word. Jehovah tried to impress this very thing upon the Israelites long before he sent his Son into the world. But not all of them listened. That is why God said: "Only watch out for yourself and take good care of your soul, that you may not forget the things that your eyes have seen and that they may not depart from your heart all the days of your life; and you must make them known to your sons and to your grandsons."—Deut. 4:9.

⁷ If one is going to take good care of his soul it means he is going to take good care of his life. Your soul is you. None of us should forget the things our eyes have seen, and we should listen to the things Jehovah says in his written Word. By doing so we take good care of our lives. Our hearing and not forgetting, and never letting God's sayings depart from our hearts all the days of our lives, makes it possible for us to help our sons and grandsons. They, too, need to know what God said and did. What had God done? This: Israel had become a numerous people. After Joseph's death they became slaves in Egypt. By Jehovah's power he liberated them from Pharaoh's oppression. However, before freedom came, God's plagues fell, one after another, upon Egypt. Then, before the tenth plague came, Moses told all the children of Israel to prepare for their deliverance and their march out of Egypt. To gain this God-given freedom did not require much preparation on the part of the Israelites, but it did require faith. Each Israelite family was to kill a lamb, take its blood and sprinkle it on the doorposts and lintels of its home and then roast the lamb and

stay inside the home and eat it. These instructions would not be difficult to follow, would they? For this act of faith, just doing what Jehovah said they should do, the angel of Jehovah passed over the children of Israel, but God's angel brought death to all of the Egyptian firstborn, both of man and of beast. What a night of wailing and howling that was for the Egyptians! But what a night of rejoicing in the homes of the Israelites! They all were alive and soon began their trek to and through the Red Sea, following Moses, who led them out of the land of Egypt and on toward the promised land. Do you think this event was worth remembering and making known to their sons and their grandsons for generation after generation?

⁸ About this day of liberation with all its excitement parents were to tell their children and their grandchildren for generations to come. 'Do not forget the things that your eyes have seen,' God said. About this great event they must tell year after year, on Passover day and at other times as well. Their release from slavery was not a myth. It was not just a story with which to entertain children. It was Jehovah's doing! It was a reality! It was true history! Men and women lived it and, in order for them to watch out for themselves and take good care of their souls, they must not forget to tell these truths to their sons and grandsons. How many historical Bible events do you repeat to your sons?

⁹ But how quickly people forget! Not long afterward, while in the wilderness of Paran, Moses sent twelve spies into the promised land to look things over. Ten spies returned frightened and they urged: Return to Egypt. There they could get

7. (a) How can one care for his life and the lives of his sons? (b) How did the Israelites take steps to preserve their lives while in Egypt?

8. How were sons and grandsons for generations to come to know about Jehovah's deliverance of Israel from Egypt, giving rise to what timely personal question?

9. Because Israel quickly forgot God's doings, what came to be the lot of the people soon after leaving Egypt?

garlic and watermelons again. (Num. 11:5) Two of the twelve spies, Joshua and Caleb, were pleased with what they had seen, and they advised the people: "Let us go up directly" into the land flowing with milk and honey. (Num. 13:27-30) The people, however, listened to the ten fearful spies, forgetting the wonderful deliverance God performed in their behalf in Egypt. For lack of faith they spent forty long years in the wilderness until that older generation died off. The children of the new generation, who had heard of the deliverance of their parents or grandparents, were now ready to move under Jehovah's direction into the land of promise.

¹⁰ While many of the families of Israel quickly forgot the salvation that Jehovah brought to them, God was not one to forget. "For Jehovah your God is a merciful God. He will not desert you or bring you to ruin or forget the covenant of your forefathers that he swore to them." (Deut. 4:31) Centuries before that Jehovah had said to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that he would give them this land and that through Abraham's seed all the families of the earth would be blessed. That new generation had faith, and Jehovah gave them numerous successes. But again God warned them not to forget.

¹¹ Jehovah God led Israel onward to the land that the Bible describes as being like the garden of Eden. They were going to have houses in which to live and that they had not built. They were going to be drinking fresh water from cisterns that they had not hewn out. They were going to eat grapes from vineyards and olives from trees that they had never planted. How would this prosperity and

luxury affect them? Would this new generation receiving all these things in the promised land forget Jehovah too? Would they become satisfied and forget God?

¹² Listen to the warning that Jehovah gave to the children of Israel: "And it must occur that when Jehovah your God will bring you into the land that he swore to your forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to give you, great and good-looking cities that you did not build, and houses full of all good things and that you did not fill, and cisterns hewn out that you did not hew out, vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant, and you shall have eaten and become satisfied, watch out for yourself that you may not forget Jehovah, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slaves." (Deut. 6:10-12) How many people are forgetful like that today? They become prosperous, have everything they want materially, but lose all their spirituality and interest in Jehovah their God!

MANKIND FORGETS

¹³ Jehovah knew mankind could forget. That is why he gave the warning. But how many heeded Jehovah's warnings? Many persons never think that it is Jehovah God who makes the sun to shine upon the good and the bad, that he makes it rain upon the just and the unjust; that God gave us the air we breathe, provided the vegetation we eat; that he made the land and the sea, the mountains and valleys with freshwater streams. These things were all here when you came to be upon the earth, but how often have you thanked the Creator for them? We have a great variety of food, of shelter in houses of stone, wood and other materials taken from the earth. We have clothing of cot-

10. In spite of Israel's forgetfulness, how did Jehovah deal with them, and why?

11. What blessings were going to be showered on Israel because of God's promise, and what problems would this present?

12. How did Jehovah warn Israel about the dangers of the land of promise and its good things?

13. What do many persons even now forget about God's provisions?

ton, wool and silk. There is no end to the things Jehovah supplies. He gave it all to mankind. Have you eaten and become satisfied too? Then watch out for yourselves that you may not forget Jehovah.

¹⁴ Someone may say, 'Well, we may forget momentarily,' but is that the primary meaning of "forget"? According to Webster's *Dictionary* the first meaning of "forget" is: "To lose the remembrance of; to let go from the memory; to be unable to think of or recall; . . . to lose the power or use of; to cease from doing." This is the meaning of "forget" used in the scriptures cited, that is, completely letting go out of mind or memory the things that were so clearly established there previously.

¹⁵ How many people do you think have forgotten God today, are unable to remember him, who he is, what he has done? How many people do you think really worship the great God of the universe, the Giver of every good and perfect present? How many people do you think really believe that God loved mankind so much that he sent his only-begotten Son into the world that man might gain life everlasting? Do you think that the majority of Christendom's population have forgotten God and his laws and what he has instructed Christians to do? Have you yourself forgotten?

¹⁶ Of course, there is a second meaning to the word "forget," namely, "To omit or disregard unintentionally; to neglect," to fail to take, bring, speak of or notice. This kind of forgetting we find happening at home every day. The wife may ask her husband, 'When you come home from work tonight would you please bring a loaf of bread with you?' He forgets. He does not do this intentionally, because

14, 15. Give the primary meaning of the word "forget," and outline the questions that arise concerning the forgetfulness of people today.

16. (a) Give another, less serious, meaning for the word "forget." (b) What is the relation between the quoted *New York Times* article and forgetfulness?

when he gets home he either has to go to the store for it or do without bread at the evening meal. Little things in life like this we forget to do sometimes, but we can correct them and do. But what have you done about true religion? Is it in your case very much like what appeared on the front page of the *New York Times* Sunday paper for September 15, 1968? The four-column headline read: "Public Apathy Creating Crisis in Church of England." The report was written by a Mr. Edward B. Fiske and the article started this way: "LONDON—The church is like a pub. You go into a town, and it's there, and maybe you go in and maybe you don't. Personally, I don't. The speaker was James Cavanaugh." A little farther along in the article Mr. Fiske said: "Church attendance has dropped to the point where only eight out of every 100 baptized persons worship on Easter." Would you say that 92 percent of the people of that land have forgotten God? How about the rest of Christendom? Are their religious centers crowded? You know the answer is No, and it is because the people have forgotten God! They have let go from their memories the things they have known about God, if they ever heard or read about Him during their lives. In fact, many have been taught that God is dead, and almost all others have been taught that what is written in the Holy Scriptures, the Bible, is but a myth. They have no incentive or help from the clergy or from their elders to remember. So they forget God.

¹⁷ Religion, some form of worship, is something that everyone in the world is involved in in one way or another. The natural tendency of man is to worship something. People whom we call "he-

17. (a) To whom or what has the worship of many turned? (b) What questions need answering in view of man's perverted worship?

then" or "pagan" have gods that they worship. Some people worship money, movie stars, politicians, rulers, even themselves. It may be an image or something illusive, nirvana, for instance. But let us take a second look at Christendom, while we are on the subject, and seriously ask: What has Christendom's religion done for mankind? Has it made the nations and its people better morally, spiritually? Has it made them peaceful? Do they love one another more now than fifty years ago or five hundred years ago? Has Christendom brought "glory . . . to God, and upon earth peace among men of good will"? (Luke 2:14) Why not? Because mankind

and its religious priests and clergy have forgotten God, discarded his Word and rejected Jehovah's kingdom by his Son Christ Jesus. Jesus said it plainly: "This people honors me with their lips, yet their heart is far removed from me. It is in vain that they keep worshiping me, because they teach commands of men as doctrines." (Matt. 15:8, 9) The false religions are not teaching you God's Word but they are teaching you their own doctrine. Listen to God, for he is saying to you now: "Get out of her, my people, if you do not want to share with her in her sins." (Rev. 18:4) Christendom and the whole world empire of false religion are doomed!

"DO NOT FORGET ALL HIS DOINGS"

TURN to the Word of God and be like faithful King David, a true worshiper of Jehovah God. He said: "Bless Jehovah, O my soul, and do not forget all his doings." (Ps. 103:2) David, a man after God's own heart, did not want to forget anything that Jehovah had done for him. What were some of the things Jehovah did for him? He said Jehovah was the one "who is forgiving all your error, who is healing all your maladies, who is reclaiming your life from the very pit, who is crowning you with loving-kindness and mercies, who is satisfying your lifetime with what is good." (Ps. 103:3-5) David fully appreciated that "with error I was brought forth with birth pains, and in sin my mother conceived me." (Ps. 51:5) He

knew he made mistakes, but he went to God in prayer and asked for forgiveness. He had full confidence that Jehovah would forgive him, because he turned from the wrong course and took the right one. David would not forget the one who was forgiving all his error.

² David could not forget the God who is healing all of man's maladies. Man is truly marvelously and wonderfully made. David recognized this. He appreciated that he could see, hear, speak, feel and smell. He wanted to use these faculties wisely. He was concerned with the healthy condition of his heart and kidneys. (Ps. 26:2; 7:9) When he got ill David would know that this condition was inherited along with

1. Psalm 103:3-5 tells us what about Jehovah God's mercy?

2, 3. (a) While we may get advice on how to care for our health, how is it that our illnesses are healed? (b) What blessings with regard to health do we look forward to, and how was this confirmed by Jesus?

the sin of Adam. But how is recovery effected? We say: "Take care of yourself." David would do likewise in sickness, very likely go to bed, keep warm, drink some helpful fruit juices. Maybe he received some good advice from doctors of his time. Now what advice do most doctors give to those who have maladies today? "Go to bed." "Rest more." "Take a vacation." "Get more exercise." "Breathe more deeply." But what does the healing? Why this wonderful body of ours. Jehovah God made it so that it restores itself. The body does the healing. (Ps. 30:2; 103:5) If David did not forget, then we should not forget the one "who is healing all your maladies." What a grand day it will be when even death will have no hold on mankind. For when the new heavens and new earth are fully established, God's Word says, "he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be any more. The former things have passed away."—Rev. 21:4.

³ Neither could David forget the one "who is reclaiming your life from the very pit." David knew that the life-span of man was seventy years and, because of special mightiness, maybe eighty. (Ps. 90:10) Then death would come and one's soul would go down into the pit. However, David, like Job, had faith in the resurrection of the dead, for Job believed God would set a time limit and remember him. (Job 14:13) Jesus Christ confirmed this hope and said: "Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out." (John 5:28, 29) David with such faith could not forget God, who would reclaim him from the pit. Could you?

⁴ Nor could David forget the God "who

4. In what ways was David an example of a person not forgetting Jehovah's doings?

is crowning you with loving-kindness and mercies." David had an interesting life. He was a good shepherd boy who took care of his father's sheep. When a lad he was anointed to be king of Israel by the prophet Samuel. He stayed humble and never tried to usurp the throne of King Saul. David knew that God had anointed Saul, and even though David was persecuted by Saul he waited upon Jehovah to make a change. The kingdom of Israel grew under King David's reign and Jehovah allowed him to plan and gather material together for the building of the great temple of his son Solomon. David had his moments of sorrow and regret. He made mistakes, but he trusted in the loving-kindness and mercy of Jehovah his God. Is your life crowned with God's loving-kindness and mercies too? Do you, like David, "not forget all his doings"?

⁵ We can be sure of it—Jehovah God will not forget! Even though we might forget, he will not do so. To help ourselves not to forget we must review, keep reading, keep listening to God's Holy Word. This is so essential to right living! All Christians who have come to an accurate knowledge of the truth and have dedicated their lives to the doing of God's will and who have been baptized in water must continue to study the Bible. In time, having studied his written judicial decisions, they will be able to discern between right and wrong. The Bible clearly states the right principles and the right way for man to go. But even Christians who have served him well for many years can forget God if they stop studying God's Word. Some persons deliberately want to forget God, and this is marked in their conscience as with a branding iron.—1 Tim. 4:2.

5. How has Jehovah provided help for mankind so that those who love him will not forget?

⁶ The writer of the fiftieth psalm says: "But to the wicked one God will have to say: 'What right do you have to enumerate my regulations, and that you may bear my covenant in your mouth? Why, you—you have hated discipline, and you keep throwing my words behind you. Whenever you saw a thief, you were even pleased with him; and your sharing was with adulterers.'" (Ps. 50:16-18) Many people claim to be Christian, but do they have any right to represent Jehovah God? If they are in the new covenant with God, why do they hate God's discipline and throw God's words behind them? Millions upon millions of people and their hypocritical clergy in Christendom's religious organizations today have actually thrown the words of God behind them. They have shown they are through with God's Word but still call themselves Christians. They know, as well as anyone else, that one should not steal, that married people should not commit adultery nor single ones engage in fornication. But, they are well described by the words of the psalmist, 'When they see a thief they are pleased with him.' In their hearts they would like to be able to get away with such stealing themselves. Have you noticed that all false religious organizations wink at persons who are sharing with adulterers? These are not reprimanded or disfellowshiped from their religious organization. They continue to be "good" members in fine standing in the church organizations of Christendom. How many times have you read in your newspapers about a person's third, fourth and fifth marriage while their former mates are still living? For such persons marriage becomes legalized adultery. In many Catholic-controlled countries people can-

not get divorces on any grounds and so the adulterers just live with their mistresses and continue in good standing in their immoral religious systems. They certainly have thrown God's Word behind them. No wonder the world empire of false religion is called "Babylon the Great, the mother of the harlots and of the disgusting things of the earth." (Rev. 17:5) Do you want to belong to such a religious system?

⁷ The psalmist goes on to say to forgetters of God: "Your mouth you have let loose to what is bad, and your tongue you keep attached to deception." (Ps. 50:19) Lying is common. Most people look upon lying as something that does not do any harm. Here is where the breakdown in morals begins. The immorality of the religious, political and commercial system of things is appalling. Good morals are practically nil. The majority of the people in Christendom today, and probably the majority of people in other religious persuasions, think that God does not see what is going on and is not interested anyway. Jehovah expresses himself through his written Word, and someday he will speak very forcefully by actions. Jehovah goes on to say in this fiftieth psalm: "You imagined that I would positively become like you. I am going to reprove you, and I will set things in order before your eyes. Understand this, please, you forgetters of God, that I may not tear you to pieces without there being any deliverer."—Ps. 50:21, 22.

⁸ You can say that "there is no God," if you wish, and that "God is dead." The evolutionist says, "I proved there is no God," but that will not change matters. Jehovah speaks boldly through his Word to the immoral ones and all "forgetters of God," and warns that he will tear them

6. How does Psalm 50:16-18 have application in our day, and why have Christendom's religions been of no help to the people?

7, 8. What do forgetters of God overlook regarding God's view of immorality and immoral persons?

to pieces. Despite all their howling when the war of Armageddon in the great day of God the Almighty strikes, there will be no deliverer. Then Jehovah will surely set things in order for the blessing of those who love righteousness.

OFFERING THANKSGIVING

⁹ Maybe you are one of those who really love God and who are practicing his sayings and have not forgotten God's Word. To such the psalmist says: "The one offering thanksgiving as his sacrifice is the one that glorifies me; and as for the one keeping a set way, I will cause him to see salvation by God." (Ps. 50:23) Are you keeping a set way, along with thousands of persons who are offering thanksgiving to Jehovah daily? Keep on glorifying Jehovah by preaching from house to house and encouraging people who love righteousness to study his Word. "Keeping a set way," the righteous way, will cause an even greater crowd of people to sing God's praises day and night and to see salvation.

¹⁰ The best way to keep from forgetting God is to keep thinking about him. Get acquainted with what he wants done and then do it. Jehovah says through the psalmist: "Do give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ear to the sayings of my mouth." (Ps. 78:1) Is there any value in doing this? Are there benefits? Is there something to be gained? Is it rewarding to incline your ears and to listen to what God has to say and then do it? It certainly is! Not only will you personally profit by inclining your ears to the sayings of Jehovah's mouth, but another good purpose is this: "In order that the gen-



Do you help your children to remember what God has done?

eration to come, the sons that were to be born, might know them, that they might rise up and relate them to their sons, and that they might set their confidence in God himself and not forget the practices of God but observe his own commandments."—Ps. 78:6, 7.

¹¹ How many people in Christendom today really want their children to "set their confidence in God himself"? Before you can instill such confidence in your children, you must learn about Jehovah and "not forget the practices of God." How can your children know anything about God unless you yourself observe God's commandments and teach them to your children?

¹² Humankind is the creation of Jehovah God. He knows better how we should conduct our lives and live them than anyone else does. Educators and scientists think they know better how to teach and conduct the lives of children. Parents who believe the Word of God and observe God's commandments, however, are the ones that have the responsibility. It cannot be given to the State. The Israelites were instructed to teach their children the things

9. How does the psalmist describe one who does not forget God?

10, 11. Of what benefit to others can a person be if he does not forget God?

12. Whose responsibility is it to teach children God's commandments, and why?

that they saw and heard and to inculcate in the minds of their children the principles of truth and righteousness. The State is not doing this, and every year fewer people teach their children what the Bible counsels. Every person who professes to be a true Christian should say: "With your orders I will concern myself, and I will look to your paths. For your statutes I shall show a fondness. I shall not forget your word." (Ps. 119:15, 16) How pointed and direct this advice! Have you concerned yourself as to what Jehovah's statutes are? Do you want to know the orders of God and his regulations for proper living? Even in the normal processes of life most people recognize order and law and get acquainted with the rules of the land, but far more important are the laws that Jehovah has had written. These pertain to our living, and our children's living, forever. We must show a fondness for His statutes, and we must not forget his Word, the Holy Bible. Teach them to your children.

¹³ Jehovah's witnesses are very much interested in what Jehovah God has to say. They study the Bible in five meetings each week. That does not mean that they will remember every scripture and be able to quote the whole Bible verse by verse, but by reading the Bible regularly they will get the overall picture of what Jehovah's way of life is for mankind, what his principles of truth and righteousness are; and they appreciate the way that they should conduct their lives in relationship to others, their children and neighbors, and especially in relationship to God.

¹⁴ It is very important for Christians to know what Jehovah's will is, because each one has to make the decision as to whether

he is going to take the right course or the wrong course. Jehovah does not force one to do something. Really one's life, or whatever life one will have in the future, is dependent on one's own course of action. Hence one dare not forget the law of God. One must know right from wrong. Through speaking the truth one feels confident that Jehovah will find pleasure in the voluntary offerings of one's mouth. At all times one must be very much interested in having Jehovah God teach one his own judicial decisions, that is, Jehovah's judicial decisions. A person does not want to be the judge as to what is right and what is wrong. God makes the judicial decisions. We must get in line with them for our own welfare. It pays to do what is right. A Christian wants Jehovah God to state what is the right way, the correct course to take. The Christian must make the decision. No one else can, because the Christian knows that he personally is responsible to God, the Giver of life.

¹⁵ In the garden of Eden Adam and Eve had their lives at stake. Jehovah said to the man: "From every tree of the garden you may eat to satisfaction. But as for the tree of the knowledge of good and bad you must not eat from it, for in the day you eat from it you will positively die." (Gen. 2:16, 17) God was not making it difficult for the first man that he created and put in the paradise of Eden to keep on living. Of all of the trees in the garden—and there may have been thousands of them—he could freely eat, but there was just one he should not eat from, at least for the present. After God created Adam he created a helpmate, Eve. He saw that it was not good for the man to continue by himself. When Adam saw Eve after she was created from his rib, Adam ex-

13. How do Jehovah's witnesses show they are interested in what Jehovah has to say?

14. Why is it important to know what Jehovah's will is for man?

15. How was it that Adam and Eve followed a course of rebellion in Eden?

claimed: "This is at last bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. This one will be called Woman, because from man this one was taken." (Gen. 2:23) Adam informed Eve of what God had told him directly about not eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and bad. But one day Satan by the form of the serpent began to say to the woman: "Is it really so that God said you must not eat from every tree of the garden?" At this the woman said to the serpent: 'Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat. But as for eating of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, God has said, "You must not eat from it, no, you must not touch it that you do not die.'" At this the serpent said to the woman: 'You positively will not die. For God knows that in the very day of your eating from it your eyes are bound to be opened and you are bound to be like God, knowing good and bad.'"—Gen. 3:1-5.

LIFE DEPENDENT UPON DECISION

¹⁶ We know what happened in the garden of Eden. The record is in the third chapter of the book of Genesis. Eve ate of the fruit of the tree because she wanted to be the one who would decide what was good and what was bad. She wanted to be like God, making judicial decisions, deciding what is good and bad. She chose to act contrary to Jehovah's already established statute. She did not want to listen to Jehovah's law, and God did not step in and stop her from taking and eating the fruit of that tree, because when Jehovah created Adam and Eve he created them both as free moral agents. Their lives depended on their own decisions. They could do with their lives as they pleased and reap whatever they sowed. Jehovah gave them sound counsel, good advice on how

to carry on their lives in harmony with His will, but he did not force them to do his will. They could go contrary to it if they chose to do so. He did tell them not to eat of one particular tree; but if they wanted to be disobedient to his law, then, as he told Adam, they would be choosing death.

¹⁷ So it was up to Adam and Eve to make the vital decision. As free moral agents, they did with their lives as they pleased. They brought death upon themselves as well as upon the entire human family.—Rom. 5:12.

¹⁸ But that act on Adam's part did not change man's freedom to make decisions for himself. As far as every person on earth is concerned, each one is still a free moral agent and may still do with his life what he pleases to do. He can find out what God's law is and live by it, or he can live contrary to it. It is surely much wiser for an individual to listen to and follow the Word of the all-wise God and to live by it, than to go contrary to it. Why not be like the psalmist who said: "I shall not forget your word."

¹⁹ Adam and Eve both quickly forgot God's law in the garden of Eden after Satan began talking. They brushed aside God's command to "not eat" and they ate of the forbidden fruit. Will you do the same with God's laws today? You are just as free to make your decisions as Adam and Eve were in the garden of Eden. The question is: Will you make your decisions without consulting God's law? Millions of people do. For the result, look at the immorality world wide. Maybe you say: "You can't blame them." But these people still support Christendom, which no longer teaches God's law on adultery, fornication

18. Because all men are free moral agents, what choice also lies before them?

19. How does Christendom justify wrong conduct, but what has God provided for man to help him walk uprightly?

16, 17. What course of action did Adam and Eve choose when it came to listening to God's command, and with what result?

and homosexuality, and has no objection to loose conduct. Christendom may try to justify itself by saying: "These laws of God are not applicable today." That is just what Satan said to Eve. So people today have thrown the Ten Commandments and all the other laws of God behind them. They want freedom, they want to go places, but no signposts. Whether they like it or not the signposts are up! God's laws stand and are there to help mankind. Will you follow the laws and live by them? You can if you wish. Your life is at stake.

²⁰ Earthly governments make laws so that there might be some order among the people. But look what happens when the schoolchildren rebel, the parents rebel, the labor people rebel, and the nationalities rebel. All the unrest in the world today shouts out: "We do not like the law." What will this worldwide disorder of things come to? It will come to the situation that the Bible calls Armageddon. (Rev. 16:16) That is why true Christians today who pay attention to God's law and do not forget it can rejoice. By what they see they know these are the "last days" of this wicked system of things. So, having read the Holy Scriptures, they say to fellow Christians: "But as these things start to occur, raise yourselves erect and lift your heads up, because your deliverance is getting near." (Luke 21:28) They know there must and will be a change in world affairs, and they have been praying to God: "Let your kingdom come. Let your will take place, as in heaven, also upon earth." They believe that prayer, and that is why Jehovah's witnesses keep on preaching that the kingdom of the heavens is at hand. Listen and do not forget.

²¹ While you still have your life at stake

20. (a) What is happening to today's world, leading to what? (b) Therefore, how will the Christian's course be different?

21. How can the advice of Proverbs 3:1, 2 be helpful to a Christian now and in the future?

take the advice of Proverbs 3:1, 2: "My son, my law do not forget, and my commandments may your heart observe, because length of days and years of life and peace will be added to you." If Adam had listened to the law of God and lived by it, his life would have continued to this very day. In fact, he would be nearly six thousand years old, according to Bible chronology. When God's Kingdom rule is established without a rival and the resurrection of the dead takes place and the one-thousand-year reign ends, will the life of each man still depend on his individual decision? Yes, at the end of the millennial reign of Christ Jesus man's life or soul will still be at stake, because Revelation 20:7-10 shows that Satan will be loosed out of his prison and he will go out to mislead the nations. So each individual can either go with Satan the Devil or follow God's laws. Everlasting life will come by one's being obedient to God's laws for directing mankind at the end of the thousand years. Those who choose Satan's side will die with the Devil when he is cast into the lake of fire, the second death. So if one wants to 'lengthen his days and have years of life and peace added to him,' then it is better for him to listen and do what God says. Jehovah is the Giver of life, and he knows how to extend your life. If you put your trust in Jehovah and believe him and you do not forget his laws, "length of days and years of life" will be yours.

²² Listen to the wise man: "Acquire wisdom, acquire understanding. Do not forget, and do not turn aside from the sayings of my mouth." (Prov. 4:5) Sometimes people think that after spending a few years reading the Bible they know everything God has to say. But that is not

22. (a) Why was God's Word written, and therefore what is our responsibility? (b) Of what personal benefit can God's Word be to us?

true. The older we get the more knowledge we acquire and the more wisdom we gain. So we have better understanding. God wrote his Word, the Bible, for a very definite purpose, "for our instruction." (Rom. 15:4) Therefore, we should keep on reading it and truly studying it. With more knowledge true Christians can appreciate the principles of truth and righteousness. A Christian having instruction can endure and face the difficulties, persecutions and hardships while walking in his integrity. God's Word strengthens him to be a publisher of the Kingdom, maybe a missionary or a pioneer, or circuit servant or dis-

trict servant somewhere in Jehovah's visible organization. God is not unmindful of what faithful Christians are doing. Paul appreciated this and so he wrote: "For God is not unrighteous so as to forget your work and the love you showed for his name, in that you have ministered to the holy ones and continue ministering. But we desire each one of you to show the same industriousness so as to have the full assurance of the hope down to the end, in order that you may not become sluggish, but be imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."—Heb. 6:10-12.

Lovers of GOD'S NAME

JEHOVAH appreciates the great love Christians show for his name.

"God is not unrighteous so as to forget your work," and true Christians are happy to be called Jehovah's Christian witnesses, declaring his name in 200 lands, even to the ends of the earth. The service year of 1968 proves they are not sluggish but truly industrious, because 1,221,504 publishers spent 208,666,762 hours preaching the good news of God's established kingdom. How many members of Christendom's denominations go from house to house as do Jehovah's witnesses, to aid people in their private study of the Bible? Very, very few! But Jehovah's Christian witnesses conducted 977,503 home Bible studies every week for twelve months during 1968. What a joy this has been for

these ministers! They are imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises, showing their faith by their works. Look at Abraham, look at Isaac and Jacob. Consider Moses, David, Gideon. These men worked industriously at God's work, and God has remembered them and we find a good report about them in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews.

² If those ancient men had such faith and "did not get the fulfillment of the promises," Christians today should show a greater faith. (Heb. 11:13) Why? Because we are at the threshold of what those faithful men of ancient time were looking for. We can recognize the physical facts marking the end of this system of

1. To what extent have Jehovah's witnesses shared the good news from God's Word with others during the past year?

2. (a) Why should twentieth-century Christians show even greater faith than did the faithful men of ancient times? (b) How can true Christians follow the advice of Luke 21:28?

things. Read Luke the twenty-first chapter. Look! Check history since 1914! There were two world wars, distress of nations, the pestilences, famines and earthquakes. All these things Jesus foretold would happen and a lot more; and when these things are seen by Christians, Jesus said, "raise yourselves erect and lift your heads up, because your deliverance is getting near." (Luke 21:28)

A person with head lifted up, standing erect, is a person looking ahead. He is not sluggish. He appreciates it is time to be on the move and that there is still something more to do. Christians today are not downhearted because of the terrible things occurring in the earth. This all proves God's Word is true! Flee—Be on the move! There is work to do, namely, the preaching of the good news of God's kingdom everywhere, discipling as many people as Jehovah's witnesses can from all nations and baptizing them. These new disciples will be quite anxious to make a public declaration to Jehovah's name, too, and use their lips to praise his name. They, along with all true Christians, will do just as Paul says: "Through him let us always offer to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips which make public declaration to his name. Moreover, do not forget the doing of good and the sharing of things with others, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."—Heb. 13:15, 16.

³ Christians have to be talkers and teachers. They have the truth. They may not be silent! They may "not forget the doing of good and the sharing of things with others," the things that they have learned from God's Word. Jehovah's witnesses have something wonderful to share. They have the life-giving good news of God's kingdom to share, and when they do this "God is well pleased." Are you do-

ing that? If you are a Christian, you should be sharing with others the things you know. If you are not a Christian, would you like to be one? If yes, then get better acquainted with the Word of God and Jehovah's witnesses. Meet with them at their Kingdom Hall. Jehovah's Christian witnesses will certainly be happy to help you.

⁴ Millions of people are studying with Jehovah's witnesses. Why not you? James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, made a very fine observation about people. He said: "Know this, my beloved brothers. Every man must be swift about hearing, slow about speaking, slow about wrath; for man's wrath does not work out God's righteousness."—Jas. 1:19, 20.

⁵ The world is full of wrath today, arguments no end, and faultfinding. But there are not many persons listening to the Word of God. In fact, most people who do listen to the Word of God and who take it seriously and who try to live by its teachings are considered a little bit "off" in the head. The general feeling of most people is, 'Get everything out of life you can. Do not get serious. Just keep eating, drinking, being merry, for tomorrow you may die.' James, a man of God, says there is more to life than that. He writes: "Become doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves with false reasoning. For if anyone is a hearer of the word, and not a doer, this one is like a man looking at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself, and off he goes and immediately forgets what sort of man he is. But he who peers into the perfect law that belongs to freedom and who persists in it, this man, because he has become, not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, will be happy in his doing it."—Jas. 1:22-25.

3, 4. Why are Jehovah's witnesses not silent about their beliefs, and what invitation is extended to others?

5. Contrast the view of many in the world today with the counsel of the disciple James.

**PEERING INTO THE MIRROR
OF GOD'S WORD**

* How many times have you looked into a mirror? Quite often during the day? A check is made to see that the hair is combed just right, teeth are sparkling, clothes are attractive and well arranged. But after this a person turns away from the mirror and forgets what he looks like.

That is the way it is with most people who are just hearers of the Word of God and not doers. James is trying to impress upon the minds of those reading his letter that to be a Christian the man must peer into the perfect law that belongs to freedom and persist in it. If he does that, then what will he see?

* Have you ever peered into the Word of God so as to see yourself? Have you seen how bad you look when your mirror is the Holy Scriptures? Are there some changes you think you should make? If the apostle Paul looked at you in the Bible mirror, would he say: "Put away the old personality which conforms to your former course of conduct and which is being corrupted according to his deceptive desires; but . . . be made new in the force actuating your mind, and . . . put on the new personality which was created according to God's will in true righteousness and loyalty"? (Eph. 4:22-24) Looking into the mirror of the Word of God, you will see what



When you look into a mirror, what do you see?



When you look into the Word of God, what do you see?

kind of personality you have, whether it conforms to God's righteous ways or not. Do you see a thief, an adulterer, a fornicator, a glutton, a drunkard? Just what do you see?

* The apostle Paul saw many kinds of people in the various congregations. He knew what some of them were before the truth changed them, and that is why he said: "What! Do you not know that unrighteous persons will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be misled. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men kept for unnatural purposes, nor men who lie with men, nor thieves, nor greedy persons, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit God's kingdom. And yet that is what some of you were."

The people here described saw what they were like sometime earlier in their lives. When they looked into God's mirror, they knew a change had to take place. What they saw with their honest hearts they did not like. They did something about it, and, because they did, Paul said: "But you have been washed clean, but you have been sanctified, but you have been declared righteous in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the spirit of our God." (1 Cor. 6:9-11) They certainly had had a filthy personali-

ty. They turned to the Word of God and saw themselves for what they really were. They accepted Christ Jesus as their Redeemer and were washed clean and sanctified by the Word of God. They studied God's Word and really peered into it. They saw themselves as they never did before.

6. Why is a forgetful hearer of God's Word like a person looking into a mirror?

7. What question might we ask of ourselves after looking into the mirror of God's Word?

8. Who did the apostle Paul say would not inherit God's kingdom, and so what is necessary if one has been a practitioner of such things?

A change was necessary. As a result they "put on the new personality which was created according to God's will in true righteousness and loyalty."—Eph. 4:24.

⁹ Have you really peered into the Word of God so as to see your real self, not the outside veneer? Remember, your life is still at stake and you can change it from a bad course to a good one. As you peer into the Word of God you will see that there is another way to live, the right way, the way that is in harmony with God's laws and commandments and statutes. Why not let that new force in God's Word actuate your mind? That new force comes from study, from really peering into the Word of God. Then, while looking, why not let God's Word be the force actuating your mind? If you do, you will "put on the new personality which was created according to God's will in true righteousness and loyalty." This new personality will become more interesting as the old personality disappears, the one that used to conform itself to your former course of conduct. God knows how he wants you to live, and if you persist in peering into his perfect law you can change; something will happen.

¹⁰ Do you want to make that change? If you want it to happen, if you want to change, then persist in the study of God's Word, the real mirror that will reflect your true image. Eventually you will see a new personality created and it will be according to the will of God in true righteousness. It will take time, but if you will be, "not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, [you] will be happy" in your doing it.

¹¹ The apostle Paul was a real fighter. He was willing to put on a new personality

and did. In God's Word he saw something wonderful that he could possess and he worked hard to get it. He believed what Jesus said: "I am going my way to prepare a place for you. Also, if I go my way and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you home to myself, that where I am you also may be." (John 14:2, 3) Jesus through John informed his faithful followers that there would be a heavenly place for 144,000 called ones and they would be joined with him as his bride, and that they would rule as kings and priests with him for a thousand years.

¹² Paul ran for this high calling, but to do so he had to put on a new personality. It had to be according to God's will, and so he had to keep on peering into God's Word. He was not just a hearer but a doer of the word of God. He said: "Brothers, I do not yet consider myself as having laid hold on it; but there is one thing about it: Forgetting the things behind and stretching forward to the things ahead, I am pursuing down toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God by means of Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3: 13, 14) Paul was seeking everlasting life, a crown of glory; and he knew that just as long as he had his life at stake, he had to control that life of his so as to be in full harmony with the will of God. While he did not then have this everlasting life with Christ Jesus, there was one thing he was going to do: Forget the things that were behind, that old personality and the way he lived. He had had a bad personality. He said of himself that of all the sinners he was the worst. He persecuted Christians. He was standing nearby when Stephen the Christian was stoned to death, and he was proud of it at that time.

9, 10. Besides peering into the Word of God, what else should a person desiring God's approval do?

11. What blessing did Paul know would be his if he put on a new personality?

12. What things did Paul have to forget in order to get the prize for which he was working?

Paul had a lot to live down, a lot of forgetting of the things behind to do. But when he peered into the perfect Word of God, he saw himself as he really was. He repented. He changed his course of action. He became a Christian, worthy of our study. If he could make the change in his personality and become a Christian, why cannot we?

¹³ According to the Scriptures there are only 144,000 who are invited to this "upward call," to be associated with Christ Jesus in heavenly glory. But the Bible shows that there is a "great crowd" of people today who will survive the battle of Armageddon into the new order of things wherein mankind will receive life everlasting in perfection, and under Christ Jesus' direction man will be able to bring this earth to a paradise condition. So this "great crowd" is not stretching forward to the "upward call" but is stretching forward to a prize offered to them, eternal life here upon the earth. Are you reaching out for a prize, heavenly or earthly? If you are, then you should show a fondness for God's Word and let this new force actuate your mind. You should feel like the psalmist: "For your statutes I shall show a fondness. I shall not forget your word." True Christians today are just that way. They love God's Word, peer into it and see the day of salvation that Jehovah has in store for those who love him. They want to tell it to all mankind, and they do. This is how they did it in 1968.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES HAD A BUSY YEAR

¹⁴ Jehovah's witnesses did not "forget the doing of good and the sharing of things with others, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." (Heb. 13:16) During the 1968 service year they were

very busy in 200 lands, preaching the good news of God's kingdom, and comforting millions of people in this chaotic world. Happily 1,221,504 witnesses of Jehovah spent 208,666,762 hours preaching God's Word and teaching people who were hungry for truth. Not only have Jehovah's witnesses gone from house to house preaching, as Jesus commanded, but they have spent millions of hours in private homes of people studying their Bibles with them. The false religious organizations of Christendom have been discouraging the study of the Bible. The clergy are responsible for weakening the faith of people in the teachings of the Bible. On the other hand Jehovah's witnesses are doing everything within their power, and with Jehovah's blessing, to rekindle the faith of men in God and his Kingdom arrangement for them under the King, Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ In the house-to-house ministry during 1968 Jehovah's witnesses have found tens of thousands of persons interested in the Bible. Therefore it was necessary for them to make 89,903,578 return visits on such interested persons. Are the clergy of Christendom making such calls? During the past year Jehovah's witnesses averaged 977,503 home Bible studies. These were conducted weekly with interested persons in 165 languages, and the Watch Tower Society also prints Bible-study helps in that many different tongues.

¹⁶ So great has been the interest in learning and doing God's will that many of these new students have joined with Jehovah's witnesses in their ministerial activity. They want to proclaim the "good news" too. During the past year there were, on the average, 1,155,826 different individuals who regularly each month

13. Toward what blessing are the "other sheep" pressing forward, and so what must they not forget?

14, 15. What shows that Jehovah's witnesses did not forget the doing of good during 1968?

16. (a) What new peak in Kingdom proclaimers was reached in 1968? (b) Give some statistics on literature placements.

1968 SERVICE YEAR REPORT OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES WORLD WIDE

Country	1967 Av. Pubs.	1968 Av. Pubs.	% Inc. over 1967	Peak Pubs. 1968	Av. Plo. Pubs.	No. Public Meet'gs	No. of Cong's	Total Literature	Total Hours	New Subs.	Individual Magazines	Back-Calls	Ay. Bible Studies
U.S. of America	311,378	323,688	4	333,672	18,287	255,773	5,341	9,024,124	57,231,373	1,149,316	64,895,528	26,150,424	277,582
Bermuda	90	94	4	104	3	93	1	2,943	12,887	380	19,049	5,595	84
Guam	36	37	3	43	3	25	1	1,389	7,025	216	8,784	2,733	30
Palau		2	New	2	2	3		495	2,360	51	1,111	993	11
Ponape	11	23	109	25	3	55		444	6,899	8	1,499	3,224	44
Saipan	4	4	4	4	2	5		180	3,992	6	1,519	1,492	15
Truk	7	8	14	9	2	4		268	4,302	6	685	2,146	41
Alaska	576	604	5	637	46	575	13	12,917	112,896	2,020	104,911	52,809	509
Argentina	12,637	14,087	11	14,803	903	9,239	302	234,440	2,843,944	21,815	2,484,727	1,348,417	14,755
Australa	17,317	18,305	6	18,913	1,324	16,724	428	392,772	3,979,725	29,887	3,386,290	1,624,002	15,770
Austria	7,908	8,176	3	8,667	331	6,398	170	153,499	1,332,564	5,327	1,552,399	685,715	5,804
Bahamas	306	326	7	351	21	263	7	12,573	59,375	2,099	76,546	28,623	335
Barbados	734	735		767	24	695	14	11,372	99,776	858	72,686	40,016	561
Bequia	20	26	30	29	4	51	1	344	8,192	16	4,031	3,715	40
Carriacou	24	23	-4*	24	3	31	1	368	7,195	19	2,539	3,144	43
Grenada	165	158	-1*	167	11	94	5	2,310	29,911	204	16,939	12,387	161
St. Lucia	96	105	9	114	20	121	3	3,481	37,251	281	27,236	17,640	214
St. Vincent	82	96	17	102	12	113	2	1,941	29,596	181	14,221	12,735	174
Belgium	9,267	10,162	10	10,911	432	7,031	180	171,802	1,751,483	18,599	1,865,068	853,413	6,974
Bolivia	649	714	10	798	151	1,034	23	40,082	308,427	1,775	207,834	110,996	1,307
Brazil	41,548	46,957	13	50,930	2,007	36,281	920	593,768	7,696,867	54,631	5,158,859	2,977,163	39,627
British Honduras	349	342	-2*	353	31	388	10	7,917	79,144	536	68,174	30,904	386
British Isles	50,154	52,805	5	54,620	3,881	38,311	875	1,085,007	10,239,737	48,632	10,093,561	5,200,748	47,314
Malta	23	32	39	38	4	37	1	509	8,979	19	1,154	3,711	48
Burma	275	341	24	372	68	778	13	5,049	139,228	974	73,541	56,534	532
Cameroun	8,182	9,585	17	10,091	602	6,768	237	65,663	2,439,790	2,599	204,211	1,047,795	11,038
Fernando Po	139	187	35	279	20	129	5	872	65,619	97	7,590	28,512	318
Gabon	96	136	42	172	11	160	2	8,023	45,304	152	15,490	16,461	232
Rio Muni	6	19	217	30	1	49	62	5,818	7	242	1,458	39	6,268
Tchad	15	25	67	37	7	49	1	1,118	14,730	69	4,404	6,268	83
Canada	40,237	41,458	3	42,864	2,221	32,219	832	666,165	7,197,030	65,288	6,304,653	3,198,017	28,096
Central Afr. Rep.	833	895	7	1,002	69	1,391	27	6,616	235,423	193	12,702	95,594	1,194
Ceylon	257	265	3	290	55	319	8	10,797	104,126	2,007	88,161	38,647	395
Chile	4,247	5,086	20	5,805	319	3,193	103	227,833	1,034,871	8,140	953,405	430,093	6,092
Colombia	4,218	4,626	10	4,861	470	4,371	114	104,146	1,209,314	4,837	718,438	523,500	6,352
Congo (Brazzaville)	1,068	1,136	6	1,201	70	1,162	26	10,267	287,526	309	25,153	113,612	1,276
Congo (Kinshasa)	5,600	7,351	31	8,794	393	7,909	114	70,049	1,859,383	1,727	281,767	665,265	8,756
Costa Rica	2,684	2,770	3	2,965	138	1,554	82	38,286	477,123	703	187,641	175,334	2,634
Cyprus	431	440	2	479	18	214	12	4,937	66,542	275	21,995	30,784	267
Dahomey	1,281	1,411	10	1,451	200	2,526	47	14,896	469,237	398	39,539	155,912	1,642
Denmark	10,385	10,730	3	11,344	511	8,959	214	64,492	1,591,810	6,535	2,129,225	772,214	6,724
Faroe Islands	22	26	18	31	9	57	1	759	13,258	62	19,278	5,271	52
Greenland	13	17	31	24	4	37	1	1,265	4,290	13	4,284	2,938	19
Dominican Republic	2,453	2,715	11	2,961	320	2,441	51	65,841	797,970	5,153	554,643	364,101	4,925
Ecuador	1,625	1,880	16	2,076	236	1,859	41	50,657	576,662	3,477	411,392	263,556	2,989
El Salvador	1,022	1,121	10	1,207	92	1,338	22	24,790	267,306	1,433	196,677	104,983	1,560
Fiji	277	311	12	321	37	274	7	17,003	92,307	1,019	77,179	33,570	460
American Samoa	31	34	10	36	3	51	1	2,248	11,015	279	12,427	5,189	47
Gilbert & Ellice Isl.	7	5	-29*	7	6	17		502		28	157	3	117
New Caledonia	106	108	2	118	5	42	1	4,957	17,841	7,437			
New Hebrides	10	9	-10*	11	4	1		47	840	7	280	589	11
Niue	14	13	-7*	17	12	1		70	1,313		628	325	12
Tahiti	112	123	10	134	7	27	1	7,688	31,202	481	29,785	14,194	174
Tonga	10	14	40	18	1	20		970	3,555	28	516	889	16
Western Samoa	69	77	12	83	8	26	1	1,434	22,667	426	15,571	8,735	118

Finland	9,094	9,562	5	10,079	507	7,978	306	113,837	1,462,740	17,149	1,678,473	762,866	6,094
France	24,430	26,614	9	28,367	918	19,523	517	471,689	4,626,691	64,582	4,682,638	2,537,059	23,063
Algeria	54	61	13	74	10	79	3	5,533	26,663	866	21,870	12,729	99
Tunisia	32	33	3	38	4	50	1	1,019	8,938	148	4,653	4,736	43
Germany, West	76,793	78,771	3	81,180	3,117	44,297	1,053	1,257,773	12,339,149	38,694	12,935,465	5,843,235	45,837
West Berlin	5,196	5,273	1	5,358	149	1,898	44	94,326	771,913	2,001	835,960	431,587	2,937
Ghana	9,321	10,385	11	11,144	656	7,013	273	173,819	2,408,759	4,410	504,049	962,982	11,224
Ivory Coast	180	220	22	250	30	219	6	16,135	78,878	506	49,900	37,327	521
Upper Volta			1	New	2			24	118	11	32	50	1
Greece	10,940	11,293	3	11,730	213	1,912	371	38,367	1,319,253	50	47,875	837,306	5,430
Guadeloupe	741	935	26	1,018	59	624	14	21,261	181,654	1,597	157,474	90,150	1,003
French Guiana	73	82	12	93	4	84	1	2,454	15,670	349	16,781	8,585	132
Martinique	242	297	23	351	24	225	4	11,869	69,467	1,391	71,448	31,472	476
Guatemala	1,463	1,571	7	1,638	147	1,728	36	38,912	389,697	1,834	268,462	138,709	2,044
Guyana	973	1,039	7	1,119	108	1,001	28	26,042	249,104	1,462	164,725	101,652	1,192
Haiti	1,162	1,388	19	1,604	143	1,485	31	19,845	413,763	218	77,090	181,548	2,752
Hawaii	2,370	2,608	10	2,728	329	1,953	38	87,553	719,967	10,078	646,681	336,829	3,596
Marshall Islands	13	30	131	33	5	27	1	632	11,585	2	1,502	4,450	83
Honduras	868	943	9	1,013	111	1,079	18	25,984	284,824	1,731	200,654	109,043	1,515
Hong Kong	245	218	-11*	228	36	365	7	10,425	80,566	2,238	95,282	31,399	395
Macao	6	8	33	8	3	5	169	4,472	637	2,792	1,613	28	
Iceland	.104	122	17	129	22	199	3	4,499	43,659	597	45,063	18,518	153
India	2,137	2,337	9	2,468	250	1,811	70	52,615	602,842	5,364	237,479	210,341	2,287
Indonesia	1,458	1,570	8	1,757	440	2,734	67	371,299	823,689	1,661	56,098	300,396	3,282
Ireland	762	773	1	805	154	938	19	24,459	297,964	947	188,596	106,801	681
Israel	114	153	34	161	17	88	4	22,489	42,408	306	19,970	16,820	178
Italy	10,800	12,266	14	12,886	560	10,438	315	543,149	2,279,333	30,327	2,444,418	1,206,695	12,043
Libya	36	36	39			11	1	198	3,190	179	1,488	24	
Somalia		1	New	1				32	100	35	27	1	
Jamaica	4,853	4,908	1	5,219	169	4,233	155	58,509	681,591	3,268	500,011	279,080	3,935
Cayman Islands	10	10	12	1	14	1	101	1,345	9	1,029	749	5	
Japan	4,647	5,472	18	6,023	1,006	8,082	177	371,545	2,102,600	58,101	2,631,926	913,124	10,325
Kenya	340	450	32	499	55	706	10	36,752	150,684	1,492	67,429	62,879	726
Burundi	14	11	-21*	13	2	34		414	3,985	16	266	1,042	31
Ethiopia	222	275	24	313	5	71	4	1,909	65,546	305	2,236	35,724	509
Seychelles	3	3	4		6		67	839	447	774	13		
Sudan	35	32	-9*	39	3	1	507	7,806	10	869	2,563	36	
Tanzania	859	986	15	1,039	99	1,511	30	19,895	297,629	548	14,194	94,860	1,112
Uganda	43	59	37	64	13	105	2	7,011	26,310	322	15,854	13,745	138
Korea	6,239	7,403	19	8,281	924	8,691	214	157,526	2,146,782	20,258	1,290,724	850,311	10,878
Lebanon	901	972	8	1,025	64	965	22	59,743	219,797	32	381	92,937	1,108
Abu Dhabi		1	New	1				5		3		3	
Iran	13	14	8	19	3	22	1	833	3,739	168	3,279	2,051	36
Iraq	2	3	50	5	2	34	10	233			110	2	
Jordan	53	19	-64*	21	2	46	1	635	2,894	5	82	1,550	17
Kuwait	4	4		6		5		3	239	1	3	199	4
Saudi Arabia	2	2		3				24	434		35	115	3
Syria	117	122	4	214	3	23	5	315	20,929			9,214	107
Leewards (Antigua)	106	104	-2*	112	15	148	3	5,833	28,811	461	21,277	11,020	125
Anguilla	13	13		14	2	59	1	156	4,230	21	2,425	2,153	22
Dominica	154	159	3	166	17	205	7	2,489	35,437	113	14,096	13,041	128
Montserrat	21	26	24	30	4	102	2	1,434	8,908	101	5,489	3,658	48
Nevis	35	30	-14*	37	1	64	2	123	4,784	15	1,796	1,768	22
Saba	1	1		1				4	26		4	9	1
St. Eustatius	2	2		3		3		24	169	6	40	160	2
St. Kitts	92	86	-7*	94	9	169	4	2,109	22,067	158	13,509	10,703	124
St. Martin	35	37	6	41	5	48	2	864	11,821	106	6,856	5,551	68
Liberia	419	459	10	497	65	724	11	28,080	175,010	934	71,356	64,733	827
Luxembourg	414	451	9	477	32	309	13	12,439	92,727	796	98,679	42,716	373
Malagasy Republic	235	285	26	327	64	280	9	23,311	131,119	2,426	122,385	56,768	610

Country	1967 Av. Pubs.	1968 Av. Pubs.	% Inc. over 1967	Peak Pubs. 1968	Av. Plo. Pubs.	No. Public Meet'gs	No. of Cong's	Total Literature	Total Hours	New Subs.	Individual Magazines	Back-Calls	Av. Bible Studies
Mauritius	146	158	8	164	22	201	4	5,404	49,939	278	37,172	18,855	316
Réunion	258	312	21	350	23	210	6	7,523	75,623	801	34,498	31,295	354
Rodrigues	5	9	80	11	3	27		381	4,951	18	829	1,809	27
Mexico	31,829	35,201	11	38,563	2,526	28,339	1,146	572,431	6,608,216	36,548	3,995,693	2,222,640	32,845
Morocco	95	115	21	133	19	150	4	5,128	41,353	1,121	39,885	17,971	167
Gibraltar	34	32	-6*	34	1	23	1	550	4,469	51	3,472	2,460	42
Netherlands	14,222	15,549	9	16,528	754	10,910	223	153,029	2,457,841	13,314	2,175,740	1,096,598	8,736
Neth. Ant. (Curaçao)	249	273	10	287	16	220	4	7,859	55,139	1,581	54,896	27,285	299
Aruba	141	146	4	159	4	161	4	2,216	21,784	617	23,262	11,099	110
Bonaire	21	20	-5*	25	1	31	1	160	3,663	45	2,623	2,196	19
Newfoundland	636	714	12	765	73	1,031	32	19,770	182,171	2,246	189,081	77,467	579
New Zealand	4,497	4,719	5	4,950	259	4,050	104	66,989	831,749	6,220	871,682	389,972	3,539
Nicaragua	839	965	15	1,022	95	573	18	19,238	249,143	853	191,818	131,209	1,376
Nigeria	42,090	41,238	-2*	47,488	3,515	32,194	895	375,185	10,398,906	10,421	698,332	3,417,270	43,247
Niger	17	15	-12*	20	6	27	1	423	13,401	20	1,790	4,648	54
Norway	4,090	4,404	8	4,625	192	2,892	142	111,538	648,993	5,262	772,502	306,358	2,718
Okinawa	259	288	11	318	50	293	9	24,214	108,660	2,166	146,095	42,126	533
Pakistan	135	135		142	21	152	3	5,742	43,384	1,465	34,419	17,624	177
Afghanistan	5	5		5	1	41	1	66	1,058	18	598	547	3
Panama	1,405	1,487	6	1,582	156	1,695	44	33,460	389,436	1,813	303,607	163,808	2,027
Papua	364	387	6	448	22	214	15	4,837	74,185	82	22,755	27,326	547
Manus Island	9	12	33	13	2	15	1	127	1,776		587	908	19
New Britain	83	82	-1*	92	8	167	2	2,330	23,520	10	8,414	9,848	109
New Guinea	267	265	-1*	285	30	301	8	3,295	76,445	17	10,389	31,008	394
New Ireland		8	New	11	3	41		369	5,216	4	1,614	2,445	32
Solomon Islands	362	415	15	443	36	953	11	970	109,530		52,979	558	
Paraguay	553	573	4	619	65	446	18	9,875	150,197	1,177	128,785	63,906	589
Peru	2,651	2,946	11	3,100	314	3,675	69	141,559	866,907	7,246	773,665	322,118	4,158
Philippines	36,286	39,733	9	42,239	4,016	28,876	1,237	285,994	8,887,641	29,038	3,748,362	2,520,358	30,824
Portugal	3,442	4,323	26	4,726	188	3,301	77	90,058	837,545	5	26,035	387,834	5,715
Angola	105	126	20	137	1	17	3	735	23,749		143	20,765	262
Azores	82	84	2	93	5	49	2	915	13,931	2	741	6,833	87
Cape Verde Is.	2	3	50	3				90	388		78	50	2
Madeira	37	42	14	48	3	16	1	1,555	7,767		683	3,812	50
Puerto Rico	3,749	4,289	14	4,555	241	3,754	79	206,934	860,899	25,857	1,109,031	363,320	5,461
Tortola	19	22	16	31	1	31	1	422	2,582	41	3,304	875	19
Virgin Islands (U.S.)	154	173	12	187	6	211	6	8,498	27,021	1,101	41,436	12,729	207
Rhodesia	9,384	9,645	3	10,090	587	11,950	333	96,950	2,050,335	3,637	268,065	701,661	8,681
Malawi	17,398	13,568	-22*	18,549	669	3,893	400	15,619	2,013,811	441	23,931	698,295	6,368
Mozambique	1,419	1,565	10	2,093	52	815	24	3,114	320,953	108	3,702	127,245	1,261
Senegal	109	123	13	139	26	134	2	8,376	53,639	954	50,184	25,691	266
Gambia	8	8	5	10	4	55	1	1,889	7,458	87	5,614	4,785	38
Mali	5	5		6	2	7		457	2,889	44	2,284	978	14
Mauritania	2	1	-50*	1				5	11		9	4	
Sierra Leone	526	592	13	674	131	1,278	24	25,334	265,608	1,933	118,443	102,682	1,305
Guinea	61	70	15	107	19	127	3	1,939	38,246	47	6,499	14,657	161
Singapore	179	183	2	189	17	120	4	5,801	42,249	1,802	53,556	16,626	236
Malaysia	135	134	-1*	138	23	117	5	45,252	47,439	377	3,879	17,178	250
South Africa	17,813	18,284	3	19,528	1,075	16,926	443	361,793	3,635,394	21,576	1,597,154	1,262,622	16,422
Ascension Island	1	1		1	1	1		76	211	1	319	111	2
Botswana	163	179	10	227	23	251	7	4,924	57,190	94	6,249	16,665	253
Lesotho	231	255	10	285	22	219	10	3,555	64,963	63	5,015	21,499	274
St. Helena	33	30	-9*	32	1	44	1	94	4,073	16	4,182	1,573	24
South-West Africa	145	150	3	163	13	140	5	6,427	35,166	480	36,942	12,390	173
Swaziland	550	580	5	639	39	923	11	6,101	143,589	302	30,875	48,704	681
Spain	5,072	6,252	23	6,686	472	10,354	92	180,418	1,573,155	66	900,131	826,927	10,078
Andorra	8	11	38	13	1	8		227	1,588		641	790	14
Canary Islands	167	194	16	202	16	163	3	5,891	47,454		26,937	27,387	307
Surinam	441	464	5	511	54	369	8	9,754	119,763	1,094	92,676	44,880	494

	1967	1968
	MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE MEMORIAL PARTAKERS WORLD WIDE	MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE MEMORIAL PARTAKERS WORLD WIDE
Sweden	9,999	10,248
Switzerland	6,219	6,497
Liechtenstein	5	4
Taiwan	1,004	1,059
Thailand	288	309
Cambodia	1	1
Laos	18	18
Vietnam	26	24
Togo	607	846
Trinidad	1,844	1,974
Tobago	55	55
Uruguay	2,303	2,462
Falkland Islands	2	2
Venezuela	4,492	5,067
Zambia	31,937	37,338
Countries	980,435	1,028,890
All Other Countries	113,845	116,936
GRAND TOTAL (200)	1,094,280	1,155,826
	5.6	5.6
	1,221,504	1,221,504
	63,871	899,658
	25,409	21,674,179
	208,666,762	1,974,923
	157,511,892	157,511,892
	89,903,578	977,503

*Percentage of decrease
†Work banned and reports are incomplete

spent some time in the preaching and teaching of God's Word to others. But, in view of the fact that others started preaching God's Word with them, now we find 1,221,504 individuals who either are Jehovah's witnesses or are their associates and who have an active part in declaring the good news of God's kingdom world wide. By the time the 1968 service year came to a close these hard-working ministers had placed 8,702,594 Bibles and bound books explaining the Bible in the hands of the reading public the world around, and 12,971,585 booklets were also distributed. Added to that, 157,511,892 copies of *The Watchtower* in 72 languages and of the *Awake!* in 26 languages were distributed world wide. That certainly means much helpful reading material was placed in the homes of millions of people. People everywhere want to know what the Bible teaches. That is the reason for the tremendous distribution of Bible-study helps by Jehovah's witnesses. It is evident, too, that many persons desired to have a regular flow of Bible truth coming into their homes weekly. That is why 1,974,923 new subscriptions for the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines were obtained. This is an increase of more than 160,000 new subscriptions over the previous year's total. Many people, indeed, want to know what the Bible's message is. Do you?

¹⁷ It is evident from the report that tens of thousands have found the Word of God to be true and accurate, and with all diligence they want to tell others about God's truth. What a joy it has been to see 82,842 persons with whom Bible studies have been conducted in 1968 go on to dedicate their lives to Jehovah and be baptized in water in public symbol of their dedication to the doing of God's will henceforth! These 82,842 newly baptized individuals are not joining a religious organization just to be members, as many of them were when they went to "church" in Christendom. Their days of going to "church" once a week to be a hearer and not a doer of God's work are gone forever. These newly baptized persons have heard the call, "Get out of her, my people," and they have gotten

17. How many persons were baptized in 1968, and how do Paul's words at 1 Corinthians 9:16 apply to these also?

out of false religion, 82,842 of them, and have now become ministers of God, and they feel like the apostle Paul, who said: "Really, woe is me if I did not declare the good news!" (1 Cor. 9:16) These newly ordained ministers have associated with the more than one million others of Jehovah's witnesses around the world, and together they find great joy in preaching to others and teaching them to know the Bible.

¹⁸ Interesting, too, is the fact that 2,493,519 assembled at the Lord's evening meal, Friday evening, April 12, 1968, to keep in memory the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. They all knew that the death of Jesus Christ was the means of their salvation because Jesus paid the full ransom in behalf of dying mankind, and it meant redemption for the believing ones. It was observed that only 10,619 individuals partook of the Memorial emblems of wine and unleavened bread, indicating that they were of the anointed class, the remnant of the bride of Christ yet on earth. This number of partakers continues to get smaller and smaller each year.

¹⁹ Jehovah's witnesses have great confidence to show there was worldwide interest in the celebration of the Lord's evening meal.
 18. Give evidence to show there was worldwide interest in the celebration of the Lord's evening meal.
 19. What confidence do Jehovah's witnesses have about many who are associating with them, and what words of Jesus will ring in their ears during 1969 as they continue declaring the Kingdom good news?

fidence that many among the nearly two and one-half million people who associated with them at the Memorial of Christ's death, and are studying with them in God's Word the Bible, will soon share with them in declaring the good news of God's kingdom. Jehovah's witnesses have not forgotten their responsibilities, and they want to help others see theirs. They believe Jesus

when he said, "Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations." (Matt. 28:19) They have made 1968 their busiest year of service in behalf of Jehovah's name and Word. Everyone who has dedicated his life to the doing of Jehovah's will wants to be, not a forgetful hearer, but rather "a doer of the work," and wants to be happy in doing it. (Jas. 1:25) Jehovah's witnesses are; and as they look around and see the troubles, distress of nations and perplexity rampant in the earth, and the work they still have to do, they are glad for Jesus' words: "Raise yourselves erect and lift your heads up, because your deliverance is getting near." (Luke 21:28) So, on with the work of declaring the "good news" far and wide!

Zeal Distinguished Early Christians

- In the book *20 Centuries of Christianity* the writers comment on the early Christians and Rome's attitude toward them: "If Rome was willing to make an exception in the case of the Jews why was it not willing likewise to exempt Christians from spilling incense on the altars of the divine emperors? The Christians raised the problem of tolerance in a form more exasperating than the Jews ever had. The Jews were a sort of closed corporation and did no active proselytizing. The Christians on the other hand were ceaseless proselyters. They were avowedly out to make Christians of the entire population." Jehovah's Christian witnesses today, too, put forth earnest effort to help all honest-hearted ones to learn and practice the principles of true Christian worship.

Buy Out the Time During Wicked Days

Why should Christians value time highly?

Time is considered so valuable that some say "time is money." It is precious, valuable, a prized commodity. Without time nothing can be enjoyed, nothing can be accomplished. Time is also valuable because, under present conditions, man's life-span is limited to seventy or eighty years. That is why youths are counseled to remember their Creator. (Eccl. 12:1) Especially is the time of this generation, in which the good news of God's kingdom has to be preached first, limited. As the apostle Paul expressed it: "Brothers, the time left is reduced." Today it is even more reduced. Satan the Devil knows that his time is reduced. That is why he is so furiously active.—1 Cor. 7:29; Rev. 12:12.

What counsel do we therefore do well to heed?

"Keep strict watch that how you walk is not as unwise but as wise persons, buying out the opportune time for yourselves, because the days are wicked." If this was true of Paul's day, how much more is it true of these critical "last days" when wicked men and impostors advance from bad to worse!—Eph. 5:15, 16; 2 Tim. 3:1, 13.*

In what ways can Jehovah's witnesses use their time wisely?

By avoiding unprofitable pursuits. They can use their time wisely by performing all their necessary activities, such as providing the necessities of life, in a way that will please Jehovah. In particular can they use their time wisely by preparing for and attending the meetings of their Christian congregation and by sharing in the various features of the field ministry. In this regard a schedule of Christian activity is most useful and will serve as a protection. A very busy schedule will keep them occupied in the work of the Lord and thus protect them against getting into trouble. —1 Cor. 15:58.

Does the proper use of time allow for rest and recreation?

Yes, rest and recreation are necessary for keeping balanced and healthy. But the kind of recreation we choose and the time we devote

to it should be balanced with our Christian obligations. While we would like to spend much time enjoying the beauties of God's creation and other forms of recreation, in view of the urgency of our times these should be balanced with our worship. When a ship is sinking, one's thoughts are not on recreation but on survival. So today, for Christians time for recreation must be limited in the interest of helping people flee to safety.

How can we use our time even more wisely?

Those who are Christian ministers can use their time even more wisely by improving their effectiveness in the ministry. They should not be 'beating the air.' (1 Cor. 9:26) As they become more acquainted with the Scriptures and more skilled in presenting the truth to others they will become more fruitful and so make better use of their time. After all, they do not engage in the field ministry just to report hours, but to do good, to help people see God's truth and thereby get on the road that leads to eternal life.

What if you have failed to use your time wisely in the past?

First of all, do not waste still more time by brooding on past mistakes. Why let such worries rob you of peace of mind and contentment? Rather, call to mind that Jehovah is truly a merciful and loving God and that he will freely forgive you if you sincerely repent, even as he shows at Isaiah 1:18, 19. So from now on turn over a new leaf and make good use of your time. As we read at Proverbs 28:13: "He that is covering over his transgressions will not succeed, but he that is confessing and leaving them will be shown mercy." We cannot change the past, but we can do something about the present and the future with Jehovah's help. We can heed the apostolic advice to buy out the time during wicked days.

What should be the outlook of dedicated Christian ministers?

They should always look forward to improving their worship, their Christian ministry; if not by devoting more time to it, at least by improving the quality of it. Each one

* For details see *The Watchtower*, May 1, 1968.

Christ, did not Peter have strong reason to recognize him as such?

But someone might ask how a baby could carry the title "Christ," because it means "Anointed One" and there is no record that Jesus as a baby was anointed by God. Actually the title was not given to him at that time. It comes from the Greek word *Khristos*, which means "Anointed One." Messiah means the same thing. In view of this meaning, Jesus could not bear the title "Christ" until he was anointed by Jehovah's spirit at the time of his baptism in 29 C.E.

But why did the angel at the time of Jesus' birth speak of him as Christ if he did not become such until thirty years later? The announcement apparently meant that Jesus was the one who was to become Christ the Lord.

FURTHER EVIDENCE

When speaking with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's fountain, Jesus, for the first time, admitted that he was the Christ, the Anointed One of God. Usually he let people conclude this for themselves from the evidence they could see.

The woman knew from the prophecies that the Messiah, called Christ, was foretold to come. So she said: "I know that Messiah is coming, who is called Christ. Whenever that one arrives, he will declare all things to us openly." Then Jesus replied: "I who am speaking to you am he." (John 4:25, 26) His admission was confirmed by prophecies that he fulfilled.

As such prophecies foretold regarding the Messiah, Jesus was born in Bethlehem of a virgin. (Mic. 5:2; Isa. 7:14) He was of the tribe of Judah and the family line of King David, the son of Jesse. (Gen. 49:10; Isa. 11:10) He was betrayed for thirty pieces of silver. (Zech. 11:12) To the house of Israel he became a stone of stumbling. (Isa. 8:14, 15) He was pierced,

died a sacrificial death to carry away our sins and was buried with the rich. (Isa. 53:5, 8, 9, 11, 12) These are only a few of the many prophecies about the Messiah that were fulfilled by Jesus.

HOW THE TITLE WAS USED

The apostle Paul was a Bible writer who placed the title "Christ" ahead of the name "Jesus." In older manuscripts Luke uses it, once, in Acts 24:24 (NW; RS), when speaking about Paul. This focused attention primarily on the office and secondarily on the office holder. The title "Christ" emphasizes the official position Jesus holds as the Anointed One of Jehovah God, an honored position not shared by those of his followers who also were anointed by God's spirit.

Unlike religious leaders of Christendom who like a series of titles before their name, Jesus never had titles multiplied before his. The Bible never uses a combination of titles such as Lord Christ Jesus or the King Christ Jesus. When more than one title is used they are separated, as in "Lord Jesus Christ" and "Christ Jesus our Savior." It may appear to some that 2 Timothy 1:10 is an exception to this, because it reads: "our Savior, Christ Jesus." But in the Greek text the titles "Savior" and "Christ" are separated by the pronoun meaning "of us."

The overwhelming evidence in the Bible proving that Jesus was the promised Messiah, the Christ, supports Peter's confession of him as such. Furthermore, Peter was an eyewitness of what Jesus did and said and of what happened to him in fulfillment of the prophecies. So he said: "No, it was not by following artfully contrived false stories that we acquainted you with the power and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, but it was by having become eyewitnesses of his magnificence."

—2 Pet. 1:16.

Do You Remember?

Have you read the recent issues of *The Watchtower* carefully? If so, you should recognize these important points.

- How was the existence of Pontius Pilate confirmed by archaeology?

An inscription was discovered that contained his name and that of Tiberius.—P. 564.*

- How did the faithfulness of the prophet Daniel's three companions in regard to the matter of refusing to eat certain foods forbidden by God's law prove beneficial?

It strengthened them to face the greater test that came up when they were commanded to bow before the image on the plain of Dura.—Pp. 571, 572.

- What good habits will help a Christian to prevent fear from unbalancing him?

Regular study of God's Word, privately and with fellow Christians, and constant prayer to Jehovah.—Pp. 590, 591.

- How did Jesus teach his disciples humility?

By his own example of humility, washing their feet.—P. 595.

- To whom did God give the sabbath law?

To the nation of Israel.—P. 603.

- If Christians are not under the sabbath law, then why did Jesus observe the sabbath?

He was born into the nation to whom the sabbath law was given and was therefore required to keep it, as were all other Jews.—P. 604.

- What did the reign of King Solomon with its peace and plenty foreshadow?

The rule of all mankind under God's kingdom by Jesus Christ.—P. 625.

- For what two reasons did Jehovah decree the extermination of the Canaanites?

Because of their extreme wickedness, and because God had promised the land to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.—P. 635.

- What will help one to overcome the tendency to be quick to anger?

Considering and following the example set by Jehovah God himself; also applying the direct counsel given in God's Word on the subject.—P. 644.

- Why did the early Christians attack false religion?

To turn people from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God.—Pp. 652, 653.

- What weapon is used by true Christians against false religion?

God's Word of truth, the Holy Bible.—P. 654.

- Why should Christians seek to improve their vocabulary?

Because it will add life and color and great satisfaction to their work of gently teaching others.—P. 717.

- Is it the responsibility of just the congregation servant to counsel others to avoid their getting into difficulties?

No. Galatians 6:1 indicates that those having spiritual qualifications should do so, and this includes more than the congregation servant.—P. 719.

- When Jesus said that one cannot enter the Kingdom unless he is "born from water and spirit," what did he mean by the "water"?

The water is literal just as is the "holy spirit, and so refers to water baptism.—P. 734.

- What is evidently indicated by the "signs in sun and moon and stars" mentioned at Luke 21:25?

Heavenly phenomena, such as sunspots, which disrupt shortwave radio broadcasting and magnetic areas and which also affect people to an abnormal extent. Cosmic rays bombard the earth, great quasars are being discovered and radio signals are being picked up from heavenly bodies. There is also fear that man will use the moon as a military base to control the earth.—Pp. 751, 752.

- How is Jesus' prophecy about "the roaring of the sea and its agitation, while men become faint out of fear," being fulfilled in our day (Luke 21:25, 26)?

Man's use of the sea for warfare is causing fear. The building of nuclear submarines armed with missile-shooting equipment capable of firing from underwater long-range missiles carrying atomic warheads strikes fear into the nations. Even surface ships are being so armed.—P. 752.

* All references are to *The Watchtower* of 1968.



● I know that the Bible says that a Christian wife should love and respect her husband. But my husband is a drunkard. How can a person love and respect a man who is like that?

—C. N., U.S.A.

Understandably, a Christian in this situation would be repelled by her husband's drunkenness. The Bible plainly shows that Jehovah disapproves of drunkenness. (1 Cor. 5:11; Gal. 5:21) It can lead to all sorts of additional wrongdoing. And God's Word urges us: "O you lovers of Jehovah, hate what is bad." (Ps. 97:10) However, that verse does not direct a wife to hate her husband. She may hate the badness and its results, yes, but not her husband. The Lord Jesus told his followers to love even their enemies. (Matt. 5:44) So while we can sympathize with a wife in this circumstance, knowing it to be unpleasant and difficult, surely she should strive to love her husband and to help him out of his badness.

As acknowledged in the question, God's Word directs wives to love and respect their husbands, saying, among other things: "Let wives be in subjection to their husbands as to the Lord . . . the wife should have deep respect for her husband." (Eph. 5:22, 33) The husband has a God-assigned place of responsibility in the family, whether he fully lives up to God's requirements or not. The wife should have respect for his position, even if she cannot approve of all he does.

As an illustration, we might note the Christian view of the governmental rulers, the superior authorities. These leaders have a right to a Christian woman's respect and relative subjection. (Titus 3:1; Rom. 13:7) This does not mean that she agrees with the moral code that some of them have adopted, nor can she approve of all their opinions and activities. In fact, daily she may see proof of corruption on their part, including bribery, favoritism and failure to enforce the law. Yet, as far as possible, she shows respect for the office they hold, since God directs her to do so. Similarly, a wife can work to increase respect for her

husband's office or position in the family.
—Titus 2:4, 5.

Before she married, she had respect for the man who is now her husband, and for his intended position as her mate and head. True, after she was married for a time, the Christian wife found out things about him that she did not know or expect prior to marriage. This is so in every marriage. She may have discovered ways and qualities that she did not like. But, if she looked for such, she probably also found new aspects of his personality and abilities that she could respect and love. Can the wife not now continue to develop love and respect for the things about her husband that initially kindled her love for him as well as those good things she discovered later? Are there things she personally can do that will emphasize or enhance his good qualities and minimize his undesirable ones? What can the wife do to make the home more appealing and enjoyable for him? These questions are worthy of serious thought. Remember, the effort she puts forth in developing respect for her husband will be a contribution to her own contentment.

Many times Christians have cultivated the admirable quality of endurance in order to further the Christian message and to aid others on the way to life. That is fine, is it not? The apostle Paul wrote: "Endure under tribulation. Persevere in prayer." (Rom. 12:12) But does the Christian woman in this circumstance view her family situation as an opportunity to show Christian endurance? Has she through prayer sought God's help in manifesting endurance?
—Isa. 50:10.

We realize that these suggestions might seem hard to apply, especially in the case of a Christian wife who has had her patience and love sorely tried over the years by her unbelieving husband. It may be very difficult for her to continue and to strive to improve. But we firmly believe that the perfect counsel provided by Jehovah in his Word is the best counsel that one can get. As David wrote: "The law of Jehovah is perfect, bringing back the soul. . . . The orders from Jehovah are upright, causing the heart to rejoice."—Ps. 19:7, 8.

In the early Corinthian congregation some Christian wives had unbelieving husbands. Undoubtedly those husbands did things that strained the love and respect of their wives. But what did the apostle Paul counsel? He

wrote: "How do you know but that you will save your husband?" Those words are in the same letter in which he wrote: "The head of a woman is the man." (1 Cor. 7:16; 11:3) So this constituted encouragement for those wives to love and respect their unchristian husbands, realizing that in time they might be able to aid those men to serve Jehovah. Such a thing might occur! Peter mentioned that unbelieving husbands may be won over by the "chaste conduct together with deep respect" of their wives.—1 Pet. 3:1, 2.

And this has proved true in our day. In one case a Christian wife in Massachusetts endured her husband's drunkenness and swearing for over twenty years. But her chaste conduct and her deep respect for his position as head of the

family had its effect. Finally, the husband saw that a change was necessary. He stopped drinking, smoking and swearing and joined his wife and grown children in attending meetings at the Kingdom Hall. Surely she was happy that she had endured. (Note also the remarkable experience from Iceland on pages 157 and 158 of the 1968 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses.)

Maybe that will in time be the joyful experience of other Christian wives. We hope so. But even if that seems improbable in certain cases, the wives can work to cultivate respect and love for their husbands, and thus show their appreciation for the marital arrangement and for their husbands' God-assigned office.

"You should put away the old personality which conforms to your former course of conduct and which is being corrupted according to his deceptive desires; but . . . you should be made new in the force actuating your mind, and should put on the new personality which was created according to God's will in true righteousness and loyalty."

—Eph. 4:22-24.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

world events they know that the end of this system of things rapidly approaches. Hence now they have an opportunity never to be afforded again. How, then, can one buy out time to do God's will? By taking advantage of Christian privileges at the expense of other things. Jehovah's witnesses do that by making time in their busy schedules to direct others to God's kingdom, that they might walk wisely in these wicked days. During January these Christian witnesses will be offering to interested persons this Bible magazine, which announces Jehovah's kingdom. A year's subscription for *The Watchtower*, along with three Bible booklets, will be offered for \$1.

"WATCHTOWER" STUDIES FOR THE WEEKS
January 19: "You Must Not Forget." Page 5.
 Songs to Be Used: 110, 107.
January 26: "Do Not Forget All His Doings." Page 10. Songs to Be Used: 50, 49.
February 2: Lovers of God's Name. Page 17.
 Songs to Be Used: 28, 8.

FIELD MINISTRY

Time really means life. And Christians value their lives. So they want to walk wisely, buying out the time for serving God during these wicked days. (Eph. 5:15, 16) By observing