The WATCHTOWER

Announcing JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

JANUARY 1, 1963
Semimonthly

HOW STRONG IS YOUR FAITH?

'FIGHT A FINE FIGHT FOR THE FAITH'

HAS GOD FORGOTTEN MAN?

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

82-74

THE PURPOSE OF "THE WATCHTOWER"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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HAS GOD FORGOTTEN MAN?

Do life's problems indicate that God has forgotten us? What solution does the Bible offer?

IN THE privacy of their modest home a serious-faced railroad man and his wife discussed life's problems with a visiting minister. They had experienced their share of sickness, worry and the struggle to make a living, but they were not complaining. Yet the man of the house did have a question that had often puzzled him: "How is it that a man who tries to live right has such a hard time, while bad people seem to have it good?" This situation made him wonder if God had forgotten. How would you explain it?

The minister had been asked that question before. In fact, people were asking just about the same thing in the days of the prophet Malachi. Here is what the prophet told his countrymen: "You have said, 'It is of no value to serve God. And what profit is there in that we have kept the obligation to him, and that we have walked dejectedly on account of Jehovah of armies? And at present we are pronouncing presumptuous people happy. Also, the doers of wickedness have been built up. Also, they have tested God out and keep getting away.'" (Mal. 3:14, 15) Even men who loved God and served him faithfully sometimes asked: "Has God forgotten to be favorable, or has he shut off his mercies in anger?"—Ps. 77:9.

Today lawbreakers still echo the insolence of the wicked men who boasted: "God has forgotten. He has concealed his face. He will certainly never see it." (Ps. 10:11) Yes, the railroad man asked a common question. Both good and bad people have imagined that God has forgotten man. In our day some arrive at that conclusion, not only because of personal problems, but due to the condition of the world in general.

For example, they reflect on the fact that in spite of many prayers for peace, our century has seen two world wars. They hear of prayer campaigns to convert atheist Russia, but the dangerous cold war continues. Compounding the risk is the ever-present threat of nuclear war. Even that problem may have stiff competition in a few years, according to Dr. Firuz Kazem-

zadeh, professor of history at Yale University, who says that overpopulation "in fifteen years will be as serious a problem as A-bombs."

Further aggravating man's fears and doubts is the rising number of serious crimes, the rapid growth of juvenile delinquency and persistent widespread hunger. These are some of the major worries that trouble people in Christendom, where the landscape is dotted with churches—but where the parishioners often wonder, Has God forgotten?

WHO HAS FORGOTTEN WHOM?

In all fairness we ask, Who has done the forgetting? Is it God's fault that the world is in its present shape? Is it not true that in the beginning God provided the heat and light of the sun for our comfort, convenience and life? Did he not create a marvelous water exchange system that brings rain for our crops and drinking water? And what about the very atmosphere in which we breathe? All these bounties we still enjoy. (Matt. 5:45) God also planted many kinds of delightful vegetation and he created animals to serve us and supply food. With divine laws to guide him, the first man started on a wonderful career as overseer of the earth. But then someone forgot. Was it God?

The sacred record shows that it was not God who forgot. No, it was not God who brought sin, suffering and death into the world. Jehovah had told the first human pair how to stay happy and alive, but they did not have enough love for him to obey. Man and woman deliberately ignored God's laws, and when they ignored his laws they ignored him. Violation of God's law brought the fixed penalty: death. Even then God did not forget man. He remembered that Adam's unborn children would need hope in their sinful, dying condition. He determined to vindicate his own name of the reproach brought upon it by the rebellious spirit son, Satan the Devil, who used the lowly serpent to deceive Eve. (Rev. 20:2) Jehovah God stepped in with a promise to send a deliverer and free mankind from the deathtrap.

As succeeding generations were born God reinforced his promise of deliverance by giving instruction and encouragement to such righteous men as Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. True to his word, God made a great nation out of their descendants. Through Moses he gave the nation of Israel many wonderful laws to guide them straight to Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah. The law would teach them just as a tutor instructs his pupil. (Gal. 3:24) Along with the law God gave many inspired prophecies to build up men's faith in the coming Messiah, Jesus. For instance, God foretold his birth in Bethlehem, his ministry in Galilee, the manner of his death and his marvelous resurrection. (Mic. 5:2; Isa. 9:1, 2; 53:1-12; Zech. 11:12; Ps. 22:1, 18; 16:10) All of this proved that God had not forgotten man, but could men speak as well for their memory?

Unfortunately, even the chosen nation, Israel, often forgot God. The Bible record at Jeremiah 3:21 states: "They have twisted their way; they have forgotten Jehovah their God." His counsel did not seem good to them, any more than it did to Adam and Eve. Jehovah used his prophet Hosea to tell them exactly why they would lose his favor: "My people will certainly be silenced, because there is no knowledge. Because the knowledge is what you yourself have rejected, I shall also reject you from serving as a priest to me; and because you keep forgetting the law of your God, I shall forget your sons, even I." (Hos. 4:6) When Jehovah finally withdrew his protection the northern kingdom of Israel fell, in 740 B.C., and in 607 B.C. those of Judah went

into seventy years' captivity in Babylon. Restoration followed, but not with the glory and prosperity once enjoyed in the reign of King Solomon. One hope remained: the coming Messiah whose appearance was foretold in Eden. The prophecy of Daniel 9:25 indicated that the Messiah would appear A.D. 29. Would God remember?

GOD'S LOVE FOR MANKIND

At the appointed time Jesus came into the world and began his important ministry at the age of thirty. Electrifying were his words and miracles! In three and a half years he died—then he was resurrected. Here was convincing proof of God's love for the world of mankind. (John 3:16) But that was nearly 2,000 years ago. What of all the concentrated woes that have hit the earth beginning with World War I? Has God forgotten to answer Jesus' prayer for God's kingdom to come and for his will to be done on earth and in heaven?

As the apostle Peter foretold, many imagine so. He wrote: "In the last days there will come ridiculers with their ridicule, proceeding according to their own desires and saying: 'Where is this promised presence of his? Why, from the day our forefathers fell asleep in death, all things are continuing exactly as from creation's beginning.' " (2 Pet. 3:3, 4) So they say, but are the scoffers right?

On the contrary! The fearful events of our time, and the ridiculers, are pointed fulfillments of Bible prophecies marking the heavenly establishment of God's kingdom under Christ the reigning king. That is the true meaning of the unprecedented world wars, great earthquakes, epidemics, food shortages, increased lawlessness and the anguish of nations with fear of the things coming upon the earth. (Matt. 24: 3-12; Luke 21:11, 25, 26) Jesus explained this when he said: "But as these things start to occur, raise yourselves erect and lift your heads up, because your deliverance is getting near." "With that he spoke an illustration to them: 'Note the fig tree and all the other trees: When they are already in the bud, by observing it you know for yourselves that now the summer is near. In this way you also, when you see these things occurring, know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I say to you, This generation will by no means pass away until all things occur.' "—Luke 21: 28-32.

The woes afflicting this generation are not evidence that God has forgotten man. Rather, they are assurance that God has remembered his promise to bring paradise back to earth through his kingdom. (Isa. 65:17; Dan. 2:44) The rising of nation against nation in the first world war was not the only struggle taking place at that time. Revelation chapter twelve indicates that Michael, who is Christ in heaven, came to the heavenly throne of God's kingdom at that time and warred against the great Serpent, Satan the Devil, expelling him from heaven. The hurling of this wicked one to the earth has meant further "woe for the earth . . . because the Devil has come down to you, having great anger, knowing he has a short period of time." (Rev. 12:5-12) Under Satan's goading, men and nations oppress their fellowman, bring about bloody wars, terrible food shortages and much misery to mankind. These are the pangs of distress afflicting our generation even since the birth of God's kingdom in heaven. What then? Has God's King forgotten to act as a deliverer?

Not at all. God's love has provided that men now living shall have an opportunity to know of the Kingdom's establishment. Jehovah has raised up an international group of Christians who vigorously witness to the fact of the Kingdom's establishment. They urge all to worship Jehovah, the true God, with hope of surviving

his war of Armageddon into God's new world. (Matt. 24:14; Rev. 16:14, 16) To the very doors of mankind God has sent these witnesses with assurance that he has not forgotten. Their message declares that soon Christ will crush the serpent, Satan, and "break up the works of the Devil." (Heb. 2:14; 1 John 3:8) Following that victorious Armageddon fight, the King of kings will subdue all enemies, including Adamic death, and bring in a paradise of peace and happiness to the extremity of the earth. (1 Cor. 15:25, 26; Ps. 46:9; 72:7) Even the dead in God's memory will get their promised resurrection. No longer will the Devil or devilish men oppress the lowly, for "the meek ones themselves will possess the earth." (John 5:28, 29; Ps. 37:11) "Look!" Jehovah says, "I am making all things new."—Rev. 21:5.

WHO REMEMBERS GOD?

Since Jehovah's purpose is clear and his patience is to our advantage, there is no cause to think that he has forgotten man. The question is, Who will remember God and survive Armageddon? Jehovah says: "Wicked people will turn back to Sheol, even all the nations forgetting God." (Ps. 9:17) Therefore it is important to remember the words of the prophet Malachi and consider our own standing with God. Malachi wrote: "At that time those in fear of Jehovah spoke with one another, each one with his companion, and Jehovah kept paying attention and listening. And a book of remembrance began to be written up before him for those in fear of Jehovah and for those thinking upon his name. 'And they will certainly become mine,' Jehovah of armies has said, 'at the day when I am producing a special property. And I will show compassion upon them, just as a man shows compassion upon his son who is serving him. And you people will again certainly see the distinction between a righteous one and a wicked one, between one serving God and one who has not served him.'" (Mal. 3:16-18) Soon no one will ask the railroad man's question, "How is it . . . bad people seem to have it good?"

When Armageddon's fury breaks in this generation, God will remember those who have served him, just as he remembered to save righteous Noah and his family at the time of the Flood. We have the assurance recorded in his own Word: "God is not unrighteous so as to forget your work and the love you showed for his name." (Heb. 6:10) We have every reason for confidence in that statement. The evidence shows that Jehovah made provision for man's deliverance; that he gave believing men his laws to guide them and set a real hope before mankind. Moreover, in spite of the fact that most men have forgotten Him, the Bible shows that God will soon remove the oppressor, restore perfect life to obedient men and resurrect the dead. These are some of the blessings in store for those who remember Jehovah God now and honor his name.

Will you do so?

LIVING ONE'S FAITH

✔ The Catholic column of the São Paulo, Brazil, newspaper *Diário da Região* of June 15, 1962, urged Catholics to take their religion more seriously and proclaim it to others. Pointing to a modern-day example, it said: "We see in this respect the Jehovah's Witnesses getting thirty times as many conversions as the Catholics. And why? Because each Witness is an apostle who sacrifices himself for the belief he professes; because he is not undermined by that false shame that the majority have to go from house to house advertising his faith."

HOW STRONG is Your Faith?

IT TAKES real faith for a Christian to endure suffering, to be abused and tormented and made a public show because of what he believes and preaches concerning God's kingdom. It takes real fortitude for other Christians to stand loyally by and watch the treatment that faithful men who love God receive because of their not breaking integrity. Jesus Christ, their Exemplar, endured to the death. He said: "He that has endured to the end is the one that will be saved." (Matt. 24:13) Jesus knew of men who displayed such magnificent faith before he himself became a man to save the world by a ransom. The record of their faith stands as a testimony to this day in the book of Hebrews, chapter eleven. Faith is not just a thing of the past that prechristian people showed, but something that Christians must display now. In the face of all the modern ideas, scientific knowledge and theories taught today, how strong is your faith in Jehovah God, in his Son Christ Jesus and in the written Word of God, the Holy Bible?

> "You endured a great contest under sufferings, sometimes while you were being exposed as in a theater both to reproaches and tribulations."—Heb. 10:32, 33.

[2] In the Western world, or in Christendom, people will say, "I believe in God." That is very easily said. But do they really believe what Jesus said? For instance, he said: "God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son, in order that everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) The majority of "believers" in God will say "Yes" to the question but at the same time express belief in the theory of the evolution of man. If one believes in the evolution of man, how can he believe in the creation of man by God and the fall of man into sin and death? And if he does not believe the Bible account of creation, why exercise faith in Christ Jesus?

[3] It is not uncommon to hear clergymen say that the creation account of the Bible is a myth. If they believe that, then they do not believe God's written Word, as the whole Bible rests its teaching on the creation of man by God. *Redbook* magazine of August, 1961, under the heading "The Surprising Beliefs of Our Future Ministers," had this to say: "The Reverend James A. Pike, Episcopal Bishop of California, recently startled many United States churchgoers when he declared that he does not believe in the Biblical account of the virgin birth of Christ. It is a primitive religious myth . . . Asked to name other religious myths, Dean Pike mentioned Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden." When this clergyman rejects the Adam and Eve account, then there is no need for the ransom sacrifice of Christ Jesus to take away the sin of the world, as he sees it. Mr. Pike assumes he has greater knowledge than the One who inspired the writing of the Bible. Whom do you believe, God or a mere man?

[4] The Australian journal *Pix* in its issue of October 21, 1950, reported that Bishop Barnes of Birmingham, England, said: "The Old Testament was full of 'folklore, defective history, half-savage morality.' " Another statement showing the clergy's re-

1. Why is strong faith needed by Christians now, and who serve as examples in this regard?
2. What dilemma faces many in Christendom?
3, 4. (a) What attitude regarding the Bible have some clergymen taken? (b) Does the *Interpreter's Bible* commentary encourage faith in the Bible? Why?

jection of the Bible is found in the pamphlet *In the Beginning*. It reads: "Stories of the Patriarchs were passed from mouth to mouth for many hundreds of years before they were written down. We must not be surprised to find that they are sometimes inconsistent; we are not bound to believe that everything happened just as it is told in Genesis." It is not surprising, therefore, that, although Jesus himself referred to it, the Genesis account in the Bible about Sodom, and Lot's fleeing from that city, is referred to as a "myth" by many of the clergy of Christendom. In *The Interpreter's Bible,* on page 626, under chapter nineteen of Genesis, the commentary says: "This story—belonging to a widely diffused class of tales having possibly a mythological background (See Skinner, *Genesis,* pp. 311-12)—of the destruction of a city which had once stood in the vicinity of the Dead Sea, probably at its southern end, was presumably current in Hebron when the Israelites settled there." The critics of the Bible, yes, many clergymen of today, say the Bible story of Lot has a mythological background, but did Jesus believe this Bible story to be a myth? No! He told his apostles: "Remember the wife of Lot." (Luke 17:32) Whom do you believe, Jesus or the higher critics? As for us, we believe Jesus, who himself believed the things "written aforetime."

[5] It was about the year 56 (A.D.) that Paul wrote: "All the things that were written aforetime were written for our instruction, that through our endurance and through the comfort from the Scriptures we might have hope." (Rom. 15:4) What hope is offered us today in the Sodom and Gomorrah record in the Bible?

5. What was the apostle Paul's view of holy writings?

LOT AND SODOM AND GOMORRAH

[6] Lot was the nephew of Abraham and resided in the city of Sodom. One evening about 1919 B.C.E. two angels who had previously visited Abraham at Mamre, near Hebron, west of the Salt Sea, came to the city of Sodom located in the "Low Plain of Siddim, that is, the Salt Sea," probably in what is now the southeast corner of the Salt Sea. (Gen. 14:3) Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. He invited the angelic visitors to his home and urged them to stay overnight. "Before they could lie down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, from boy to old man, all the people in one mob. And they kept calling out to Lot and saying to him: 'Where are the men who came in to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have intercourse with them.' Finally Lot went out to them to the entrance, but he shut the door behind him. Then he said: 'Please, my brothers, do not act badly.' " (Gen. 19:4-7) These men of Sodom wanted to use the two male strangers for their sexual pleasure. Lot refused, and the mob became angry. If it had not been for the angels' pulling Lot back into the house and shutting the door, it would have been ruinous for Lot.

[7] The angels were insistent that Lot, his wife and two daughters leave the wicked city early in the morning. The angels said to Lot: "We are bringing this place to ruin, because the outcry against them has grown loud before Jehovah, so that Jehovah sent us to bring the city to ruin." So Lot prepared to leave. "When the dawn ascended, then the angels became urgent with Lot, saying: 'Get up! Take your wife

6, 7. (a) Describe the conditions existing in Sodom, where Lot lived. (b) What instructions regarding that city's future and Lot's future did the angels give?

and your two daughters who are found here, for fear you may be swept away in the error of the city!' When he kept lingering, then in the compassion of Jehovah upon him, the men seized hold of his hand and of the hand of his wife and of the hands of his two daughters and they proceeded to bring him out and to station him outside the city." Lot and his family were then told: "Escape for your soul! Do not look behind you and do not stand still in all the District! Escape to the mountainous region for fear you may be swept away!" —Gen. 19:13-17.

[8] Lot did not want to die. He asked God to preserve his soul alive, but was unable to climb the mountain as directed. He pleaded for permission to flee to a nearby city and there, as he said, "my soul will live on." They hurried on to the city of Zoar, and "the sun had gone forth over the land when Lot arrived at Zoar. Then Jehovah made it rain sulphur and fire from Jehovah, from the heavens, upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah. So he went ahead overthrowing these cities, even the entire District and all the inhabitants of the cities and the plants of the ground. And his wife began to look around from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt."—Gen. 19:18-26.

8, 9. How did the prediction of Sodom's end come about?

[9] But what of Lot's uncle? "Now Abraham made his way early in the morning to the place where he had stood before Jehovah. Then he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the District and saw a sight. Why, here thick smoke ascended from the land like the thick smoke of a kiln!"—Gen. 19:27, 28.

[10] As the smoke ascended Abraham must have wondered about the safety of Lot. The day previous, Abraham had made the request of Jehovah to save the city if only ten persons were doing what was right. But there must not have been even ten righteous persons in Sodom; so it came to ruin. However, "God kept Abraham in mind in that he took steps to send Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when overthrowing the cities among which Lot had been dwelling."—Gen. 19:29.

[11] Read the full account of this in your Bible at Genesis, chapters eighteen and nineteen. Is your faith in God's Word strong enough to believe Sodom was destroyed at God's direction and Lot and his two daugh-

10. Had the destruction of Sodom been of concern to Abraham? Why?

11. Why should we believe in and have faith in the Sodom and Gomorrah account in the Bible?

ters reached Zoar safely? Jesus believed it, because he referred to this as happening and said: "Likewise, just as it occurred in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building. But on the day that Lot came out of Sodom it rained fire and sulphur from heaven and destroyed them all. The same way it will be on that day when the Son of man is to be revealed."—Luke 17:28-30.

AN ILLUSTRATION FOR US

12 Jesus was talking to his disciples about the time when this whole wicked worldly system of things, the present Sodom and Gomorrah in which we are now living, would be destroyed. The ancient destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah was one of the historical illustrations Jesus used to help his faithful followers get the right understanding of what was going to happen during his second presence and to "give us more faith." (Luke 17:5) But Jesus gave them additional true history from God's Word as set forth in the book of Genesis to establish their faith. He said: "Just as it occurred in the days of Noah, so will it be also in the days of the Son of man." (Luke 17:26) By these illustrations what was Jesus trying to impress upon their minds and ours? Deliverance! But in order to gain salvation they had to come out from and be no part of this old world. In our present day there is a class of people, a great crowd, pictured by Lot and his two daughters. We see them fleeing this old world that is doomed to sudden destruction. They appreciate God's lovingkindness, just as Lot said, "to preserve my soul alive." (Gen. 19:19) For this they have to seek safety according to God's arrangements. That means flee modern Sodom. Flee quickly from this old world in its time of the end.

13 Do not be like Lot's wife, who stopped, looked back and got encrusted so as to turn into a pillar of salt. She never got to Zoar, but Lot with his two daughters did. That was their place of safety. Lot had faith, and it carried him through. Today people of goodwill must have the same strong faith in order to be taken through this time of trouble and the battle of Armageddon into God's new world of righteousness. They must keep on praying the Lord's prayer: "Our Father in the heavens, let your name be sanctified. Let your kingdom come. Let your will take place, as in heaven, also upon earth." That prayer will get an answer. Those who do the will of God will find complete safety and happiness under God's kingdom.—Matt. 6:9, 10.

14 People of goodwill who are really seeking this kingdom today may escape with their souls. God's prophet said: "Seek Jehovah, all you meek ones of the earth, who have practiced His own judicial decision. Seek righteousness, seek meekness. Probably you may be concealed in the day of Jehovah's anger." (Zeph. 2:3) They dare not look behind. Otherwise, they too will be swept away "in the day of Jehovah's anger."

15 Just as Jesus believed in the history of Lot, so also Peter believed the story. So what if modern religionists do not? Listen to Peter's strong language concerning evildoers and his confidence in Jehovah's judgment upon them as recorded in the first book of the Bible, Genesis. Peter said: "Certainly if God did not hold back from punishing the angels that sinned [in

12. How were the Bible stories of Sodom and Noah's day used by Jesus?

13, 14. Whom do we not want to be like, and so what should we do?

15. How did Peter view the Bible account of Lot and Sodom?

Noah's day], but . . . reserved [them] for judgment; and he did not hold back from punishing an ancient world, but kept Noah, a preacher of righteousness, safe with seven others . . .; and by reducing the cities Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them, setting a pattern for ungodly persons of things to come; and he delivered righteous Lot, who was greatly distressed by the indulgence of the law-defying people in loose conduct—for that righteous man by what he saw and heard while dwelling among them from day to day was tormenting his righteous soul by reason of their lawless deeds—Jehovah knows how to deliver people of godly devotion out of trial, but to reserve unrighteous people for the day of judgment to be cut off." (2 Pet. 2:4-9) Peter had faith and believed that Jehovah God did all these things. He believed this when he wrote about it A.D. 64, over 1,980 years after Sodom's destruction.

FAITHLESSNESS IN CHRISTENDOM

16 Even though Jesus referred to it, still many of the modern-day clergy do not believe the story of Lot. What must they think of Jesus? The religionists cannot think much either of Peter, for he also referred to Sodom when describing the situation that would exist at this world's end. Honest Christians who take time to study and search the Scriptures will discern the truth in them and build up their faith, wisely so, for one must "have faith to the preserving alive of the soul."—Heb. 10:39.

17 How strong is your faith about Christ Jesus? According to your faith, did he exist? Was he the Son of God? Do you believe he died that mankind might live? Do you believe that he provided the ransom sacrifice and that without him no human creature can gain everlasting life? Have you not read First Timothy 2:5, 6, wherein it says: "There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, a man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a corresponding ransom for all"? It may be that you believe, but do you know there are a number of prominent clergymen who do not have faith in this truth? For example, Dr. Lyle Weatherhead, president of the Methodist Conference in Britain, said: "I do not believe Christ's crucifixion was the will of God. Christ came to the world to be followed, not to be murdered." (*Awake!* April 22, 1958, page 27) It is not at all surprising when we hear a religious leader like Harry Emerson Fosdick saying:

> "Of course I do not believe in the Virgin Birth, or in that old fashioned substitutionary doctrine of the Atonement; and I do not know any intelligent Christian minister who does. The trouble with these fundamentalists is that they suppose that unless one agrees with them in their doctrinal set-up, he cannot believe in the profound, substantial, everlasting truths of the Christian gospel that transform men's lives, and are the only hope of Christ's saviorhood in this world."—*Christian Beacon*, May 9, 1946, Vol. XI, No. 13.

If some clergy do not believe in Christ Jesus, his birth as the Son of God and his death as an atoning sacrifice, why should they stand before congregations claiming to be Christians? How can they build faith in others if they themselves have none? It is not difficult to understand how a "doctor of divinity," like D. R. Keating, a minister of the United Church, could say:

> "In the present condition of the churches I cannot figure out why a person, especially a man, wants to become a member of the church. He must either have relegated religion to one of the dispensable trivialities of his life, socially useful and personally harmless, or he has illusions about what he is getting into. Maybe he has been reading the New Testament and assumes that is what he will find in the churches. I, for one, admit that I can't think of a church that I would

16, 17. Show how faithlessness exists in Christendom.

bother crossing the street to enter if I were a layman."—Winnipeg, Canada, *Tribune*, March 4, 1961.

How can anyone expect people to have faith in God and Christ Jesus when clergymen stand before the congregations and tell them that it was useless that they came to hear their sermons? Clergymen are supposed to be teaching faith in Christ as the way of salvation.

[18] The New York *Times* of March 11, 1960, carried the following from a sermon by the "Right Reverend" Hanns Lilje, Lutheran Bishop of Hanover, Germany: "The scenery for Christianity has changed in our time more deeply and more fundamentally than most people realize. We do live for all practical purposes in a non-christian world. The term should be used in its precise meaning. It is not an anti-Christian age. We live in a nonchristian period." He ought to know! He is one of the leaders in the Lutheran religion and he in effect is saying that people in Christendom are non-Christians. His "church" and denomination make up part of Christendom, and Mr. Lilje says "we live in a nonchristian period."

[19] If no one today is following in the footsteps of Christ Jesus it is high time that a strong call go out to flee, get out of Christendom's false religions. Jesus said he was not a part of this world, including its religious system, although he was born under one, the Jews' religion. He condemned its leaders as hypocrites. Millions of persons are born into a religious system today, but the people who love truth must think for themselves and then flee from Christendom and serve the true God Jehovah. Many of the religious clergy do not believe the story of Adam and Eve and some even reject Christ; but Paul said: "Just as in Adam all are dying, so also in the Christ all will be made alive." (1 Cor. 15:22) So Paul believed in both. But this being made alive is not going to be forced upon everyone. Each person must have faith. "Faith is the assured expectation of things hoped for, the evident demonstration of realities though not beheld." (Heb. 11:1) Paul argued: How could anyone call on the name of Jehovah to be saved if he never had faith in that one? And, further, how could anyone have faith if he never heard about the true God! In order to get such faith there must be a preacher of the good news. But how can there be a preacher unless he is sent forth? Paul concludes by saying: "So faith follows the thing heard. In turn the thing heard is through the word about Christ."—Rom. 10:13-17.

18. How does a Lutheran bishop view the world in which we live?

19. (a) In view of Christendom's failure what should Christians do? (b) How does one gain faith?

GOD'S WORD BUILDS FAITH

[20] The very first Christians had faith in Christ Jesus because they saw and heard him. They had an assured expectation of things hoped for. They knew Jesus healed the sick, opened blind eyes, raised the dead and he himself was raised from the dead by Jehovah God. What more assurance of their hope did they need? They had faith based on real things that happened. Now we have the written record in God's Word the Bible. We know what happened during Christ Jesus' life on earth. We also have a sure record of what the apostles did. We see a Christian's faith is based on the truth of real things seen, heard and that occurred. We know, and the early Christians knew, that they were condemned to death through Adam's sin, as Paul explains: "That is why, just as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because they had all sinned." (Rom. 5:12)

20. Name some of the facts true Christians are acquainted with and accept in faith.

Christians know why man dies and they also know that life is a gift from God through Jesus Christ our Lord. "For the wages sin pays is death, but the gift God gives is everlasting life by Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom. 6:23) Paul knew this and he believed it! Do you today? If you do, you have faith in God's written Word.

[21] Every clergyman in the world today representing Christendom ought to have that faith too; but their power to build such faith is gone. They have turned to the theories of men, evolution and to the education of the space age. To them the Bible is just a book out of date; but it is much better to listen to Jesus and the apostles who knew God's purposes, and this is strengthening to our faith. Jesus said: "It is unavoidable that causes for stumbling should come. Nevertheless, woe to the one through whom they come! It would be of more advantage to him if a millstone were suspended from his neck and he were thrown into the sea than for him to stumble one of these little ones." (Luke 17:1, 2) How many good people with some faith have been turned away from God and Christ by a faithless clergy! For this they must answer to God!

[22] True Christians will keep faith in God's Word, the Bible, and in the sacrifice of Christ Jesus, but Paul warns all who renounce the faith and says: "If we practice sin willfully after having received the accurate knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice for sins left, but there is a certain fearful expectation of judgment and there is a fiery jealousy that is going to consume those in opposition." (Heb. 10:26, 27) Christ is not going to die again to save these who once had a knowledge and faith in Christ Jesus and who accepted him as their redeemer. If they throw their faith to the wind and reject God, his Word, and his Son, then God will not arrange to redeem them again. There is no longer any sacrifice for sins left! There is coming a judgment, a fearful one! Remember Sodom and Gomorrah. Faithless ones will not be able to flee like Lot and his two daughters. They will be caught in the fiery destruction. Some may try to escape but they will look around at antitypical Sodom, even as Lot's wife looked back and became a pillar of salt, and in the battle of Armageddon others will die in the attempt to escape.—Gen. 19:26; 2 Pet. 3:10-13.

21. (a) Who should also believe these facts? (b) What is it, then, that has caused disbelief?
22. What is the fate of those renouncing faith?

THE FAITH OF EARLY CHRISTIANS

[23] The clergy of Christendom today must take the responsibility, because through their organized religions since A.D. 325 Christendom has been pulling farther away from true Christianity and the Bible's teaching. Modern historians recognize this fact. In the book *The Outline of History* by H. G. Wells, it is stated: "This date 325 A.D. is a very convenient date in our history. It is the date of the first complete general (œcumenical) council of the entire Christian world. . . . It marks the definite entry upon the stage of human affairs of the Christian church and of Christianity as it is generally understood in the world to-day. It marks the exact definition of Christian teaching by the Nicene Creed.

[24] "It is necessary that we should recall the reader's attention to the profound differences between this fully developed Christianity of Nicaea and the teaching of Jesus of Nazareth. All Christians hold that the latter is completely contained in the former, but that is a question outside our province. What is clearly apparent is that the teaching of Jesus of Nazareth was a

23, 24. How does H. G. Wells show the difference in early Christianity and the church from A.D. 325 forward?

prophetic teaching of the new type that began with the Hebrew prophets. It was not priestly, it had no consecrated temple and no altar. It had no rites and ceremonies. Its sacrifice was 'a broken and a contrite heart.' Its only organization was an organization of preachers, and its chief function was the sermon. But the fully fledged Christianity of the fourth century, though it preserved as its nucleus the teachings of Jesus in the gospels, was mainly a *priestly religion* of a type already familiar to the world for thousands of years. The centre of its elaborate ritual was an altar, and the essential act of worship the sacrifice, by a consecrated priest, of the mass. And it had a rapidly developing organization of deacons, priests and bishops."—Third Edition, pages 522, 523.

[25] This is a historian writing in 1920, and he saw "the profound differences between this fully developed Christianity of Nicaea and the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth." Anyone today who is familiar with the Bible and the life of Christ can clearly see the profound difference between what Jesus and the early apostles did and what the clergy of Christendom are doing. Nineteen hundred years ago Christians were strong in faith. Where is that faith today in Christendom? God's book, the Holy Bible, is considered by many as a fine piece of literary work but the Ten Commandments are just to be read, not something to live by.

[26] However, listen to what Paul says to us: "Any man that has disregarded the law of Moses dies without compassion, upon the testimony of two or three. Of how much more severe a punishment, do you think, will the man be counted worthy who has trampled upon the Son of God and who has esteemed as of ordinary value the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and who has outraged the spirit of undeserved kindness with contempt?" (Heb. 10:28, 29) Do you say that was "*too* severe" upon one who disregarded the law of Moses? Do you agree with those who say that what Moses wrote about, namely, Adam, Lot, Sodom and the Messiah (Christ), was nothing more than myths? Do you think Moses was wrong when he wrote: "You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. . . . You must not desire your fellow man's house . . . wife . . . slave . . . nor anything that belongs to your fellow man"? Moses was the one who also wrote that "you must not take up the name of Jehovah your God in a worthless way, for Jehovah will not leave the one unpunished who takes up his name in a worthless way." He also commanded that you people "must not make for yourself a carved image . . . because I Jehovah your God am a God exacting exclusive devotion." Moses wrote this, not on the stone tablets, but in Exodus 20:1-17; but Jehovah directed him to write it all for our benefit.

[27] Paul was convinced that Jehovah was behind the writing of the Scriptures. He told a young Christian full of faith: "All Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproving, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness, that the man of God may be fully competent, completely equipped for every good work." (2 Tim. 3:16, 17) Paul believed the Bible. He had faith in its teachings.

[28] In these last days it takes strong faith to be a Christian, and to believe what is written in the Bible; but some people have

25. Who in our day see the difference in the Christianity of Nicea and the teachings of Jesus?
26. (a) What did Paul say resulted to those disregarding the law of Moses? (b) What were some things Moses wrote about under the direction of Jehovah?
27. How did Paul encourage the young man Timothy when it came to the Holy Scriptures?
28. What did Paul have to say to encourage those in need of keeping faith?

it, and equip themselves to proclaim a message of God's kingdom in spite of clergy ridicule. Paul knew that Christians would be having a hard time keeping in the ministry not only in his day but through all ages, due to governments and faithless religious leaders. So he admonished Christians, saying: "However, keep on remembering the former days in which, after you were enlightened, you endured a great contest under sufferings, sometimes while you were being exposed as in a theater both to reproaches and tribulations, and sometimes while you became sharers with those who were having such an experience. For you both expressed sympathy for those in prison and joyfully took the plundering of your belongings, knowing you yourselves have a better and an abiding possession." —Heb. 10:32-34.

MODERN-DAY FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS

29 In the days of the apostles many thousands of persons were enlightened with the truth of God's Word and they walked in the footsteps of Christ Jesus and experienced what Paul described. They learned a new way of life, and this brought them real satisfaction, but along with it some opposition. This is what Christians today must remember. Just as Christians in former days were enlightened and endured a great contest under suffering, so Christians must do today. There is no easy way to be a true Christian. Dr. Baillie of the Union Theological Seminary, commenting on the present state of Christianity, is reported to have said: "That which has been on trial all these years is not Christianity at all. The experiment of living in a Christian way has not been made and until it is we just do not know anything about it. . . . Perhaps the world no longer persecutes Christians because there are no longer any Christians."

30 We ask, Has Dr. Baillie observed the activity of Jehovah's witnesses in the past forty-five years? True, if he is only looking at the Protestant and Catholic religious systems, there is no persecution of them. But what about the small group of Christian witnesses of Jehovah in Hitler's day in Germany, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and, in fact, all the world, including the United States and Canada, during World War II? And how about today? What is happening in East Germany, Poland, Russia and Christendom's Catholic Spain? In these places Jehovah's witnesses are enduring "a great contest under suffering," and Jehovah's witnesses in other parts of the world "express sympathy" for those in prison.

31 Jesus said concerning real Christians: "He that has endured to the end is the one that will be saved." (Matt. 24:13) A true Christian will endure suffering, and certainly those who stand firm for the principles Jesus lived by will have the experiences of "reproaches and tribulation" for being Christian. Jehovah's witnesses have experienced the concentration camps, the gas chambers, starvation diets and imprisonments in most of the countries of Christendom. Furthermore, their work of preaching God's kingdom was banned for years in many countries of Christendom. Why? Just because Jehovah's witnesses wanted and insisted on living a Christian life, and they were willing to endure a great contest under suffering to do it. While not every one of these Christian witnesses of Jehovah was thrown into concentration camps, others who expressed sympathy for those in prison joyfully took

29, 30. Contrast the statement of one Dr. Baillie with the experiences of Jehovah's witnesses during World War II and since.

31. Why do Jehovah's witnesses endure suffering the world around?

the plundering of their belongings. Read the history of the modern-day witnesses of Jehovah as told in the book *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose,* and there you will learn of the persecution they endured at the hands of the clergy and the political rulers in Germany, Greece, Poland, Russia, Dominican Republic, Quebec, yes, in all parts of the world. However, they are still proclaiming God's kingdom in all these countries today.

[32] A true Christian must be strong and, even though persecution gets more intense, he must still listen and do what God inspired Paul to write: "Do not, therefore, throw away your freeness of speech, which has a great reward to be paid it. For you have need of endurance, in order that, after you have done the will of God, you may receive the fulfillment of the promise." (Heb. 10:35, 36) Jehovah's witnesses will not give up their freeness of speech because of persecution. Jesus did not close his mouth because of the power of the political and religious crowd of his day. The religionists had to kill him to take away his freeness to speak the good news of God's kingdom. Christians will not change today. On the other hand, Christendom's religious organizations today do the bidding of the political rulers. In many places the pulpit has become the mouthpiece of the government's ruler. The clergy have thrown away their freeness of speech to preach God's kingdom in order to play favorite to the worldly political rulers. A Christian cannot compromise, because he knows that his 'freeness of speech has a great reward to be paid to him.'

[33] Hundreds of thousands of people are pulling away from the false religious organizations of Christendom because these institutions hold forth no promise. What can they promise? They reject the Bible. They have no "assured expectation of things hoped for." But as for those seeking truth, God's Word has brought them knowledge and understanding, and they have faith that God's kingdom is near at hand. They believe what Paul said, even though written nineteen hundred years ago. "For yet 'a very little while,' and 'he who is coming will arrive and will not delay.' " (Heb. 10:37) There has been no delay in the arrival of Christ Jesus. His second presence has been made manifest since 1914.* The time of the end is near! It is time to get out of this modern-day Sodom, just as Lot and his two daughters fled that wicked city centuries ago. Those who want to live in God's new world will have to flee the Devil's organization and find security in Jehovah's organization. God will provide the safe place for all during the time of the battle of Armageddon. Do you have faith that God will do this for you? Lot and his two daughters had faith and they got to Zoar and lived on.

[34] How true God's Word: " 'But my righteous one will live by reason of faith,' and, 'if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him' "! (Heb. 10:38) Today Jehovah's witnesses must live by faith, but it is an assured expectation with full confidence in the future, because the written Word of God tells them the future. They see things have happened and are happening that God's Word said would occur. So this is no time for anyone knowing God's Word to shrink back and return to the wicked organization of the old world, for God will have no pleasure with such

32. How do true Christians differ from Christendom's religions when it comes to endurance in exercising freeness of speech?

33. Why are many pulling away from Christendom's religions, and whose example do they follow in so doing?

* For more information on Christ's second presence read chapter twenty-one of *"Let God Be True,"* page 249.

34. How are Jehovah's witnesses showing they live by faith?

a one. Paul was a determined man, strong in mind and of great faith, and could strengthen the faith of others. With conviction he said: "Now we are not the sort that shrink back to destruction, but the sort that have faith to the preserving alive of the soul."—Heb. 10:39.

ANALYZING OUR FAITH

35 What kind of faith do you have? Is it the kind that shrinks back at every trial or difficulty that arises, or is your faith strong, built on the solid foundation of God's Word? Is your faith strong enough to carry you on to 'the preserving alive of your soul'?

36 Paul, writing to the Philippians, said: "The things that you learned as well as accepted and heard and saw in connection with me, practice these; and the God of peace will be with you." (Phil. 4:9) What did the early Christians learn from Paul? What did they hear? What did they see? What had they accepted? Surely they saw Paul as a staunch Christian, dedicated to Jehovah God, walking in the footsteps of Christ Jesus. They knew a man willing to go through all kinds of sufferings, persecution, trials and even face death without shrinking back. They read his letter containing the experiences of what he went through for the sake of the good news of Christ. They knew Paul believed that Christ Jesus laid down his life for the saving of mankind and that Paul showed his belief by preaching God's kingdom with Christ as King. These are just a few things Christians learn from Paul. Through Paul's many letters and personal association he built up in others the necessary faith. The things that Paul preached and lived by, the early Christian witnesses of Jehovah learned, heard and saw and accepted. Now what? Will you faithful followers of Christ Jesus today practice these things? If so, with what result? "The God of peace will be with you."

37 How can a person gain the peace of God today? First of all, by withdrawing from this wicked system of things. Then devote yourself wholly to the doing of the will of Jehovah God. Moses wrote: "I Jehovah your God am a God exacting exclusive devotion." (Ex. 20:5) Therefore you as a Christian must serve God with your whole heart, with your whole mind, with your whole soul, with your whole strength. This will prove your real love for your Father in heaven. Add to that the second commandment you must follow, and that is, Love your neighbor as you do yourself. The best example that you have of this kind of love is the Son of God, Christ Jesus. If you want to become a Christian you must be as much like him as possible. You will want to copy him in everything he did. To do that you must read about him, find out all you can about his life and his work. This information is found in the written Word of God, the Holy Bible.

38 To follow in the footsteps of Christ Jesus does not require a training in a theological seminary or a religious college. If such higher education were necessary, then Peter and John could not have been apostles of Christ Jesus. Those two men were ordinary men with sound minds. They appreciated and loved truth. They were men who listened and learned from their teacher Jesus Christ. When their resurrected Teacher explained to them why he had died upon the torture stake, they were not the kind to shrink back but they were ready to move out, and at Pen-

35. In analyzing our faith what questions demand an answer?
36. How does Philippians 4:9 help us build a strong faith?
37. How does one gain the peace of God today, and who serves as the primary example of exercising proper love?
38. Why can we be sure that it is not a theological education that qualifies one as a true minister of Jehovah?

tecost they preached the things that they heard and believed. So the Bible record tells us that when the Jewish Sanhedrin "beheld the outspokenness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were men unlettered and ordinary, they got to wondering. And they began to recognize about them that they used to be with Jesus." (Acts 4:13) It is the spirit in a person, his zeal, devotion and knowledge that count, not his degree or diploma that hangs on a wall. These men had gained true knowledge because they had been with Jesus and learned the truth. They were fearless in expressing that truth. It was not their college education, or the rabbinical schools of their day, that qualified them as ministers of God. They never enrolled in them. They were ordained as God's ministers by God, not by men. To wear "the cloth" the clergy of Christendom may trace their lines of descent back to A.D. 325 and the Nicean creed, but not back to Christ Jesus or the Word of God.

39 This information should be of real encouragement to individuals in all parts of the world who love the Bible, and it should help them in taking their stand for the ministry. If Peter and John, fishermen, could be apostles of Jesus Christ and could qualify to represent God as his ordained ministers in the earth, then why cannot anyone who loves the truth in God's Word and who is devoted to God and has dedicated his life to God's service do likewise? All the early Christians were ministers and they studied God's written Word. It becomes clear that every person who becomes a Christian must also be a preacher of the good news. The difficulty in Christendom today is that the clergy are the only ones recognized as ministers, and their congregations have been made a listening flock, not a preaching flock. There has been a development of the clergy class and a laity class in Christendom, and, as was pointed out in *The Outline of History*, H. G. Wells saw "the profound difference between the fully developed Christianity of Nicaea and the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth." Of early Christianity he said: "Its only organization was an organization of preachers, and its chief function was the sermon." That is what real Christians today see the need for the organization to be. The whole organization of Jehovah's witnesses is made up of ordained ministers, and their chief function and training is the use of the sermon. They use Bible sermons from door to door and in their home Bible study work. Christians now must be just like Jehovah's witnesses in the days of the apostles, who went from house to house and delivered sermons to the people of the homes visited, to any family, and they studied the Bible with them. Paul said: "I did not hold back from telling you any of the things that were profitable nor from teaching you publicly and from house to house." (Acts 20:20) H. G. Wells showed that from and after A.D. 325 the religious leaders of Christendom established elaborate rituals around an altar, consecrated deacons, bishops, priests, and established the mass, and went into the construction of temples. What a difference from the way true Christians worshiped the Almighty God Jehovah!

39. (a) What must every Christian be, and how did H. G. Wells show this to be the case with early Christianity? (b) Did Paul's example show the early church to be a preaching organization? How?

EACH ONE MUST EXERCISE FAITH

40 Christendom's leaders have brought themselves into the position in which they find themselves today. They have made their millions of churchgoers, the laity, useless as far as the spreading of Christianity is concerned. The clergy have taught them to listen and to go through set for-

40. (a) What have Christendom's leaders done for the people? (b) How did one religious leader describe the need in today's religious organizations?

malisms in their temples each week. They put no responsibility upon their flock to preach in behalf of Christ and to tell others the good news of God's kingdom. There are some clergymen today that realize their failure. For example, the "Reverend" John Heuse, director of New York city's Trinity Parish, had this to say in his lecture "What Are Churches For?"

> "No parish can fulfill its true function unless there is at the very center of its leadership life a small community of quietly fanatic, changed and truly converted Christians. The trouble with most parishes is that nobody, including the clergyman, is really greatly changed; but even where there is a devoted self-sacrificing priest at the heart of the fellowship, not much will happen until there is a community of changed men and women."—*Reader's Digest*, June, 1962.

41 Whose fault is this? The clergymen are to blame. They are not trying to turn their parishioners into Christians who would "endure a great contest under suffering." Their parishioners do not want to be "exposed as in a theater to both reproaches and tribulation" for Christ's sake. They refuse to be like early Christians, willing to go to prison if necessary just for the sake of preaching the good news of God's kingdom. Why has Christendom failed? Their people do not "have faith to the preserving alive of the soul." They do not know, nor have they been taught, what Christian work is. The people of Christendom have not been trained to stand up for that which is right. How could they? Jesus said: "If, then, a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit." (Matt. 15:14) Their flocks have not learned what Christianity is, what truth is. How could anyone expect them to, when one of their own clergymen says: "I, for one, admit that I can't think of a church that I would bother crossing the street to enter if I were a layman." (See pages 11, 12.) And a good many men and women do not go to their churches either. Very likely these nonchurchgoers noticed the true condition of the churches even before this clergyman did.

42 Let all the heads of the different denominations of the world gather together with Pope John XXIII in another ecumenical council. Let them try to unite the various religious denominations, both Protestant and Catholic, into a solid organization. Yet they will never make Christians out of their members. It takes more than consolidation. It takes God's blessing, his spirit, his Word and the individual's faith to be a Christian. Christendom has strayed too far away from God's Word, the truth, to return. Too many of Christendom's clergy have chosen small bits of the Bible to believe and scrapped the rest as a myth. In exchange they give their flocks their own ideas and, as Paul puts it, they "pay attention to false stories and to genealogies, which end up in nothing, but which furnish questions for research rather than a dispensing of anything by God in connection with faith." —1 Tim. 1:4.

43 The real Christian knows through study of the Bible that the whole Bible is a book of action, a book of service, a book of faith, a book of truth and truly the Word of the Almighty God Jehovah. Christ Jesus only nineteen hundred years ago believed its true stories as written in the Hebrew Scriptures and he quoted them from the books of the Bible. Are you, then, going to teach others the same things that Jesus taught back there? Have faith in God's Word. Study it! "Preach the word," as Christians must! Then "be at it urgently in favorable season, in troublesome season."—2 Tim. 4:2.

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41. (a) Who are at fault because of weak parishioners? (b) What basic quality of Christianity is missing?

42. Why will ecumenical councils not unite the various religious denominations?

43. What is the Bible to a true Christian?

44 You believe that "with the heart one exercises faith for righteousness, but with the mouth one makes public declaration for salvation." (Rom. 10:9, 10) Well, then, is your faith strong enough to make you speak out as a Christian and to tell the truth of God's promises regarding his kingdom, which is mankind's only hope? Or, are you going to be like a certain group of so-called followers of Christ that James described as "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."—Jas. 1: 22-24.

45 The logic of James is conclusive. He says: "Indeed, as the body without breath is dead, so also faith without works is dead." (Jas. 2:26) Faith expresses itself. It makes proclamation. Faith is not a dead thing, but it goes to work. Faith lets other people know what it believes. It speaks out from house to house. A minister of God with faith must be active. One who knows the Word of God preaches it. Faith has no fear to give testimony, Peter said. "But sanctify the Christ as Lord in your hearts, always ready to make a defense before everyone that demands of you a reason for the hope in you, but doing so together with a mild temper and deep respect." (1 Pet. 3:15) One with faith in God and the Bible makes a defense before everybody.

46 Jesus, when speaking to Jews who were looking for the Messiah, did not pick out the scribes and the Pharisees to be the light of the world. He just chose ordinary men, men of faith. You remember that he said: "You are the light of the world. A city cannot be hid when situated upon a mountain. People light a lamp and set it, not under the measuring basket, but upon the lampstand, and it shines upon all those in the house. Likewise let your light shine before men, that they may see your fine works and give glory to your Father who is in the heavens." (Matt. 5:14-16) This instruction in his Sermon on the Mount he gave to men and women alike. What an excellent service sermon it is! Jesus encouraged all people listening to take up the ministry, to represent God's kingdom and work for it. He said: "Keep on, then, seeking first the kingdom and his righteousness." (Matt. 6:33) He taught lovers of righteousness how to pray. He showed them the need to sanctify the name of the Father, Jehovah, and pray for his kingdom so that his will would take place on earth just the same as in heaven. (Matt. 6:9-15) To keep at this ministry work personally requires real faith in Jehovah God, his Son Jesus Christ and God's Word.

47 If you have such faith it will mean the "preserving alive of the soul." So flee from the old world, headed for destruction as was Sodom, and be like Lot and his two daughters. Get up and go; be a minister of the good news! Do not hesitate to endure a "great contest under sufferings, sometimes while you [are] being exposed as in a theater both to reproaches and tribulations." (Heb. 10:32, 33) Serve God as a real Christian and be strong in your faith. Believe his Word and gain everlasting life in the new world of righteousness.

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- The Challenge of the "Good News."
- The "Good News" Separates 'a People for Jehovah's Name.'
- Do You Stumble over Imperfection?
- Where to Turn for Counsel.
- Christendom's Idolatry Foreshadowed.

44, 45. How is a strong faith shown?

46. Whom did Jesus choose to be his light bearers, and what example did he leave them?

47. What should each one do now toward preserving alive the soul?

FIGHT A FINE FIGHT for the Faith

THESE words by the apostle Paul to Timothy: "Fight the fine fight of the faith," had real meaning to Paul. He had been persecuted by his own race, the Jews, beaten with many stripes, stoned and imprisoned. He experienced shipwreck, dangers from highwaymen, dangers from false brothers, sleepless nights, hunger, thirst, yes, all kinds of trials and tribulations. While under all this pressure, he still had rushing in on him "the anxiety for all the congregations." (2 Cor. 11:23-28) So, then, these words of Paul, "Fight the fine fight of the faith," are not idle words. Would you do the same as Paul for the sake of the good news? You would if you had faith like Paul and Timothy had, and you would 'get a firm hold on the everlasting life for which you were called and you would offer the fine public declaration in front of many witnesses.'—1 Tim. 6:12.

[2] Paul in his letters to Timothy was instructing this dedicated young Christian to carry out his duties as a true follower of Christ. As an overseer and a brother he must teach those with whom he associated only the sound doctrine that he had received from God's Word. He was not to be full of idle talk or his own ideas. Timothy knew the truth, and it was the truth that he must teach, nothing else. This teaching would take time and patience because God's people are not the worldly-wise, the highly intelligent men, but rather humble people. That is what Paul wrote the Corinthians: "Not many wise in a fleshly way were called, not many powerful, not many of noble birth; but God chose the foolish things of the world, that he might put the wise men to shame; and God chose the weak things of the world, that he might put the strong things to shame; and God chose the ignoble things of the world and the things looked down upon, the things that are not, that he might bring to nothing the things that are, in order that no flesh might boast in the sight of God." (1 Cor. 1:26-29) In the uneducated, noninfluential and poor people Timothy had to build up faith and then bring them to a point where they could offer a "fine public declaration in front of many witnesses." Are you doing that kind of Christian work? You should!

[3] From God's own Word we see that those who were highly educated in the world, and the most prominent men, were not the ones called. Look at those whom the Son of God chose: fishermen, tax collectors, men who were looked down upon by the scribes and Pharisees. When ordinary police officers were sent by the chief priests and the Pharisees to take Jesus and to bring him to them they came back without Jesus, and the officers said: "Never has another man spoken like this." In turn the Pharisees answered: "You have not been misled also, have you? Not one of the rulers or of the Pharisees has put faith in him, has he?" (John 7:45-48) Even these

1. How could Paul speak with authority on fighting for the faith?

2. Why is patience necessary for one who is charged with teaching others, and how did the apostle Paul especially show this by his comments?

3. What does the Bible show with regard to those chosen to do Jehovah's work?

men with great wisdom and high education who had the Hebrew Scriptures handy in scrolls, men who were supposed to be the representatives of God, had no faith in the Son of God. They argued that no rulers or Pharisees had put faith in him. Have things changed much in our day? Who turn out to be the true Christians?

[4] Look around the world. Check the nations' rulers since World War I began, A.D. 1914. Consider: Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany, a so-called Christian out for world domination; Adolf Hitler, a Catholic German dictator who signed a concordat with the pope in 1933; and Mussolini, who with the blessing of the Catholic Church invaded Ethiopia. Have these dictators acted the part of true Christians? They did attend church, did they not? But do you think God called these men to be heirs with Christ Jesus? Were these rulers in their positions "by divine right" and walking in the footsteps of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ? He did not choose the 'rulers or the Pharisees' as a whole to be his followers, did he? It does not appear that he is choosing them today. The faithful followers of Jesus, Peter and John, Matthew and others, were not of the ruling class. True, Paul was a converted Pharisee, but how true were his words: 'Not many powerful were called'! Besides, here is what James had to say about the matter: "God chose the ones who are poor respecting the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he promised to those who love him, did he not?" (Jas. 2:5) Persons who are trying to walk as Christians should keep these scriptures in mind and walk in humility and show love to their fellowman.

[5] What must one do really to put up a fine fight for the faith if he is a man in politics, business or religion? If someone rich and powerful comes to a knowledge of the truth and declares himself a real Christian, then let him listen to Paul's stern words written to Timothy: "Give orders to those who are rich in the present system of things not to be high-minded, and to rest their hope, not on uncertain riches, but on God, who furnishes us all things richly for our enjoyment; to work at good, to be rich in fine works, to be liberal, ready to share, safely treasuring up for themselves a fine foundation for the future, in order that they may get a firm hold on the real life." (1 Tim. 6:17-19) Rich men should be helped to realize that this life in the present evil world is transitory and not until anyone really dedicates his life to the service of Jehovah God and walks in the footsteps of Christ Jesus, preaching the good news of God's kingdom, can he ever get "a firm hold on the real life." Jesus said: "Whoever wants to save his soul [life] will lose it; but whoever loses his soul [life] for the sake of me and the good news will save it." (Mark 8:35) Being a faithful Christian does not mean being a member of a "church" having a fine building. Being a Christian means living as one according to the Word of God, offering "the fine public declaration in front of many witnesses." Are you doing this? If you are not, you can! It will take faith and courage to do so, but it can be done and is being done by those who truly love Jehovah God and his kingdom.

4. Therefore, who are the ones chosen primarily to do Jehovah's work today?

5. How does one rich in this world's goods put up a hard fight for the faith?

ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY

[6] Jehovah's witnesses around the world have a responsibility to help every Christian and person of goodwill who seeks truth and righteousness to "fight the fine fight of the faith" and to "get a firm hold on the everlasting life." (1 Tim. 6:12) How do Jehovah's witnesses help people find

6. How did Jehovah's servants in the first century carry out their responsibilities as witnesses?

this kind of faith to fight for? First, an individual must hear the good news. But in order to hear there must be a preacher. (Rom. 10:13-15) In Christ's time the disciples listened to their teacher and then were taught to go from house to house. Jesus said: "Go on telling them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' " (Luke 10:9) His little band of seventy faithful followers must have spent many hours talking about the kingdom of God to individuals that they had never before met. But that was the will of God. On the day of Pentecost after the holy spirit descended upon the 120 persons in the upper room Peter spoke to thousands of interested people and there were 3,000 who "embraced his word heartily" and dedicated their lives to Jehovah's service through his Son Jesus Christ and were baptized. They became true Christians, and "they continued devoting themselves to the teaching of the apostles." (Acts 2:41, 42) They must have gone to all the homes in Jerusalem in a short time and from there returned home after Pentecost to scatter throughout the land, where thousands more heard the good news and came into the Christian congregation. The true ministry of Christ had begun!

[7] In those days when Christ's disciples preached the good news there was no record kept of the time spent in their preaching work. But today, that the Watch Tower Society may know where the preaching work has been accomplished, it keeps a record of the hours spent by Jehovah's witnesses talking to people about God's kingdom. During the twelve months from September 1, 1961, to August 31, 1962, Jehovah's witnesses spent 142,046,679 hours preaching the good news of the Kingdom publicly. That is 9,351,139 more hours than they spent the year before in their field service. Where did they spend all this time preaching? Consult the chart on pages 24-27 and you will see the list of 189 countries, protectorates, islands of the sea and colonies where Jehovah's witnesses preached the good news in cities, villages, hamlets, on rural roads, in offices, business houses, anywhere, everywhere, when they had the opportunity of talking to people.

[8] Who did all this preaching? True Christians, Jehovah's witnesses, men and women, young and old, all dedicated to doing the will of Jehovah God. These ministers went from house to house and, where they could arrange to study with people in their homes, they did so. Those who spend 150 hours or more in the field work each month are called special pioneers. Some of these are missionaries who have graduated from the Watchtower Bible School of Gilead. All together during the year there were, on an average, 6,934 special pioneers engaged in the work every month. Then there were 26,626 pioneers who spent about 100 hours each month declaring the message of salvation. They worked in the territory of their own congregations or went out on their own into places where the need was great for telling out the good news, in isolated places, as special pioneers do. Then there are those Christians who have secular occupations and families to care for. They may be carpenters, farmers, office workers or factory workers. They cannot arrange their time to spend 100 or 150 hours a month in the ministry, but they do strive to spend a minimum of ten hours each month in the preaching activity being carried on in all parts of the earth. There were 887,360 of these witnesses of Jehovah working diligently in all parts of

7. Why do Jehovah's witnesses keep track of the time spent talking about God's kingdom, and how much time did they spend during the 1962 service year in talking to people about this important news?

8, 9. (a) Outline the work of (1) special pioneers, (2) regular pioneers, (3) congregation publishers. (b) How many engaged in each field of the ministry in 1962, and what was the average number of ministers each month during the service year?

1962 SERVICE YEAR REPORT OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES WORLD-WIDE

Country	1961 Av. Pubs.	1962 Av. Pubs.	%Inc. over 1961	Peak Pubs. 1962	Av. Pio. Pubs.	No. Public Meet'gs	No. of Cong's.	Total Literature	Total Hours	New Subs.	Individual Magazines	Back-Calls	Av. Bible Studies
U.S. of America	248,681	267,436	8	286,908	10,006	282,945	4,564	7,096,543	41,379,040	818,041	47,801,989	13,737,466	198,921
Bermuda	39	52	33	60	4	73	1	4,363	8,642	537	13,250	3,529	53
Guam	31	40	29	44	5	22	1	1,686	10,620	213	10,715	3,372	54
Sudan	27	31	15	37	2	2	1	641	8,405	56	1,201	2,549	33
Alaska	312	395	27	428	27	434	10	12,509	76,179	1,832	74,107	25,059	375
Argentina	7,672	8,415	10	8,880	433	6,282	235	180,880	1,560,989	18,371	1,423,939	672,284	7,673
Australia	13,650	14,634	7	15,927	536	12,631	378	290,042	2,289,669	26,850	2,458,438	726,208	9,813
Austria	6,043	6,374	5	7,004	181	4,521	179	101,824	917,755	5,365	1,080,138	415,405	4,261
Bahamas	198	225	14	248	23	152	7	10,541	51,391	950	59,778	19,055	310
Belgium	6,366	6,721	6	7,223	204	4,757	118	141,878	993,559	7,545	1,198,333	346,665	4,121
Bolivia	407	439	8	493	57	557	17	14,301	114,905	1,167	94,321	33,257	432
Brazil	21,806	24,664	13	26,390	812	21,326	695	434,377	3,527,240	35,698	2,733,246	1,210,721	16,691
British Guiana	675	685	1	740	69	547	20	18,657	147,229	1,525	124,854	51,946	738
British Honduras	216	238	10	294	24	134	9	4,880	54,976	349	41,539	18,648	267
British Isles	44,974	46,842	4	49,924	1,610	52,781	935	1,046,213	6,592,707	56,641	8,072,291	2,758,667	31,709
Aden	2	2		3		2		23	78	1	7	55	1
Gibraltar	15	21	40	25	1	7	1	826	4,365	28	3,701	1,975	29
Malta	8	7		11	1	3	1	334	907	3	772	708	9
Burma	180	195	8	216	34	245	5	19,157	77,516	805	63,142	27,917	309
Cameroun	5,634	5,974	6	6,394	271	6,452	100	57,529	1,694,309	244	21,353	653,838	6,614
Canada	36,459	37,227	2	40,121	1,287	30,151	870	555,808	5,162,496	54,378	4,984,300	1,646,273	21,284
Ceylon	210	224	7	246	43	149	7	11,001	86,284	1,186	68,724	28,128	308
Chile	2,380	2,719	14	2,885	184	2,397	77	99,993	556,686	5,573	673,691	218,718	3,282
Colombia	1,870	2,281	22	2,546	234	2,446	72	63,174	606,648	2,829	428,734	245,951	3,056
Congo (Brazzaville)	682	701	3	763	21	734	15	4,300	138,332	14	359	54,333	678
Central Afr. Rep.	634	394		436	7	696	14	1,087	68,211			38,172	411
Gabon Republic	47	32		40	4	80	2	2,066	10,618	12	172	4,781	74
Tchad Republic	16	18	13	21		8		171	3,257			1,115	18
Congo (Leopoldville)	1,385	1,662	20	2,124	21	297	17	11,936	328,166	514	8,450	141,286	1,384
Costa Rica	2,386	2,569	8	2,700	95	1,310	75	17,187	391,676	608	148,522	127,260	2,051
Cuba	12,973	14,082	9	15,364	932	17,183	399	409,288	2,761,702	24,261	1,930,712	1,120,377	15,068
Cyprus	483	493	2	532	23	155	13	9,143	79,454	484	31,533	27,214	298
Israel	59	71	20	83	9	28	2	6,461	19,354	545	10,062	7,489	70
Denmark	9,327	9,782	5	10,513	229	10,198	210	66,605	1,175,533	3,588	1,220,679	471,534	4,967
Faroe Islands	23	25	9	26	7	24	1	1,289	12,149	69	16,098	4,525	36
Greenland	8	9	13	11	3	14	2	1,256	3,382	5	2,147	1,316	11
Dominican Republic	617	790	28	912	96	506	21	24,019	218,800	1,818	172,701	100,091	1,726
Ecuador	691	809	17	909	89	1,017	22	20,863	230,881	1,435	170,609	82,430	1,046
Eire (Ireland)	198	202	2	211	70	331	4	6,225	122,319	202	57,943	31,593	149
El Salvador	591	671	14	720	70	609	19	14,591	173,816	942	127,414	61,205	869
Fiji	202	217	7	242	25	293	5	9,713	65,366	563	48,655	23,721	321
American Samoa	22	26	18	30	11	21	1	1,402	18,950	211	10,573	6,242	69
New Caledonia	19	28	47	37	1	31	1	255	4,542	2	373	2,243	35
New Hebrides	3	2		2				58	298	6	26	145	4
Niue	9	13	44	16		11		53	2,004	4	445	626	16
Tahiti	28	50	79	60	3	41	1	3,281	13,511	429	13,110	4,844	75
Western Samoa	52	58	12	65	7	41	1	1,717	19,356	227	16,139	5,318	78
Finland	8,011	8,348	4	8,939	289	8,710	339	174,480	1,119,168	13,111	1,412,413	430,680	4,644
France	15,655	17,299	11	18,452	364	11,217	306	530,511	2,257,563	25,924	2,666,612	930,048	10,634
Algeria	162	137		171	16	101	2	17,595	38,157	948	48,824	15,774	181
Malagasy Republic	70	80	14	85	12	73	1	11,732	27,847	920	24,817	11,342	158
Mali, Republic of		4	New	5	4	1		290	7,299	14	402	2,027	16
Réunion	5	19	280	32	2	43		1,462	7,684	87	5,158	3,588	59
Senegal Republic	27	35	30	39	5	3	1	3,077	11,686	302	8,977	5,539	65
Tunisia	64	35		38	5	6	1	1,350	11,395	84	8,267	4,787	23

Germany, West	67,814	70,663	4	74,165	1,517	58,772	907	754,246	9,480,126	40,572	10,620,128	3,721,558	37,520
West Berlin	5,107	4,909		5,023	100	2,835	39	68,309	687,127	1,974	729,433	298,148	2,895
Ghana	7,931	8,295	5	8,741	386	7,375	229	132,162	1,891,532	3,528	429,650	573,681	7,644
Ivory Coast	87	85		114	6	34	4	3,966	22,734	116	14,384	8,531	101
Togoland	281	338	20	463	26	242	11	7,036	100,908	199	14,457	25,912	320
Greece	7,965	8,823	11	9,688	114	2,006	328	49,553	917,368	3,661	546,272	531,509	3,705
Guadeloupe	280	325	16	348	19	240	10	8,399	68,927	423	62,098	25,114	293
French Guiana	12	17	42	21	2	42		1,021	4,887	144	6,787	1,740	30
Martinique	70	94	34	118	11	92	2	6,706	30,665	405	28,761	11,433	177
Guatemala	993	1,061	7	1,110	109	1,779	32	30,335	276,089	1,399	199,397	90,953	1,402
Haiti	786	831	6	895	77	734	26	15,074	205,118	421	75,703	65,840	1,202
Hawaii	1,590	1,711	8	1,799	104	1,800	34	60,169	363,885	8,199	448,432	123,342	1,847
Honduras	571	624	9	641	61	580	12	11,544	166,188	1,339	107,412	57,776	775
Hong Kong	214	216	1	227	40	256	6	13,713	81,486	2,411	79,014	31,431	442
Iceland	44	61	39	69	14	22	1	2,860	23,793	268	26,137	8,186	75
India	1,622	1,772	9	1,911	193	1,005	67	73,547	453,712	5,552	200,855	149,230	1,762
Indonesia	477	588	23	650	111	644	29	230,480	223,583	408	8,524	76,944	978
Italy	5,838	6,501	11	6,929	202	2,897	245	174,576	830,991	7,563	853,572	367,600	4,428
Libya	50	42		44		1	1	180	3,348	4	363	1,691	28
Somalia	4	4		5	2	1		488	2,522	62	1,113	936	5
Jamaica	4,324	4,465	3	4,822	159	4,268	154	35,891	620,682	1,966	416,393	240,828	3,948
Cayman Islands	19	25	32	30	4	39	1	302	8,900	37	4,901	3,249	29
Turks & Caicos Isls.	2	2		3	2	7		161	3,020	20	1,410	1,107	8
Japan	1,876	2,266	21	2,491	283	2,703	87	179,533	657,780	12,253	784,359	241,639	3,056
Okinawa	111	141	27	162	24	93	4	11,954	50,830	879	70,429	16,543	218
Korea	3,914	4,120	5	4,416	377	4,102	105	82,853	977,630	7,228	559,268	347,799	5,125
Lebanon	610	693	14	764	41	924	17	30,130	136,014	97	708	51,318	814
Bahrain Islands	1	1		1				8	20			19	1
Iran	19	16		20	3	15	1	1,186	4,852	116	2,022	2,080	34
Iraq	1	1		5		1		6	90	2		13	1
Jordan	59	59		67	14	91	3	1,318	21,157	22	1,102	7,517	84
Kuwait	10	8		12		16	1	161	971	13	88	293	2
Qatar	1	1		1				28	268		187	60	1
Syria	79	91	15	108	6	31	2	1,311	16,246	2	85	3,930	56
Leewards (Antigua)	97	104	7	112	10	156	3	3,561	24,857	265	20,118	9,101	119
Anguilla	7	8	14	9	2	20	1	474	4,214	16	2,407	1,268	17
Dominica	112	117	4	125	9	103	7	1,452	26,080	79	13,362	8,017	132
Montserrat	13	15	15	17	5	53	2	667	8,459	36	4,466	2,953	40
Nevis	28	29	4	31	4	31	2	457	9,079	17	4,222	3,510	43
St. Eustatius	3	2		2	1	4		28	430	3	98	129	3
St. Kitts	60	65	8	76	8	93	3	2,378	19,203	176	15,302	7,693	97
St. Martin	34	43	26	48	4	46	2	824	10,341	76	7,297	4,086	62
Liberia	565	597	6	619	68	520	19	22,891	219,064	678	60,453	63,289	789
Luxembourg	291	311	7	324	11	153	11	5,706	42,777	324	70,765	20,987	229
Mauritius	48	63	31	70	10	117	2	6,197	23,408	317	18,768	8,446	119
Mexico	22,235	24,060	8	27,054	1,066	15,392	923	254,091	3,626,297	20,707	2,381,450	1,107,529	18,473
Morocco	199	150		176	23	82	7	7,610	50,561	907	46,723	19,190	215
Netherlands	12,007	12,300	2	13,267	341	6,300	201	73,621	1,598,709	4,016	1,335,672	588,924	6,332
Neth. Ant. (Curaçao)	161	176	9	189	15	88	4	7,003	37,278	1,125	41,106	16,673	203
Aruba	108	114	6	119	4	106	3	3,026	17,083	554	19,413	6,582	90
Bonaire	19	24	26	27	2	38	1	578	4,180	72	2,464	1,895	20
Newfoundland	489	531	9	604	27	567	34	10,363	79,580	1,080	98,533	25,856	312
New Zealand	3,721	3,954	6	4,249	119	3,424	112	70,010	557,484	6,200	617,795	174,928	2,393
Nicaragua	414	473	14	507	42	303	17	7,490	107,510	637	74,644	36,293	532
Nigeria	30,131	31,923	6	33,956	1,535	25,971	640	194,413	7,304,039	6,529	698,610	1,770,196	25,919
Dahomey	871	817		1,023	34	585	21	5,960	175,604	157	13,230	40,590	415
Fernando Po	39	52	33	79		1		87	7,842	14	381	2,573	88
Northern Rhodesia	27,988	28,426	2	30,129	400	18,109	575	118,640	4,636,265	4,058	223,355	1,243,781	21,316
Kenya	107	118	10	130	4	78	2	4,552	22,931	407	16,132	9,990	150
Tanganyika	559	672	20	739	47	1,027	19	14,833	192,166	302	16,320	60,143	900

Country	1961 Av. Pubs.	1962 Av. Pubs.	%Inc. over 1961	Peak Pubs. 1962	Av. Pio. Pubs.	No. Public Meet'gs	No. of Cong's.	Total Literature	Total Hours	New Subs.	Individual Magazines	Back-Calls	Av. Bible Studies
Uganda	13	18	38	22	2	9	1	704	5,246	43	2,140	2,185	42
Zanzibar	2	3	50	5		4		158	402	29	376	205	4
Norway	3,455	3,634	5	3,838	103	1,929	128	63,178	476,280	2,987	612,181	202,892	1,852
Nyasaland	14,135	13,900		15,494	611	12,208	386	72,291	3,402,787	1,420	93,844	1,109,182	9,399
Mozambique	633	638	1	805	42	658	8	5,648	180,075	142	7,190	52,838	599
Pakistan	117	131	12	144	13	91	3	4,347	35,039	982	21,436	12,709	149
Afghanistan	10	9		10	1	11	1	248	1,765	48	972	615	5
Panama	1,284	1,321	3	1,423	114	1,207	41	23,613	295,718	1,380	197,847	112,350	1,650
Papua	317	384	21	407	16	136	9	2,330	60,988	125	9,768	17,891	279
New Britain	70	75	7	82	4	56	1	732	17,233	56	5,778	6,017	75
New Guinea	84	154	83	176	11	213	4	1,679	38,125	41	7,642	15,984	188
Solomon Islands	142	179	26	239	6	368	4	1,337	33,409			15,267	149
Paraguay	368	409	11	419	49	289	22	5,789	102,653	796	82,510	33,581	437
Peru	1,277	1,451	14	1,564	145	2,010	46	64,146	383,771	2,884	310,212	129,748	1,760
Philippines	29,190	30,819	6	36,829	2,612	17,291	1,032	263,387	6,265,298	24,177	2,555,105	1,482,822	22,485
Portugal	1,055	1,235	17	1,285	42	727	25	27,024	211,111	945	64,554	90,278	1,279
Angola	21	21		23			1	185	2,716	4	81	1,761	30
Azores	56	76	36	84	6	115	4	2,346	17,667	64	5,232	9,183	99
Cape Verde Is.		3	New	3	1	1		266	700	4	12	244	13
Macão	1	1		1					59			35	3
Madeira	23	30	30	34	3	3	1	856	8,138	26	1,929	3,202	33
São Tomé	11	4		7				90	407	5	85	138	4
Puerto Rico	1,910	2,176	14	2,312	118	2,391	53	125,415	402,093	12,985	618,984	140,859	2,327
Tortola	8	10	25	12	2	21	1	587	3,345	37	2,425	1,001	18
Virgin Islands (U.S.)	90	108	20	129	3	69	5	4,379	15,337	609	19,500	6,019	94
Sierra Leone	317	308		324	76	769	11	14,548	150,766	839	108,507	51,918	749
Gambia	9	11	22	11	4	62	1	1,339	6,199	137	6,896	2,824	28
Guinea	19	37	95	42	10	48	2	1,060	23,718	10	2,946	7,480	73
Singapore	115	127	10	153	19	48	4	7,844	39,430	1,464	52,963	13,312	202
Malaya	88	100	14	110	24	87	4	52,284	45,250	81	2,063	16,214	264
North Borneo	17	21	24	28		5		316	1,671	57	1,320	447	11
Sarawak	1	3	200	5		2		99	609	16	473	215	3
South Africa	17,416	17,657	1	19,196	932	16,874	469	296,890	3,748,081	26,653	1,475,221	1,046,187	15,302
Basutoland	119	153	29	182	17	110	5	1,845	44,981	79	4,202	12,085	164
Bechuanaland	174	208	20	239	18	172	5	1,826	60,926	61	4,536	15,788	207
St. Helena	33	35	6	39	2	14	2	249	5,544	22	3,150	1,634	26
South-West Africa	124	140	13	162	6	67	5	4,269	20,816	453	22,664	6,777	103
Swaziland	399	378		416	13	402	11	2,505	86,258	113	13,224	21,843	319
Southern Rhodesia	11,949	11,263		11,933	558	15,254	358	118,903	2,334,687	3,715	299,665	643,997	9,893
Spain	2,011	2,358	17	2,507	140		53	43,939	489,939	33	98,376	245,713	3,152
Canary Islands	55	75	36	81	9		2	1,027	21,126		2,917	8,606	128
Surinam	368	397	8	422	39	361	7	7,823	93,530	624	83,371	34,153	409
Sweden	8,412	8,906	6	9,388	374	9,657	250	171,179	1,338,491	14,559	1,780,449	549,802	5,332
Switzerland	4,932	5,185	5	5,402	106	2,859	117	113,361	664,930	7,180	1,065,717	282,142	3,512
Liechtenstein	4	6	50	7	2	1		67	719	5	397	331	5
Taiwan (Formosa)	1,900	1,552		2,271	118	1,396	46	11,751	282,023	1,616	92,494	115,317	964
Thailand	343	328		365	43	249	23	22,362	88,557	1,746	63,026	28,292	331
Cambodia	9	7		10	3	15	1	703	3,911	177	5,846	1,402	16
Laos	6	10	67	11	6	10	1	1,996	8,133	67	4,474	3,179	45
Vietnam	14	11		13	8	51	1	3,767	10,087	563	9,862	3,795	35
Trinidad	1,552	1,539		1,580	77	1,125	39	24,962	280,360	1,953	216,088	109,772	1,633
Barbados	556	618	11	693	21	732	20	7,185	93,976	617	61,635	32,778	562
Bequia	7	11	57	13	3	29		242	4,838	6	1,824	2,042	30
Carriacou	14	22	57	26	2	34	1	155	5,691	13	1,219	2,080	27
Grenada	143	129		140	12	92	5	1,436	29,684	156	15,633	10,241	146
St. Lucia	72	65		76	8	154	2	1,369	19,112	164	13,638	6,773	109
St. Vincent	61	53		62	7	55	2	1,016	15,067	97	6,718	5,275	78
Tobago	45	43		53	4	31	1	912	11,799	101	8,163	5,109	59

Turkey	386	454	18	475	21	67	11	3,772	81,522	130	1,348	39,273	430
Uruguay	1,458	1,640	12	1,728	125	1,057	38	24,006	366,757	2,547	231,979	134,580	1,800
Falkland Islands	4	4	5	5	10	10	36	36	421	2	254	250	7
Venezuela	2,314	2,750	19	2,968	167	1,937	54	62,864	581,158	2,978	405,703	208,385	3,127
177 Countries	775,090	821,888	6.0	886,702	33,144	743,455	18,074	16,007,403	135,425,090	1,386,374	112,480,049	46,009,628	605,845
†12 Other Countries	109,497	99,032	—9.6*	102,490	416	49,681	4,092	337,593	6,621,589	30	308,640	2,306,951	48,365
GRAND TOTAL	884,587	920,920	4.1	989,192	33,560	793,136	22,166	16,344,996	142,046,679	1,386,404	112,788,689	48,316,579	654,210
										1961	1962		
										1,553,909	1,639,681		
										13,284	12,714		

† Work Banned and Reports Are Incomplete
* Percentage of Decrease

MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE WORLD-WIDE
MEMORIAL PARTAKERS WORLD-WIDE

the world. They are called congregation publishers.

9 From this we see there were, on an average every month throughout the year, 920,920 different persons, all Jehovah's witnesses, who preached and taught from God's Word and who enjoyed spending time telling other people about God's kingdom. They love peace and righteousness and want to tell others about it.

10 There were many other people who associated with Jehovah's witnesses during the year that spent some time in different months talking to others about this wonderful hope and about the things they learned from God's Word. Therefore some months there were peaks in the number of proclaimers of the good news, and so at one or more times there were 989,192 different individuals who were in the field service. We hope that they continue in this grand work of announcing the King and Kingdom.

11 While we are on this point of ministers, it should be pointed out that during the 1962 service year there were 36,333 more ministers in the field *on the average every month* than there were during the previous year, or an increase of 4.1 percent. However, please observe in checking the chart that there are twelve countries where it is unwise to show how many publishers there are in each country, and in these lands there was a 9.6-percent decrease. This is due to the scarcity of reports from some countries. We earnestly feel, however, that it is only due to communication difficulties between Jehovah's workers in lands where Jehovah's witnesses must work underground that the available information makes this report lower. In a number of the countries behind the Iron Curtain there have been marked increases. If the local government under totalitarian rule knew just how many witnesses of Jehovah there were in each country they would push even harder against them.

12 It is of real interest, too, to point out in the chart, page 27, that in the 177 countries outside the very troublesome areas there was an increase of 46,798 publishers. This is an increase of 6 percent in publishers, whereas for the whole world, taking into consideration the losses behind the Iron Curtain, the increase was only 4.1 percent. So there really has been a fine ingathering of those who love truth and righteousness during the 1962 service year, and it is marvelous in our eyes. Think of the difficulties in Russia, Poland, Spain, Portugal, Ethiopia and other parts of our earth! In many places, however, persecution against Jehovah's witnesses has been overcome, and this is due to their trust in Jehovah God.

10-12. (a) What new peak in publishers was reached? (b) What percentage of increase is this? (c) Why does it appear that there has been a decrease in the work behind the Iron Curtain? (d) Why should we be joyful with the work done?

LITERATURE PLACEMENTS AND BIBLE STUDIES

13 These faithful Christians who go from house to house not only preach with their lips but also leave Bible literature with the people, that they may better understand the Word of God. During the twelve months of 1962 Jehovah's people placed 4,680,233 Bibles and books and 11,664,763 booklets in 189 different lands in 158 languages. Christ Jesus commanded: "This good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come." (Matt. 24:14) He foretold this work that Jehovah's witnesses would do and are doing.

14 Other publications that Jehovah's witnesses use to spread the good news of God's kingdom are magazines, *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* They obtained in their house-to-house witnessing work 1,386,404 new subscriptions. This was 63,709 more subscriptions than were obtained the year before. You may often have seen Jehovah's witnesses on the street corners presenting the magazines *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* to passersby, or they may have stopped at your home or store and offered you these magazines. By doing this kind of work they distributed 112,788,689 copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake! The Watchtower* is printed in 65 languages, *Awake!* in 25 languages.

15 The work of God's Christian ministers does not end with the placement of Bible literature. Jehovah's witnesses return to the homes of the people and offer to answer their Bible questions. Many people are willing to have Jehovah's witnesses call regularly so that Bible studies can be conducted in their own homes. Each week there were 654,210 different home Bible studies conducted throughout the world by Jehovah's witnesses. What a fine way to help a family, the father, the mother and the children, as well as neighbors who might come to visit! What a changed outlook toward world conditions comes to those who study God's Word of prophecy! With such studies whole families can "fight the fine fight of the faith."

16 Not only did Jehovah's witnesses spend freely of their own money to travel to different parts of their territory to preach and conduct home Bible studies, but hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent by local congregations of Jehovah's witnesses to sponsor public meetings, in all parts of the world. They arranged 793,136 public meetings. At the close of the year there were 22,166 congregations of Jehovah's witnesses, arranged in 1,725 circuits. The circuits were grouped into 209 districts. Regular visits are made by circuit and district servants, appointed by the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, to each one of these congregations so as to help them with their problems and their ministry.

OTHER INTERESTING FACTS

17 At the 87 branch homes and offices established in the principal countries of the world there is a working force of 1,423 ministers. Besides taking care of the Bethel homes and offices of the Watch Tower Society they had the privilege of printing and shipping 6,438,898 bound books and Bibles, 15,871,445 paper-covered booklets, 100,361,485 *Watchtower* magazines and 90,658,305 *Awake!* magazines. Many of these Bethel family members have enjoyed the fellowship of the congregation servants of their country while they attended the Kingdom Ministry School at the branch office. This four-week-long schooling and

13, 14. Outline the interesting facts on literature placements.

15, 16. Show what was done in the Bible study and public meeting fields.

17. What work of production was performed by Bethel families in different parts of the world?

refresher course has aided the overseers of the congregations to get a clearer appreciation of their duties and responsibilities toward Jehovah's sheep allotted to their care.

[18] Once a year there is a very important celebration observed by all of Jehovah's witnesses around the earth, and that is held on the anniversary night of the death of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In memory of him all of Jehovah's witnesses gathered together for the Memorial, known to some as the Last Supper, that Jesus partook of with his disciples. At this one meeting on the night of April 17, 1962, there were 1,639,681 persons in attendance. There were 12,714 who attended that partook of the emblems, the bread and the wine, symbolizing the flesh and the blood of Christ Jesus; and these 12,714 partaking of the emblems indicated to others that they were of the anointed body of Christ, the remaining ones of the remnant still on earth. This means that 570 fewer people partook of the emblems, because during the year they finished their earthly course in death.

[19] While the remnant of the body of Christ grows smaller, the great crowd of "other sheep" that Jehovah God through his Son Christ Jesus is gathering out of all nations, kindreds and tongues, is growing larger. These, too, like the remnant who had dedicated their lives to God's service, have symbolized their dedication to God's service by water baptism. There were 69,649 individuals who did this. The baptizing of such a great crowd in just one year places a grave responsibility upon those who are already in the truth. It reminds us of what Paul said to Timothy: "Fight the fine fight of the faith, get a firm hold on the everlasting life for which you were called and you offered the fine public declaration in front of many witnesses." (1 Tim. 6:12) Here is where the responsibility comes upon God's servants. These newly interested persons who have heard the truth and who have shown appreciation start in the service work preaching the good news, but sometimes they cool off. Their interest wanes. That is why Paul admonished the young overseer, Timothy, to fight the fine fight of faith. Of course, being an overseer, he was to help many others to do the same thing.

[20] On the other hand, it is not just the responsibility of overseers to aid people to remain Christians and to stay in Jehovah's visible organization. It is the responsibility of every Christian within Jehovah's organization to help each one. True, our love goes out to God, and Jesus said we should love Jehovah our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, but he also said we should love our neighbor as we love ourselves. If we really do this, then as Christians we must love and aid our neighbors to put up a fine fight for the faith. Why should Christians want to do this? Because, like Paul, Christians must be able to say: "I did not hold back from telling you any of the things that were profitable nor from teaching you publicly and from house to house." (Acts 20:20) Christians will never "get a firm hold on the everlasting life" unless they keep on serving God in every way day by day. So it is necessary to help one another, especially in these perilous times, days that are hard to deal with, days in which every man's hand is against his neighbor, days in which the love of the greater number grows cold, days in which immorality is rampant. So it is excellent admonition that Paul gave Timothy. Every Christian should help his

18, 19. (a) How many attended the Memorial celebration, and how many partook of the emblems of bread and wine? (b) While 69,649 were baptized, what should we all remember?

20. How does one get a "firm hold on the everlasting life," and how does he aid others to do so?

brother to 'fight the fine fight of the faith, to get a firm hold on the everlasting life.' This is in full accord with the text that Jehovah's witnesses have chosen for 1963: "Have faith to the preserving alive of the soul." (Heb. 10:39) With these thoughts in mind it is hoped, not only that those who are now Jehovah's witnesses will keep a firm hold on the real life, but also that hundreds of thousands, yes, millions of other persons still groping for the light will find it, if it pleases God. Bringing them the light is the great responsibility resting upon Jehovah's witnesses. They must take the truth and light from the Word of God to the ends of the earth. This they will do by Jehovah's undeserved kindness right on up to the end of this system of things. Jesus has declared that it will be done. Said he: "This good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come."—Matt. 24:14.

SERVING THE RULER OUT OF THE HOUSE OF BREAD

WHAT an honor, what a privilege, what a blessing it is to serve the Ruler out of the House of Bread! He is no ordinary, imperfect, selfish or even well-intentioned feeble human that has a fading glory and a fleeting life. No, this Ruler is one that Jehovah God himself chose. Foreseeing mankind's need of a righteous ruler, God caused one of his prophets long ago to foretell concerning this Ruler: "O Bethlehem Ephrathah, . . . from you there will come out to me the one who is to become ruler." —Mic. 5:2.*

When Jesus came to earth more than nineteen hundred years ago, he was born in Bethlehem in initial fulfillment of Micah's prophecy. Most fittingly God's angels at that time announced: "There was born to you today a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, in David's city. Glory in the heights above to God, and upon earth peace among men of good will."—Luke 2:11, 14.

With full confidence Jehovah God could appoint this one to be Ruler, for had he not faithfully served with his Father from time indefinite, gaining experience, adding to his knowledge and wisdom in his exclusive association with his Father? (Prov. 8:22-31) No question about his being the best one that God could possibly have chosen. And after his coming to earth and learning obedience from the things he suffered, Jehovah God exalted him to his own right hand, awaiting the time for the fulfillment of Micah 5:2 on a grander scale. —Heb. 5:8.

Bible prophecy locates the grander and complete fulfillment of Micah 5:2 at the end of the times of the nations, which came in 1914. At that time the words of Jehovah applied: "I, even I, have installed my king upon Zion, my holy mountain. . . . You are my son; I, today, I have become your father. Ask of me, that I may give nations as your inheritance and the ends of the earth as your own possession."—Ps. 2:6-8.

How can it be said that this glorious divine Ruler at that time came out of Bethlehem? Because Bethlehem means 'house or place of bread,' and the place from where this great Ruler comes is the House of Bread for all mankind. What caused it to become this House of Bread? Jesus' ransom sacrifice, the merit of which he presented to his Father upon his ascension to heaven. It is by means of this merit that Jesus Christ can give life to all obedient ones of mankind, he being, as he himself stated, "the living bread that came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread he will live forever; and, for a fact, the bread that I shall give is my flesh in behalf of the life of the world."—John 6:51.

Further, just as the little town of Bethlehem was located in Judah, meaning [Jehovah-] Lauded, so this greater Bethlehem is situated in the heavens among the angelic hosts, all of whom laud Jehovah. And even as Bethlehem was not situated all over Judah but had a definite location, a certain spot or point or territory in Judah, so the symbolic Bethlehem, the spiritual House of Bread, does not take in all of heaven, but is located where Jesus himself is, since he is the life-giving Bread.

Associated with this Ruler out of the House

* For details see *The Watchtower*, January 15, 1962.

of Bread, not as Bread Providers, or as coming themselves out of the House of Bread—for they themselves first had to take of the living Bread—are his faithful footstep followers, the "called and chosen and faithful," who, with him, constitute God's capital organization that rules over his universal organization.—Rev. 17: 14; 14:1, 3.

Of course, if Jesus Christ had been made Ruler without coming from this heavenly House of Bread, without his first having ransomed mankind and presented the merit of his sacrifice in heaven, he could not give everlasting life to mankind, regardless of how able and beneficent his rule might be. On the other hand, without his being sent forth as the Ruler, he could not give mankind the benefit of his being the Bread of life in the House of Bread.

How much all of us are indebted to this Ruler out of the House of Bread! What a fine example he set for all his followers! Dedicated Christians who appreciate the benefits that are and will yet be theirs and the example he set will delight to serve him. They will do as he did when upon earth, go about "preaching and declaring the good news of the kingdom of God." (Luke 8:1) And as he trained others, so these will also do. For many, January will be a long, cold month, but what are the discomforts of inclement weather compared with the joys that come from being in the direct service of the Ruler out of the House of Bread, bringing the Bread of life to deserving hungry and dying ones!

DO YOU REMEMBER?

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

● Why is it not safe for Christians to follow men?

Because men are imperfect, make mistakes and at times prove unfaithful. However, so long as they are of "those who through faith and patience inherited the promises" they may be imitated.—P. 535.*

● What light do the Psalms throw on life's roadway?

They contain accurate history, inspired prophecy, sound doctrine and admonition to right conduct.—Pp. 550, 551.

● Why cannot 1 John 5:7 be used to prove the trinity teaching?

Because it is spurious, not genuine; it being added later.—P. 556.

● Did the apostle John borrow from Plato his teaching regarding Jesus' being the Word?

No, he did not. He termed Jesus the Word because the Bible shows that the prehuman Jesus was God's spokesman.—Pp. 602, 603.

● Is extrasensory perception for Christians?

No; for its manifestations, such as clairvoyance, telepathy, visions, object readings and prediction indicate spiritism.—Pp. 647, 648.

● What is relative subjection?

It is a subjection related to something else; specifically, a subjection limited or qualified by God's will.—P. 651.

● Who is the "king" mentioned at 1 Peter 2:17, for whom Christians are to have honor?

Any king or any political ruler having governors under him.—Pp. 659, 660.

● What is the "human creation" to which Christians are to subject themselves?

A ruling office created by humans of this world or the one occupying such an office. —P. 660.

● To whom is "relative subjection" due?

It is due to husbands, parents, masters of slaves and political governments.—Pp. 665, 666.

● Who are the "superior authorities" to whom Christians are to be in subjection?

The duly constituted political governments of this world.—Pp. 684, 685.

● In what way are the "superior authorities" God's ministers?

In that they punish wrongdoers.—P. 712.

● For what compelling reason should Christians be in subjection to the "superior authorities"?

For conscience' sake.—Pp. 714, 715.

● Why is faith termed "the evident demonstration of realities though not beheld"?

Because it makes evident what has not been discerned before and at the same time refutes what appears to be the case but is not.—P. 751.

* All references are to *The Watchtower* for 1962.

● How are we to understand that part of Micah 4:3 that reads: "He will certainly render judgment among many peoples, and set matters straight respecting mighty nations far away"?—L. S., United States.

This part of Micah's prophecy must be understood in harmony with the context. At Micah 4:2 we read that "many nations" will be saying: "Come, you people, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will instruct us about his ways, and we will walk in his paths." These many nations and people do not refer to the political nations and governments as such. Rather, these many nations and people are the individual believers out of all the political nations that come to Jehovah's mountain, even as explicitly stated at Revelation 7:9.

Consequently, verse three of Micah chapter four, which says that Jehovah will certainly render judgment among "many peoples" and set things straight respecting "nations far away," is not referring to interference by Jehovah in the affairs of the political nations. Rather, it must refer to his rendering judgments and setting matters straight in a spiritual way for those believers who have come out of the political nations and have taken their stand for Jehovah's kingdom.

These conform to these judgments by doing what the rest of verse three states: "And they will have to beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning shears. They will not lift up sword, nation against nation, neither will they learn war any more."

True Christians are doing this in keeping with the Resolution they passed at their 1958 Divine Will Assembly, and which reads in part: "Figuratively speaking, we have beaten our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning shears and, although of so many nationalities, we will not lift up sword against one another because we are Christian brothers and members of the one family of God, neither will we learn war against one another any more, but we will walk in God's paths in peace, unity and brotherly love."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIELD MINISTRY

Jesus Christ, who is the Ruler out of the House of Bread, has abundant provision of Bread to sustain the lives of all who seek Jehovah God. Distributing Bible-study publications that direct attention to this spiritual Bread supply is the privilege of his followers on earth. During January they will do this by offering a year's subscription for *The Watchtower*, with three booklets, for $1.

1963 YEARBOOK AND CALENDAR

For years, one of the highlights of each year's preaching activity for Jehovah's witnesses has been the annual report of the Society's president, the *Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses*. This year is no exception. And with good reason! The 1963 *Yearbook* contains one of the most gratifying reports to date. Over 142 million hours of zealous labors of love by 989,192 faithful ministers! And, as might be expected, all those hours have brought heart-stirring experiences. Read them. Send for the 1963 *Yearbook*. It is only 50c. Send also for the beautiful 1963 calendar depicting Jehovah's deliverance. It is 25c.

"WATCHTOWER" STUDIES FOR THE WEEKS

February 10: How Strong Is Your Faith? ¶1-22. Page 7.

February 17: How Strong Is Your Faith? ¶23-47. Page 13.

February 24: 'Fight a Fine Fight for the Faith.' Page 21.