

- Song 127 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Are You a Physical Man or a Spiritual Man?”: (10 min.)

[Play the video Introduction to 1 Corinthians.]



2:14-16

Each of us needs to cultivate spirituality and keep growing as a spiritual person. (Eph 4:23, 24) In order to make progress, you must feed yourself spiritually, set spiritual goals, and cultivate the fruitage of the spirit.

How does your spirituality now compare with your spirituality a year ago, ten years ago, or when you got baptized?

- (1 Corinthians 2:14-16) But a physical man does not accept the things of the spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot get to know them, because they are examined spiritually. 15 However, the spiritual man examines all things, but he himself is not examined by any man. 16 For “who has come to know the mind of Jehovah, so that he may instruct him?” But we do have the mind of Christ.

- (Ephesians 4:23, 24) And you should continue to be made new in your dominant mental attitude, 24 and should put on the new personality that was created according to God’s will in true righteousness and loyalty.

1Co 2:14—What does it mean to be “a physical man”? (w18.02 19 ¶4-5)

(1 Corinthians 2:14) 14 But a physical man does not accept the things of the spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot get to know them, because they are examined spiritually.

*** w18 February p. 19 pars. 4-5 What Does It Mean to Be a Spiritual Person? ***

4 Consider first the attitude of a physical individual. The world has a predominant attitude that centers on the flesh. Paul describes it as “the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.” (Eph. 2:2) This spirit influences most humans to adopt a common attitude—simply follow the crowd. They are focused on the flesh. As a result, the majority of them do what feels right in their own eyes and make no effort to live up to God’s standards. A physical, or fleshly-minded, person is often excessively concerned about prestige and material pursuits or about defending what he feels are his rights.

5 What else might identify a physical person? People who engage in any of “the works of the flesh” fall into that category. (Gal. 5:19-21) Paul’s first letter to the Corinthian congregation identifies a number of other characteristics of those who have a fleshly attitude. These include: promoting divisions, taking sides, fostering dissensions, taking one another to court, showing a lack of appreciation for

headship, and being self-indulgent in food and drink. When confronted with temptation, the fleshly-minded person weakens and gives in. (Prov. 7:21, 22) Jude spoke of those who would deteriorate even to the point of “not having spirituality.”—Jude 18, 19.

Paragraph 4

- (Ephesians 2:2) in which you at one time walked according to the system of things of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.
- Paragraph 5
- (Galatians 5:19-21) Now the works of the flesh are plainly seen, and they are sexual immorality, uncleanness, brazen conduct, 20 idolatry, spiritism, hostility, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, dissensions, divisions, sects, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and things like these. I am forewarning you about these things, the same way I already warned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit God’s Kingdom.
- (Proverbs 7:21, 22) She misleads him with great persuasiveness. She seduces him with smooth speech. 22 Suddenly he goes after her, like a bull to the slaughter, Like a fool to be punished in the stocks,
- (Jude 18, 19) how they used to say to you: “In the last time there will be ridiculers, following their own desires for ungodly things.” 19 These are the ones who cause divisions, animalistic men, not having spirituality.

1Co 2:15, 16—What does it mean to be a “spiritual man”? (w18.02 19 ¶6; 22 ¶15)

(1 Corinthians 2:15, 16) 15 However, the spiritual man examines all things, but he himself is not examined by any man. 16 For “who has come to know the mind of Jehovah, so that he may instruct him?” But we do have the mind of Christ.

*** w18 February p. 19 par. 6 What Does It Mean to Be a Spiritual Person? ***

6 What, then, does it mean to be a “spiritual man”? A spiritual person is inclined toward God, the opposite of the physical person. Spiritually-minded individuals strive to “become imitators of God.” (Eph. 5:1) This means that they make an effort to have Jehovah’s thinking on matters and to look at things from his point of view. God is very real to them. In contrast with fleshly-minded individuals, they try to bring all their ways into harmony with Jehovah’s standards. (Ps. 119:33; 143:10) Rather than focus on fleshly works, the spiritually-minded person endeavors to show “the fruitage of the spirit.” (Gal. 5:22, 23) To clarify the expression “spiritually-minded” further, think of this comparison: An individual who is skillful in commercial affairs is said to be business-minded. Similarly, someone who keenly values spiritual or religious interests is called spiritually-minded.

- (Ephesians 5:1) Therefore, become imitators of God, as beloved children,
- (Psalm 119:33) Teach me, O Jehovah, the way of your regulations, And I will follow it to the end.
- (Psalm 143:10) Teach me to do your will, For you are my God. Your spirit is good; May it lead me on level ground.
- (Galatians 5:22, 23) On the other hand, the fruitage of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,

faith, 23 mildness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.

*** w18 February p. 22 par. 15 What Does It Mean to Be a Spiritual Person? ***

15 How can we personally imitate Christ? The Bible at 1 Corinthians 2:16 speaks of having “the mind of Christ.” And Romans 15:5 refers to having “the same mental attitude that Christ Jesus had.” Therefore, to be like Christ, we need to know his pattern of thinking and the full range of his personality. Then we need to follow in his footsteps. Jesus’ mind is focused on his relationship with God. So being like Jesus makes us more like Jehovah. For these reasons, it becomes clear how important it is to learn to think as Jesus does.

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- (1 Corinthians 2:16) For “who has come to know the mind of Jehovah, so that he may instruct him?” But we do have the mind of Christ.
- (Romans 15:5) Now may the God who supplies endurance and comfort grant you to have among yourselves the same mental attitude that Christ Jesus had,

Digging for Spiritual Gems:

1Co 1:20—How has God “made the wisdom of the world foolish”? (it-2 1193 ¶1)

(1 Corinthians 1:20) 20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this system of things? Has not God made the wisdom of the world foolish?

*** it-2 p. 1193 Wisdom ***

So the world in its wisdom rejected God’s provision through Christ as foolishness; its rulers, though they may have been able and judicious administrators, even “impaled the glorious Lord.” (1Co 1:18; 2:7, 8) But God, in turn, was now proving the wisdom of the worldly wise to be foolishness, putting their wise men to shame by using what they considered “a foolish thing of God,” as well as persons they deemed ‘foolish, weak, and ignoble,’ to accomplish His invincible purpose. (1Co 1:19-28) Paul reminded the Corinthian Christians that “the wisdom of this system of things [and] that of the rulers of this system of things” would come to nothing; hence such wisdom was not part of the apostle’s spiritual message. (1Co 2:6, 13) He warned Christians in Colossae against being ensnared by “the philosophy [phi·lo·so·phi’as, literally, love of wisdom] and empty deception according to the tradition of men.”—Col 2:8; compare vss 20-23.

1Co 2:3-5—How can Paul’s example help us? (w08 7/15 27 ¶6)

(1 Corinthians 2:3-5) 3 And I came to you in weakness and in fear and with much trembling; 4 and my speech and what I preached were not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of spirit and power, 5 so that your faith might be, not in men’s wisdom, but in God’s power.

*** w08 7/15 p. 27 par. 6 Highlights From the Letters to the Corinthians ***

2:3-5. While witnessing in Corinth, a center of Greek philosophy and learning, Paul may have been concerned about whether he would be able to persuade his listeners. However, he did not allow any weakness or fear he might have had to interfere with the carrying out of his God-given ministry. Likewise, we should not permit unusual circumstances to hold us back from declaring the good news of God’s Kingdom. We can confidently look to Jehovah for help as did Paul.

What has this week’s Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week’s Bible reading?

Bible Reading:) 1Co 1:1-17
(4 min. or less) •

(1 Corinthians 1:1-17) 1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by God’s will, and Sos'the-nes our brother, 2 to the congregation of God that is in Corinth, to you who have been sanctified in union with Christ Jesus, called to be holy ones, together with all those everywhere who are calling on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:

3 May you have undeserved kindness and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I always thank my God for you in view of the undeserved kindness of God given to you in Christ Jesus; 5 because in everything you have been enriched in him, in full ability to speak and in full knowledge, 6 just as the witness about the Christ has been made firm among you, 7 so that you do not lack in any gift at all, while you are eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also make you firm to the end so that you may be open to no accusation in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

10 Now I urge you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you should all speak in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you may be completely united in the same mind and in the same line of thought. 11 For some from the house of Chlo'e have informed me regarding you, my brothers, that there are dissensions among you. 12 What I mean is this, that each one of you says: "I belong to Paul," "But I to A-pol'los," "But I to Ce'phas," "But I to Christ." 13 Is the Christ divided? Paul was not executed on the stake for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Cris'pus and Ga'ius, 15 so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. 16 Yes, I also baptized the household of Steph'a-nas. As for

the rest, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. 17 For Christ sent me, not to baptize, but to declare the good news; and not with wisdom of speech, so that the torture stake of the Christ should not be made useless.

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

• First Return Visit Video: (5 min.) Play and discuss the video.

○○○ FIRST RETURN VISIT

Question: How do we know that God will accomplish his purpose for humans?

Scripture: Isa 55:11

Link: What will life be like when God fulfills his purpose?

- (Isaiah 55:11) 11 So my word that goes out of my mouth will be. It will not return to me without results, But it will certainly accomplish whatever is my delight, And it will have sure success in what I send it to do.

• First Return Visit: (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (th study 3)

○○○ FIRST RETURN VISIT

Question: How do we know that God will accomplish his purpose for humans?

Scripture: Isa 55:11

Link: What will life be like when God fulfills his purp

- (Isaiah 55:11) 11 So my word that goes out of my mouth will be. It will not return to me without results, But it will certainly accomplish whatever is my delight, And it will have sure success in what I send it to do.ose?

• First Return Visit: (4 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation, and introduce the Teach Us book. (th study 11)

○○○ FIRST RETURN VISIT

Question: How do we know that God will accomplish his purpose for humans?

Scripture: Isa 55:11

Link: What will life be like when God fulfills his purpose?

- (Isaiah 55:11) 11 So my word that goes out of my mouth will be. It will not return to me without results, But it will certainly accomplish whatever is my delight, And it will have sure success in what I send it to do.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 18

• “Improving Our Skills in the Ministry— Writing Good Letters”: (8 min.) Discussion.



LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Writing Good Letters

WHY IMPORTANT: The book of 1 Corinthians is one of 14 letters written by the apostle Paul to encourage fellow Christians. A letter allows the writer to choose his words carefully, and it can be read repeatedly by the recipient. Letters are a good way to witness to relatives and acquaintances. They are also an effective means of giving a witness to those we are unable to speak to in person. For example, someone may have shown interest but is hard to find at home. Some in our territory may be difficult to reach because they live in high-security apartment buildings, gated communities, or isolated places. What are some things to keep in mind, especially when writing to a stranger?



HOW TO DO IT:

- Say what you would have said in person. Introduce yourself in the beginning of the letter, and state clearly why you are writing. Perhaps pose a question for the person to think about, and refer him to our website. Then tell him

about the Online Bible Study Lessons, outline our home Bible study program, or cite some of the chapter titles from one of our study aids. Literature, such as a contact card, an invitation, or a tract, can be enclosed

- Be brief. Conclude your letter before the recipient might tire of reading it.—See the sample letter
- Proofread it for errors and legibility. Make sure it sounds friendly, tactful, and positive. Affix sufficient postage

[Your name]
 [Your street address]
 [Your city, state, postal code]
 [Your e-mail address]
 [Date]

Dear Mr. (or Mrs.) [Householder's Name]:

My husband and I live in your neighborhood. We have not been able to speak with you personally, but we have some important information that we want to share with you. A sample of it is contained in the enclosed tract.

Our work is not commercial and is done in over 200 lands. We volunteer to help people learn the Bible's answers to such important questions as: Why does God allow suffering? What is God's purpose for the earth? How can we make our family life happy?

We engage in this activity because we are genuinely interested in our neighbors. It is our hope that someday soon we will be able to talk to you personally. Please feel free to get in touch with us at the above address, or visit the official website of Jehovah's Witnesses, www.jw.org.

Sincerely,
 [Signature]

• Memorial Campaign to Begin Saturday, March 23: (7 min.) Discussion by the service overseer. Give everyone in the audience a copy of the invitation, and review it. Play and discuss the sample presentation. Outline local arrangements for covering the territory.

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

1st Jy chap. 59

CHAPTER 59

Who Is the Son of Man?

(Matthew 16:13-27) When he had come into the region of Caes-a-re'a Phi-lip'pi, Jesus asked his disciples: "Who are men saying the Son of man is?" 14 They said: "Some say John the Baptist, others E-li'jah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them: "You, though, who do you say I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 In response Jesus said to him: "Happy you are, Simon son of Jo'nah, because flesh and blood did not reveal it to you, but my Father in the heavens did. 18 Also, I say to you: You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my congregation, and the gates of the Grave will not overpower it. 19 I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of the heavens, and whatever you may bind on earth will already be bound in the heavens, and whatever you may loosen on earth will already be loosened in the heavens." 20 Then he sternly instructed the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ. 21 From that time forward, Jesus began explaining to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed, and on the third day be raised up. 22 At this Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying: "Be kind to yourself, Lord; you will not have this happen to you at all." 23 But turning his back, he said to Peter: "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me, because you think, not God's thoughts, but those of men." 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples: "If anyone wants to come after me, let him disown himself and pick up his torture stake and keep following me. 25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 Really, what good will it do a

man if he gains the whole world but loses his life? Or what will a man give in exchange for his life? 27 For the Son of man is to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then he will repay each one according to his behavior.

(Mark 8:22-38) Now they put in at Beth-sa'i-da. Here people brought him a blind man, and they pleaded with him to touch him. 23 And he took the blind man by the hand and brought him outside the village. After spitting on his eyes, he laid his hands on him and asked him: "Do you see anything?" 24 The man looked up and said: "I see people, but they look like trees walking about." 25 Again he laid his hands on the man's eyes, and the man saw clearly. His sight was restored, and he could see everything distinctly. 26 So he sent him home, saying: "Do not enter into the village." 27 Jesus and his disciples now left for the villages of Caes-a-re'a Phi-lip'pi, and on the way he began to question his disciples, saying: "Who are people saying that I am?" 28 They said to him: "John the Baptist, but others say E-li'jah, and still others, one of the prophets." 29 And he put the question to them: "You, though, who do you say I am?" Peter answered him: "You are the Christ." 30 At that he strictly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. 31 Also, he began teaching them that the Son of man must undergo many sufferings and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and rise three days later. 32 Indeed, he was making that statement openly. But Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 At this he turned, looked at his disciples, and rebuked Peter, saying: "Get behind me, Satan! because you think, not God's thoughts, but those of men." 34 He now called the crowd to him with his disciples and said to them: "If anyone wants to come after me, let him disown himself and pick up his torture stake and keep following me. 35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and for the sake of the good news will save it. 36 Really, what good will it do a man to gain the whole world and to lose his life? 37 What, really,

would a man give in exchange for his life? 38 For whoever becomes ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

(Luke 9:18-26) Later, while he was praying alone, the disciples came to him, and he questioned them, saying: “Who are the crowds saying that I am?” 19 In reply they said: “John the Baptist, but others say E-li’jah, and still others say that one of the ancient prophets has risen.” 20 Then he said to them: “You, though, who do you say I am?” Peter answered: “The Christ of God.” 21 Then in a stern talk to them, he instructed them not to tell this to anybody, 22 but he said: “The Son of man must undergo many sufferings and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and on the third day be raised up.” 23 Then he went on to say to all: “If anyone wants to come after me, let him disown himself and pick up his torture stake day after day and keep following me. 24 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake is the one who will save it. 25 Really, what good will it do a man if he gains the whole world but loses his own self or suffers ruin? 26 For whoever becomes ashamed of me and of my words, the Son of man will be ashamed of that person when he comes in his glory and that of the Father and of the holy angels.

Paragraph 2 on Page 142

(Mark 8:23, 24) And he took the blind man by the hand and brought him outside the village. After spitting on his eyes, he laid his hands on him and asked him: “Do you see anything?” 24 The man looked up and said: “I see people, but they look like trees walking about.”

Paragraph 5 on Page 142

(Matthew 16:13-16) When he had come into the region of Caes-a-re'a Phi-lip'pi, Jesus asked his disciples: “Who are men saying the Son of man is?” 14 They said: “Some say John the Baptist, others E-li’jah, and still others

Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them: “You, though, who do you say I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Paragraph 6 on Page 142

(Matthew 16:18, 19) Also, I say to you: You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my congregation, and the gates of the Grave will not overpower it. 19 I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of the heavens, and whatever you may bind on earth will already be bound in the heavens, and whatever you may loosen on earth will already be loosened in the heavens.”

Paragraph 7 on Page 142

(1 Corinthians 3:11) For no one can lay any other foundation than what is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

(Ephesians 2:20) and you have been built up on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, while Christ Jesus himself is the foundation cornerstone.

Paragraph 1 on Page 143

(Acts 2:37, 38) Now when they heard this, they were stabbed to the heart, and they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles: “Men, brothers, what should we do?” 38 Peter said to them: “Repent, and let each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the free gift of the holy spirit.

(Acts 8:14-17) When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Sa-mar'i-a had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them; 15 and these went down and prayed for them to get holy spirit. 16 For it had not yet come upon any one of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid their hands on them, and they began to receive holy spirit.

(Acts 10:44-48) While Peter was still speaking about these matters, the holy spirit came upon all those hearing the word. 45 And the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed, because the free gift of the holy spirit was being poured out also on

people of the nations. 46 For they heard them speaking in foreign languages and magnifying God. Then Peter responded: 47 “Can anyone deny water to prevent these from being baptized who have received the holy spirit just as we have?” 48 With that he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they requested him to stay for some days.

Paragraph 2 on Page 143

(Matthew 16:22, 23) At this Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying: “Be kind to yourself, Lord; you will not have this happen to you at all.” 23 But turning his back, he said to Peter: “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me, because you think, not God’s thoughts, but those of men.”

Paragraph 3 on Page 143

(Mark 8:34, 35) He now called the crowd to him with his disciples and said to them: “If anyone wants to come after me, let him disown himself and pick up his torture stake and keep following me. 35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and for the sake of the good news will save it.

Paragraph 4 on Page 143

(Mark 8:38) For whoever becomes ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

(Matthew 16:27) For the Son of man is to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then he will repay each one according to his behavior.

◇ What views do some people have as to Jesus’ identity? How do the apostles view him?

◇ Peter receives what keys, and how are they to be used?

◇ What correction does Peter receive, and why?

· Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)

- Song 51 and Prayer