

- Song 27 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Are You ‘Waiting With Eager Expectation’?”: (10 min.)

8:19-21

- “The creation”: mankind with the earthly hope
- “The revealing of the sons of God”: when the anointed ones share with Christ in destroying Satan’s wicked system of things
- “The basis of hope”: Jehovah’s promise of deliverance through Jesus’ death and resurrection
- “Set free from enslavement to corruption”: the gradual deliverance from the effects of sin and death

[Box on page 5]

How can you show that you are “waiting with eager expectation for the revealing of the sons of God”?

- Diligently study the Bible, and pray for holy spirit
- Take full advantage of Jehovah’s spiritual provisions
- Do not let Satan deceive you into thinking that God’s ways are unduly restrictive
- Live the truth; make it your own

Ro 8:19—“The sons of God” will soon be revealed (w12 7/15 11 ¶17)

(Romans 8:19) 19 For the creation is waiting with eager expectation for the revealing of the sons of God.

*** w12 7/15 p. 11 par. 17 Let Jehovah Lead You to True Freedom ***

17 When discussing the freedom that Jehovah has in store for his earthly servants, Paul wrote: “The eager expectation of the creation is waiting for the revealing of the sons of God.” Then he added: “The creation itself also will be set free from enslavement to corruption and have the glorious freedom of the children of God.” (Rom. 8:19-21) “The creation” refers to mankind with the earthly hope, those who will benefit from “the revealing” of God’s spirit-anointed sons. That revealing will begin when these “sons,” resurrected to the spirit realm, share with Christ in cleansing the earth of evil and preserving “a great crowd” into the new system of things.—Rev. 7:9, 14.

- (Romans 8:19-21) For the creation is waiting with eager expectation for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but through the one who subjected it, on the basis of hope 21 that the creation itself will also be set free from enslavement to corruption and have the glorious freedom of the children of God.
- (Revelation 7:9) After this I saw, and look! a great crowd, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes; and there were palm branches in their hands.

- (Revelation 7:14) So right away I said to him: “My lord, you are the one who knows.” And he said to me: “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Ro 8:20—“The creation was subjected to futility . . . on the basis of hope” (w12 3/15 23 ¶11)

(Romans 8:20) 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but through the one who subjected it, on the basis of hope

*** w12 3/15 p. 23 par. 11 Rejoicing in Our Hope ***

11 “The basis of hope” for mankind was given by Jehovah when he promised deliverance from “the original serpent,” Satan the Devil, by means of the promised “seed.” (Rev. 12:9; Gen. 3:15) That “seed” was primarily Jesus Christ. (Gal. 3:16) By his death and resurrection, Jesus provided a solid basis for mankind’s hope to be set free from enslavement to sin and death. The realization of this hope is related to “the revealing of the sons of God.” The glorified anointed ones are the secondary part of the “seed.” They will be ‘revealed’ when they share with Christ in destroying Satan’s wicked system of things. (Rev. 2:26, 27) This will bring salvation to the other sheep who come out of the great tribulation.—Rev. 7:9, 10, 14.

- (Revelation 12:9) So down the great dragon was hurled, the original serpent, the one called Devil and Satan, who is misleading the entire inhabited earth; he was hurled down to the earth, and his angels were hurled down with him.
- (Genesis 3:15) And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and her

offspring. He will crush your head, and you will strike him in the heel.”

- (Galatians 3:16) Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “and to your descendants,” in the sense of many. Rather, it says, “and to your offspring,” in the sense of one, who is Christ.
- (Revelation 2:26, 27) And to the one who conquers and observes my deeds down to the end, I will give authority over the nations, 27 and he will shepherd the people with an iron rod so that they will be broken to pieces like clay vessels, just as I have received from my Father.
- (Revelation 7:9, 10) After this I saw, and look! a great crowd, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes; and there were palm branches in their hands. 10 And they keep shouting with a loud voice, saying: “Salvation we owe to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb.”
- (Revelation 7:14) So right away I said to him: “My lord, you are the one who knows.” And he said to me: “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Ro 8:21—The creation will “be set free from enslavement to corruption” (w12 3/15 23 ¶12)

(Romans 8:21) 21 that the creation itself will also be set free from enslavement to corruption and have the glorious freedom of the children of God.

*** w12 3/15 p. 23 par. 12 Rejoicing in Our Hope ***

12 What relief will come to human “creation” during the Thousand Year Reign of Christ! At that time, the glorified “sons of God” will be further ‘revealed’ when they act as priests with Christ, administering the benefits of Jesus’ ransom sacrifice to mankind. As subjects of the heavenly Kingdom, human “creation” will begin to experience deliverance from the effects of sin and death. Obedient humans will gradually “be set free from enslavement to corruption.” If they remain faithful to Jehovah throughout the Millennium and during the final test that will come at the end of it, their names will be permanently written in “the scroll of life.” They will enter into “the glorious freedom of the children of God.” (Rev. 20:7, 8, 11, 12) A glorious hope indeed!

- (Revelation 20:7, 8) Now as soon as the 1,000 years have ended, Satan will be released from his prison, 8 and he will go out to mislead those nations in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Ma’gog, to gather them together for the war. The number of these is as the sand of the sea.
- (Revelation 20:11, 12) And I saw a great white throne and the One seated on it. From before him the earth and the heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. But another scroll was opened; it is the scroll of life. The dead were judged out of those things written in the scrolls according to their deeds.

Digging for Spiritual Gems:

Ro 8:6—What is the difference between “setting the mind on the flesh” and “setting the mind on the spirit”? (w17.06 3)

(Romans 8:6) 6 For setting the mind on the flesh means death, but setting the mind on the spirit means life and peace;

*** w17 June p. 3 Do You Remember? ***

The one doing the former focuses on the desires and leanings of the imperfect flesh, constantly talking about and glorifying things of the flesh. A person doing the latter centers his life on things related to God and his thoughts; such a Christian is dominated by holy spirit. The former leads to death, the latter to life and peace.—w16.12, pp. 15-17.

- *** w16 December pp. 14-17 pars. 6-20 ‘Setting Your Mind on the Spirit Means Life and Peace’ ***
- according to the flesh,” and Paul saw the Jews as “relatives according to the flesh.”—Rom. 1:3; 9:3.
- 7 However, what Paul wrote in chapter 7 gives us a clue as to the “flesh” spoken of at Romans 8:4-13. He linked “living according to the flesh” with “the sinful passions” that were then “at work in [their] bodies.” (Rom. 7:5) This sheds light on the meaning of the expression “those who live according to the flesh,” who Paul said, “set their minds on the things of the flesh.” He was referring to people who are ruled by or focused on their desires and leanings as imperfect humans. In the main, these are ones who follow their cravings, impulses, and passions, whether sexual or otherwise.
- 8 But you may wonder why Paul would stress to anointed Christians the danger of living “according to the flesh.” And

could a similar danger today threaten Christians, whom God has accepted as his friends and views as righteous? Sadly, any Christian could begin to walk according to the sinful flesh. For example, Paul wrote that some among the brothers in Rome were slaves “of their own appetites,” which could have been sexual appetite or appetite for food, drink, or other things. Some of them were ‘seducing unsuspecting ones.’ (Rom. 16:17, 18; Phil. 3:18, 19; Jude 4, 8, 12) Recall, too, that for a time, a brother in Corinth was “living with his father’s wife.” (1 Cor. 5:1) It is understandable, then, why God used Paul to warn Christians about “setting the mind on the flesh.”—Rom. 8:5, 6.

- 9 That warning is equally valid now. After serving God for years, a Christian could begin to set his or her mind on the things of the flesh. That does not refer to a Christian who occasionally thinks about food, employment, recreation, or even romance. Those are aspects of life for the average servant of God. Jesus enjoyed food, and he fed others. He saw the need for refreshment. And Paul wrote about the proper place for passion or intimacy within marriage.
- 10 What, then, was Paul saying about “setting the mind on the flesh”? The Greek word that Paul used means “to set one’s mind or heart upon something, to employ one’s faculty for thoughtful planning, w[ith] the emphasis upon the underlying disposition or attitude.” Those who live according to the flesh allow their life course to be determined basically by their sinful human nature. One scholar says about that word at Romans 8:5: “They set their minds on—are most deeply interested in, constantly talk about, engage and glory in—the things pertaining to the flesh.”

- 11 It was fitting for Christians in Rome to analyze what their focus in life really was. Could it be that their lives were dominated by or centered on “things of the flesh”? And it is fitting for us to consider the same about our lives. What is of greatest interest to us, and to what does our speech gravitate? What do we really pursue day in and day out? Some may find that they are focusing on trying different types of wine, decorating the home, finding new clothing styles, making investments, planning vacation trips, and the like. Such matters are not bad in themselves; they can be normal aspects of life. For example, Jesus once made wine, and Paul told Timothy to take “a little wine.” (1 Tim. 5:23; John 2:3-11) But did Jesus and Paul “constantly talk about, engage and glory in” wine? Was it their passion, what they ‘constantly talked’ about? No. What about us? What is our key interest in life?
- 12 Self-examination is important. Why? Paul wrote: “Setting the mind on the flesh means death.” (Rom. 8:6) That is serious—spiritual death now and physical death in the future. Still, Paul did not mean that if someone began to ‘set the mind on the flesh’ his end unavoidably would be death. Change is possible. Think of the immoral man in Corinth who went after “the flesh” and had to be disfellowshipped. Yet, he could and did change. He ceased to walk after the flesh and returned to a straight path.—2 Cor. 2:6-8.
- 13 If it was possible for that person to change, it is possible for a Christian today to change, especially one who has not gone after the flesh as far as the man in Corinth had. Certainly, Paul’s warning about the possible final outcome for someone who ‘sets his or her mind on the flesh’ should be a

stimulus to Christians to make any needed changes!

- “SETTING THE MIND ON THE SPIRIT”
- 14 After the apostle warned us against “setting the mind on the flesh,” he offered this positive assurance: “Setting the mind on the spirit means life and peace.” What a result or reward that is—life and peace! How can we gain that reward?
- 15 “Setting the mind on the spirit” does not imply that a person has to live with his head in the clouds, so to speak. He does not need to think and talk of nothing other than the Bible or his love for God and his hope for the future. Let us recall that Paul and others in the first century who pleased God were living rather normal lives in many respects. They consumed food and drink. Many married and enjoyed family life, working to support themselves.—Mark 6:3; 1 Thess. 2:9.
- 16 However, those servants of God did not allow such normal aspects of life to become the center of their lives. After showing that Paul worked as a tentmaker, the record reveals what his life was centered on: He regularly gave attention to the Christian preaching and teaching work. (Read Acts 18:2-4; 20:20, 21, 34, 35.) And those were the activities that he recommended to his brothers and sisters in Rome. Yes, Paul’s life centered on spiritual provisions and activities. The Romans needed to imitate him, and so do we.—Rom. 15:15, 16.
- 17 What is the outcome if we maintain a spiritual focus? Romans 8:6 answers clearly: “Setting the mind on the spirit means life and peace.” That implies letting our mind be influenced by and dominated by holy spirit and being in harmony with God and his thoughts. We

can trust that by making “the spirit” the real center of our existence, we will have a satisfying, meaningful life now. And the lasting result is everlasting life, be that in heaven or on earth.

- 18 Let us reflect on the assurance that “setting the mind on the spirit means . . . peace.” Many people struggle to find peace of mind. While they desperately search for inner peace, we already enjoy it. One aspect of having such peace is that we strive to be at peace with those in our family and those in the congregation. We have the good sense to realize that both we and our brothers and sisters are imperfect. Because of this, problems may occasionally arise, and if that happens, we have been taught to follow Jesus’ advice: “Make your peace with your brother.” (Matt. 5:24) This is made easier when we recall that the other brother or sister is also serving “the God who gives peace.”—Rom. 15:33; 16:20.
- 19 And there is another peace that is of incalculable value. By our “setting the mind on the spirit,” we enjoy peace with our Maker. Isaiah recorded words that applied in his day but have an even greater fulfillment now: “You [Jehovah] will safeguard those who fully lean on you; you will give them continuous peace, because it is in you that they trust.”—Isa. 26:3; read Romans 5:1.
- 20 Accordingly, whether we are spirit anointed or we hope to live permanently in a paradise on earth, we can be thankful for the inspired counsel in Romans chapter 8. How grateful we can be for the encouragement not to let “the flesh” become the principal thing in our life! Instead, we see the wisdom of living in line with the inspired assurance: “Setting the mind on the spirit means life and peace.” The reward of doing so will be everlasting, for Paul wrote: “The

wages sin pays is death, but the gift God gives is everlasting life by Christ Jesus our Lord.”—Rom. 6:23.

Ro 8:26, 27—How does Jehovah respond to “unuttered groanings”? (w09 11/15 7 ¶20)

(Romans 8:26, 27) 26 In like manner, the spirit also joins in with help for our weakness; for the problem is that we do not know what we should pray for as we need to, but the spirit itself pleads for us with unuttered groanings. 27 But the one who searches the hearts knows what the meaning of the spirit is, because it is pleading in harmony with God for the holy ones.

*** w09 11/15 p. 7 par. 20 What Do Your Prayers Say About You? ***

20 At times, we may not know what to say in our private prayers. “The problem of what we should pray for as we need to we do not know,” wrote Paul, “but the [holy] spirit itself pleads for us with groanings unuttered. Yet he [God] who searches the hearts knows what the meaning of the spirit is.” (Rom. 8:26, 27) Jehovah caused many prayers to be recorded in the Scriptures. He accepts these inspired petitions as requests we would like to make and therefore fulfills them. God knows us and the meaning of the things he caused his spirit to speak through the Bible writers. Jehovah answers our supplications when the spirit “pleads,” or intercedes, for us. But as we become better acquainted with God’s Word, what we should pray for may more readily come to mind.

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:)) Ro 7:13-25
(4 min. or less) •

(Romans 7:13-25) 13 Therefore, did what is good result in my death? Certainly not! But sin did, that it might be shown to be sin working out death in me through what is good, so that through the commandment sin might become far more sinful. 14 For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am fleshly, sold under sin. 15 For I do not understand what I am doing. For I do not practice what I wish, but I do what I hate. 16 However, if I do what I do not wish, I agree that the Law is fine. 17 But now I am no longer the one doing it, but it is the sin that resides in me. 18 For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, there dwells nothing good; for I have the desire to do what is fine but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good that I wish, but the bad that I do not wish is what I practice. 20 If, then, I do what I do not wish, I am no longer the one carrying it out, but it is the sin dwelling in me. 21 I find, then, this law in my case: When I wish to do what is right, what is bad is present with me. 22 I really delight in the law of God according to the man I am within, 23 but I see in my body another law warring against the law of my mind and leading me captive to sin’s law that is in my body. 24 Miserable man that I am! Who will rescue me from the body undergoing this death? 25 Thanks to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So, then, with my mind I myself am a slave to God’s law, but with my flesh to sin’s law.

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

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

- **First Return Visit: (3 min. or less)** Use the sample conversation. (th study 6)

○○○ FIRST RETURN VISIT

Question: Is the Bible compatible with science?

Scripture: Job 26:7

Link: Is the Bible's advice practical?

- (Job 26:7) 7 He stretches out the northern sky over empty space, Suspending the earth upon nothing;

- **First Return Visit: (5 min. or less)** Begin with the sample conversation. Then introduce and discuss (but do not play) the video What Happens at a Bible Study? (th study 9)

○○○ FIRST RETURN VISIT

Question: Is the Bible compatible with science?

Scripture: Job 26:7

Link: Is the Bible's advice practical?

- (Job 26:7) 7 He stretches out the northern sky over empty space, Suspending the earth upon nothing;

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 139

- **“Keep Eagerly Waiting With Endurance”: (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video We Must “Run With Endurance”—Be Confident of Gaining the Prize.**

*** mwb19 February Keep Eagerly Waiting With Endurance ***

How long have you been waiting for God's Kingdom to come? Have you been enduring patiently despite hardship? (Ro 8:25) Some Christians face hatred, mistreatment, imprisonment, or even the threat of death. Many others cope with such trials as chronic illness or advancing age.

What will help us to wait eagerly in the face of any trial? We must feed our faith daily with Bible reading and meditation. We must focus on our hope. (2Co 4:16-18; Heb 12:2) We must supplicate Jehovah in prayer and beg him for the power of his holy spirit. (Lu 11:10, 13; Heb 5:7) Our loving Father can help us “endure fully with patience and joy.”—Col 1:11.

- (Romans 8:25) But if we hope for what we do not see, we keep eagerly waiting for it with endurance.
- (2 Corinthians 4:16-18) Therefore, we do not give up, but even if the man we are outside is wasting away, certainly the man we are inside is being renewed from day to day. 17 For though the tribulation is momentary and light, it works out for us a glory that is of more and more surpassing greatness and is everlasting; 18 while we keep our eyes, not on the things seen, but on the things unseen. For the things seen are temporary, but the things unseen are everlasting.
- (Hebrews 12:2) as we look intently at the Chief Agent and Perfecter of our faith, Jesus. For the joy that was set before him he endured a torture stake, despising shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- (Luke 11:10) For everyone asking receives, and everyone seeking finds, and to everyone knocking, it will be opened.
- (Luke 11:13) Therefore, if you, although being wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more so will the Father in heaven give holy spirit to those asking him!”
- (Hebrews 5:7) During his life on earth, Christ offered up supplications and

also petitions, with strong outcries and tears, to the One who was able to save him out of death, and he was favorably heard for his godly fear.

- (Colossians 1:11) and may you be strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may endure fully with patience and joy,

WATCH THE VIDEO WE MUST “RUN WITH ENDURANCE”—BE CONFIDENT OF GAINING THE PRIZE, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- What “unexpected events” could arise in life? (Ec 9:11)
 - (Ecclesiastes 9:11) I have seen something further under the sun, that the swift do not always win the race, nor do the mighty win the battle, nor do the wise always have the food, nor do the intelligent always have the riches, nor do those with knowledge always have success, because time and unexpected events overtake them all.

- How does prayer help us when we face trials?

- If we cannot do as much in Jehovah’s service as we once did, why should we focus on what we can still do?

- What helps you to remain confident of gaining the prize?

[Box on page 8]

- How can you give support to those facing trials and to members of their family?

- Offer kind words, and avoid making negative comparisons
- Be a good listener
- Pray for them and with them
- Prepare a meal or do some household chores for them

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

jy chap. 55

Jesus' Words Shock Many

(John 6:48-71) "I am the bread of life. 49 Your forefathers ate the manna in the wilderness and yet they died. 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that anyone may eat of it and not die. 51 I am 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 will give is my flesh in behalf of the life of the world." 52 Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying: "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" 53 So Jesus said to them: "Most truly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood,

you have no life in yourselves. 54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has everlasting life, and I will resurrect him on the last day; 55 for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. 56 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood remains in union with me, and I in union with him. 57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. It is not as when your forefathers ate and yet died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." 59 He said these things as he was teaching in a synagogue in Ca-per'na-um. 60 When they heard this, many of his disciples said: "This speech is shocking; who can listen to it?" 61 But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were murmuring about this, said to them: "Does this stumble you? 62 What, therefore, if you should see the Son of man ascending to where he was before? 63 It is the spirit that is life-giving; the flesh is of no use at all. The sayings that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning those who did not believe and the one who would betray him. 65 He went on to say: "This is why I have said to you, no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." 66 Because of this, many of his disciples went off to the things behind and would no longer walk with him. 67 So Jesus said to the Twelve: "You do not want to go also, do you?" 68 Simon Peter answered him: "Lord, whom shall we go away to? You have sayings of everlasting life. 69 We have believed and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God." 70 Jesus answered them: "I chose you twelve, did I not? Yet one of you is a slanderer." 71 He was, in fact, speaking of Judas the son of Simon Is-car'i-ot, for this one was going to betray him, although he was one of the Twelve.

Paragraph 2 on Page 134

(John 6:48-51) "I am the bread of life. 49 Your forefathers ate the manna in the wilderness and yet they died. 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that anyone may

eat of it and not die. 51 I am 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 will give is my flesh in behalf of the life of the world."

Paragraph 4 on Page 134

(John 6:52) Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying: "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

Paragraph 5 on Page 134

(John 6:53-56) So Jesus said to them: "Most truly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in yourselves. 54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has everlasting life, and I will resurrect him on the last day; 55 for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. 56 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood remains in union with me, and I in union with him.

Paragraph 6 on Page 134

(Genesis 9:4) Only flesh with its life—its blood—you must not eat.

(Leviticus 17:10, 11) "If any man of the house of Israel or any foreigner who is residing in your midst eats any sort of blood, I will certainly set my face against the one who is eating the blood, and I will cut him off from among his people. 11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I myself have given it on the altar for you to make atonement for yourselves, because it is the blood that makes atonement by means of the life in it.

(John 6:60) When they heard this, many of his disciples said: "This speech is shocking; who can listen to it?"

Paragraph 7 on Page 134

(John 6:61-64) But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were murmuring about this, said to them: "Does this stumble you? 62 What, therefore, if you should see the Son of man ascending to where he was before? 63 It is the spirit that is life-giving; the flesh is of no use at

all. The sayings that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning those who did not believe and the one who would betray him.

Paragraph 8 on Page 134

(John 6:67-69) So Jesus said to the Twelve: "You do not want to go also, do you?" 68 Simon Peter answered him: "Lord, whom shall we go away to? You have sayings of everlasting life. 69 We have believed and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God."

Paragraph 9 on Page 134

(John 6:70) Jesus answered them: "I chose you twelve, did I not? Yet one of you is a slanderer."

◇ How does Jesus give his flesh to people, and how can someone 'eat Jesus' flesh'?

◇ Why are people shocked at what Jesus says about his flesh and blood, but what is he emphasizing?

◇ When many quit following Jesus, what is Peter's reaction?

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

- Song 124 and Prayer