

- Song 112 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

### TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- "Jehovah's Administration and Its Work": (10 min.)

[Play the video Introduction to Ephesians.]

1:8-10

Jehovah's administration is an arrangement to unify all his intelligent creatures.

- It prepares the anointed for life in heaven with Jesus Christ as their spiritual Head
- It prepares those who will live on earth under the Messianic Kingdom

What are some ways that I can contribute to the unity of Jehovah's organization?

- (Ephesians 1:8-10) This undeserved kindness he caused to abound toward us in all wisdom and understanding 9 by making known to us the sacred secret of his will. It is according to his good pleasure that he himself purposed 10 for an administration at the full limit of the appointed times, to gather all things together in the Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth. Yes, in him

**Eph 1:8, 9—"The sacred secret" involves the Messianic Kingdom (it-2 837 ¶4)**

**(Ephesians 1:8, 9) 8 This undeserved kindness he caused to abound toward us in all wisdom and understanding 9 by making known to us the sacred secret of his will. It is according to his good pleasure that he himself purposed**

\*\*\* it-2 p. 837 Sacred Secret \*\*\*

The Messianic Kingdom. In Paul's writings he gives a full view of the revelation of the sacred secret of the Christ. At Ephesians 1:9-11 he speaks of God's making known "the sacred secret" of his will, and says: "It is according to his good pleasure which he purposed in himself for an administration at the full limit of the appointed times, namely, to gather all things together again in the Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth. Yes, in him, in union with whom we were also assigned as heirs, in that we were foreordained according to the purpose of him who operates all things according to the way his will counsels." This "sacred secret" involves a government, the Messianic Kingdom of God. "The things in the heavens," to which Paul refers, are the prospective heirs of that heavenly Kingdom with Christ. "The things on the earth" will be its earthly subjects. Jesus pointed out to his disciples that the sacred secret had to do with the Kingdom when he said to them: "To you the sacred secret of the kingdom of God has been given."—Mr 4:11.

- (Ephesians 1:9-11) by making known to us the sacred secret of his will. It is according to his good pleasure that he himself purposed 10 for an administration at the full limit of the appointed times, to gather all things together in the Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth. Yes, in him 11 with whom we are in union and were assigned as heirs,

having been foreordained according to the purpose of the one who accomplishes all things as he decides according to his will,

- (Mark 4:11) He said to them: "To you the sacred secret of the Kingdom of God has been given, but to those outside all things are in illustrations,

**Eph 1:10—Jehovah is unifying all his intelligent creatures (w12 7/15 27-28 ¶3-4)**

**(Ephesians 1:10) 10 for an administration at the full limit of the appointed times, to gather all things together in the Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth. Yes, in him**

\*\*\* w12 7/15 pp. 27-28 pars. 3-4 "One Jehovah" Gathers His Family \*\*\*

3 Moses told the Israelites: "Jehovah our God is one Jehovah." (Deut. 6:4) Jehovah's actions and purpose are harmonious. Thus, "at the full limit of the appointed times," God put into operation "an administration"—that is, an arrangement for unifying all his intelligent creatures. (Read Ephesians 1:8-10.) This administration will carry out its objective in two stages. The first stage prepares the congregation of anointed ones for life in heaven under Jesus Christ as their spiritual Head. This stage began at Pentecost 33 C.E. when Jehovah started to gather those who would rule with Christ in heaven. (Acts 2:1-4) Since the anointed have been declared righteous for life on the basis of Christ's ransom sacrifice, they readily acknowledge that they have been adopted as "God's children."—Rom. 3:23, 24; 5:1; 8:15-17.

4 The second stage prepares those who will dwell in Paradise on earth under Christ's Messianic Kingdom. The "great crowd" make up the initial part of this group. (Rev. 7:9, 13-17; 21:1-5) During the Thousand Year Reign, they will be joined by billions of resurrected ones. (Rev. 20:12, 13) Imagine how the

resurrection will further demonstrate our unity! At the end of the thousand years, the "things on the earth" will be subjected to a final test. Those proving faithful will be adopted as earthly "children of God."—Rom. 8:21; Rev. 20:7, 8.

- Paragraph 3
- (Deuteronomy 6:4) "Listen, O Israel: Jehovah our God is one Jehovah.
- (Ephesians 1:8-10) This undeserved kindness he caused to abound toward us in all wisdom and understanding 9 by making known to us the sacred secret of his will. It is according to his good pleasure that he himself purposed 10 for an administration at the full limit of the appointed times, to gather all things together in the Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth. Yes, in him
- (Acts 2:1-4) Now while the day of the Festival of Pentecost was in progress, they were all together at the same place. 2 Suddenly there was a noise from heaven, just like that of a rushing, stiff breeze, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 And tongues as if of fire became visible to them and were distributed, and one came to rest on each one of them, 4 and they all became filled with holy spirit and started to speak in different languages, just as the spirit enabled them to speak.
- (Romans 3:23, 24) For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and it is as a free gift that they are being declared righteous by his undeserved kindness through the release by the ransom paid by Christ Jesus.
- (Romans 5:1) Therefore, now that we have been declared righteous as a result of faith, let us enjoy peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Romans 8:15-17) For you did not receive a spirit of slavery causing fear again, but you received a spirit of adoption as sons, by which spirit we cry out: “Abba, Father!” 16 The spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are God’s children. 17 If, then, we are children, we are also heirs—heirs indeed of God, but joint heirs with Christ—provided we suffer together so that we may also be glorified together.</li> <li>• Paragraph 4</li> <li>• (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.</li> <li>• (Revelation 7:13-17) In response one of the elders said to me: “These who are dressed in the white robes, who are they and where did they come from?” 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. 15 That is why they are before the throne of God, and they are rendering him sacred service day and night in his temple; and the One seated on the throne will spread his tent over them. 16 They will hunger no more nor thirst anymore, neither will the sun beat down on them nor any scorching heat, 17 because the Lamb, who is in the midst of the throne, will shepherd them and will guide them to springs of waters of life. And God will wipe out every tear from their eyes.”</li> <li>• (Revelation 21:1-5) And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the former heaven and the former earth had</li> </ul> | <p>passed away, and the sea is no more. 21 I also saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God and prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say: “Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his people. And God himself will be with them. 4 And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.” 5 And the One seated on the throne said: “Look! I am making all things new.” Also he says: “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Revelation 20:12, 13) 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. 13 And the sea gave up the dead in it, and death and the Grave gave up the dead in them, and they were judged individually according to their deeds.</li> <li>• (Romans 8:21) that the creation itself will also be set free from enslavement to corruption and have the glorious freedom of the children of God.</li> <li>• (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.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"></div> |
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**Digging for Spiritual Gems:**

**Eph 3:13—In what sense did Paul's tribulations "mean glory" for Christians in Ephesus? (w13 2/15 28 ¶15)**

**(Ephesians 3:13) 13 So I ask you not to give up on account of my tribulations in your behalf, for these mean glory for you.**

\*\*\* w13 2/15 p. 28 par. 15 Let Nothing Hinder You From Taking Hold of Glory \*\*\*

15 Our perseverance in doing Jehovah's will helps others to take hold of glory. To the congregation in Ephesus, Paul wrote: "I ask you not to give up on account of these tribulations of mine in your behalf, for these mean glory for you." (Eph. 3:13) In what sense did Paul's tribulations "mean glory" for the Ephesians? Paul's readiness to continue ministering to them despite trials demonstrated to the Ephesians that the privileges they enjoyed as Christians were weighty and of the highest conceivable value. Had Paul given up under tribulation, would that not have conveyed the message that their relationship with Jehovah, their ministry, and their hope were not valuable? Paul's endurance exalted Christianity and demonstrated that discipleship is worth any sacrifice.

**Eph 3:19—How do we come "to know the love of the Christ"? (cl 299 ¶21)**

**(Ephesians 3:19) 19 and to know the love of the Christ, which surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness that God gives.**

\*\*\* cl chap. 29 p. 299 par. 21 "To Know the Love of the Christ" \*\*\*

21 The Greek term rendered "to know" means to know "practically, through experience." When we show love the way Jesus did—unselfishly giving of ourselves in behalf of others, compassionately responding to their

needs, forgiving them from our hearts—then we can genuinely appreciate his feelings. In this way, by experience we come "to know the love of the Christ which surpasses knowledge." And let us never forget that the more we become like Christ, the closer we will draw to the one whom Jesus perfectly imitated, our loving God, Jehovah.

**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: ) Eph 1:1-14**

(4 min. or less) •

(Ephesians 1:1-14) 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through God's will, to the holy ones who are in Eph'e-sus and are faithful in union with Christ Jesus:

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

3 Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in union with Christ, 4 as he chose us to be in union with him before the founding of the world, that we should be holy and unblemished before him in love. 5 For he foreordained us to be adopted as his own sons through Jesus Christ, according to his good pleasure and will, 6 in praise of his glorious undeserved kindness that he kindly bestowed on us by means of his beloved one. 7 By means of him we have the release by ransom through the blood of that one, yes, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his undeserved kindness.

8 This undeserved kindness he caused to abound toward us in all wisdom and understanding 9 by making known to us the sacred secret of his will. It is according to his good pleasure that he himself purposed 10 for an administration at the full limit of the appointed times, to gather all things together in the Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth. Yes, in him 11 with whom we are in union and were assigned as heirs, having been foreordained according to the purpose of the one who accomplishes all things as he decides according to his will, 12 so that we who have been first to hope in the Christ should serve for the praise of his glory. 13 But you also hoped in him after you heard the word of truth, the good news about your salvation. After you believed, you were sealed by means of him with the promised holy spirit, 14 which is a token in advance of our inheritance, for the purpose of releasing God's own possession by a ransom, to his glorious praise.

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Initial Call Video: (4 min.) Play and discuss the video.**

- **Initial Call: (2 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (th study 1)**

## ●○○ INITIAL CALL

Question: Are we living in the last days?

Scripture: 2Ti 3:1-5

Link: What will happen after the last days?

- (2 Timothy 3:1-5) 3 But know this, that in the last days critical times hard to deal with will be here. 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, haughty, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, disloyal, 3 having no natural affection, not open to any agreement, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, without love of goodness, 4 betrayers, headstrong, puffed up with pride, lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God, 5 having an appearance of godliness but proving false to its power; and from these turn away.

• **Initial Call: (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Overcome a common objection. (th study 3)**

• **Initial Call: (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Introduce a publication from our Teaching Toolbox. (th study 9)**

### LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 95

• **“Make Your Personal Study More Rewarding”: (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video Keep “a Tight Grip”—Through Effective Personal Study.**

**WHY IMPORTANT:** Personal study of God’s Word helps us “to comprehend fully what is the breadth and length and height and depth” of the truth. (Eph 3:18) It also helps us to remain blameless and without blemish in the midst of a wicked world and to keep “a tight grip on the word of life.” (Php 2:15, 16) Personal study of God’s Word allows us to choose material that we need as individuals. How can we make the most of the time we spend reading and studying the Bible?

**HOW TO DO IT:**

• Highlight verses and make notes in your personal study Bible, either on paper or in electronic format

• Ask yourself these questions as you read God’s Word: ‘

Who?

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What?

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When?

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Where?

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Why?

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How?’

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• Get the facts. Using the research tools available, search by topic or Bible verse

• Meditate on what you read to discern how the information applies to you

• Apply what you learn to your day-to-day life.—Lu 6:47, 48

**WATCH THE VIDEO KEEP “A TIGHT GRIP”—THROUGH EFFECTIVE PERSONAL STUDY, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

• How have some described personal study?

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• Why should we begin each session of personal study with prayer?

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- What can help us to understand a Bible passage better?

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- What types of marks might we put in our study Bible?

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- Why is meditation so important when studying God's Word?

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- What should we do with what we learn?

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- (Ephesians 3:18) in order that with all the holy ones you may be thoroughly able to comprehend fully what is the breadth and length and height and depth,
- (Philippians 2:15, 16) so that you may come to be blameless and innocent, children of God without a blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you are shining as illuminators in the world, 16 keeping a tight grip on the word of life. Then I may have reason for rejoicing in Christ's day, knowing that I did not run in vain or work hard in vain.

- (Luke 6:47, 48) Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 He is like a man who in building a house dug and went down deep and laid a foundation on the rock. Consequently, when a flood came, the river dashed against that house but was not strong enough to shake it, for it was well-built.
- (Psalm 119:97) How I do love your law! I ponder over it all day long.



**Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)****Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)**

1st John chap. 70

## CHAPTER 70

## Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

(John 9:1-18) As he was passing along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. 2 And his disciples asked him: "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, so that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered: "Neither this man sinned nor his parents, but it was so that the works of God might be made manifest in his case. 4 We must do the works of the One who sent me while it is day; the night is coming when no man can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the world's light." 6 After he said these things, he spat on the ground and made a paste with the saliva, and he smeared the paste on the man's eyes 7 and said to him: "Go wash in the pool of Si-lo'am" (which is translated "Sent Forth"). And he went and washed, and came back seeing. 8 Then the neighbors and those who formerly used to see that he was a beggar began to say: "This is the man who used to sit and beg, is it not?" 9 Some were saying: "This is he." Others were saying: "No, but he looks like him." The man kept saying: "I am he." 10 So they asked him: "How, then, were your eyes opened?" 11 He answered: "The man called Jesus made a paste and smeared it on my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Si-lo'am and wash.' So I went and washed and gained sight." 12 At this they said to him: "Where is that man?" He said: "I do not know." 13 They led the formerly blind man to the Pharisees. 14 Incidentally, the day that Jesus made the paste and opened his eyes was the Sabbath. 15 So this time the Pharisees also began asking the man how he gained sight. He said to them: "He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see." 16 Some of the Pharisees then began to say: "This is not a man from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said: "How can a man who is

a sinner perform signs of that sort?" So there was a division among them. 17 And again they said to the blind man: "What do you say about him, since it was your eyes that he opened?" The man said: "He is a prophet." 18 However, the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had gained sight, until they called the parents of the man who could now see.

## Paragraph 1 on Page 166

(John 9:2) And his disciples asked him: "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, so that he was born blind?"

## Paragraph 2 on Page 166

(John 9:3) Jesus answered: "Neither this man sinned nor his parents, but it was so that the works of God might be made manifest in his case."

## Paragraph 3 on Page 166

(John 9:4, 5) We must do the works of the One who sent me while it is day; the night is coming when no man can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the world's light."

## Paragraph 4 on Page 166

(John 9:7) and said to him: "Go wash in the pool of Si-lo'am" (which is translated "Sent Forth"). And he went and washed, and came back seeing.

## Paragraph 5 on Page 166

(John 9:8, 9) Then the neighbors and those who formerly used to see that he was a beggar began to say: "This is the man who used to sit and beg, is it not?" 9 Some were saying: "This is he." Others were saying: "No, but he looks like him." The man kept saying: "I am he."

## Paragraph 6 on Page 166

(John 9:10-12) So they asked him: "How, then, were your eyes opened?" 11 He answered: "The man called Jesus made a paste and smeared it on my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Si-lo'am and wash.' So I went and washed and



gained sight.” 12 At this they said to him: “Where is that man?” He said: “I do not know.”

Paragraph 7 on Page 166

(John 9:15, 16) So this time the Pharisees also began asking the man how he gained sight. He said to them: “He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.” 16 Some of the Pharisees then began to say: “This is not a man from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said: “How can a man who is a sinner perform signs of that sort?” So there was a division among them.

Paragraph 1 on Page 167

(John 9:17) And again they said to the blind man: “What do you say about him, since it was your eyes that he opened?” The man said: “He is a prophet.”

◇ What is the cause of the man’s blindness, and what is not?

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◇ How do those who know the blind man react to his being healed?

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◇ How are the Pharisees divided over the man’s being healed?

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

- Song 144 and Prayer