

## ARE GOD'S WAYS REALLY BENEFICIAL?

### *Note to the speaker:*

In a warm and convincing manner, help the audience to see how reasonable and beneficial it is to follow God's ways. Emphasize the need to build a close personal relationship with God and to demonstrate full faith in him

### **GOD'S WAYS DIFFER GREATLY FROM THE WAYS OF THE WORLD** (6 min.)

The Bible tells us: "Hope in Jehovah and follow his way" (Ps 37:34)

How do we follow God's way?

By imitating Jehovah and doing what he wants

We should not expect God to follow us or to conform to our ways

God's ways are higher than man's ways because His ways are based on love (Isa 55:8, 9)

Those following God's ways display qualities that distinguish them from those following the ways of the world (Mal 3:18; Joh 17:14-16)

The world's ways reflect the influence of Satan and promote egotism, materialism, racism, sexual immorality, and violence (1Jo 5:19)

Many follow the ways of the world because they lack accurate knowledge of God and his ways

How can we learn God's ways?

### **WHAT CREATION CAN TEACH US ABOUT GOD'S WAYS** (6 min.)

God's *love*, *wisdom*, and *power* can be seen in creation (Ps 19:1, 2; *w13* 8/1 11)

God's qualities are reflected in provisions made for all living things (Ps 104:10-15; 145:15, 16)

Intelligent design throughout creation reveals *wisdom* and *love* (Ps 104:24; *w13* 8/1 11)

Physical laws provide the framework that makes life on earth possible and enjoyable

Such laws are the foundation on which science relies (*g* 12/09 6, box)

The universe testifies to God's limitless *wisdom* and *power* (Ps 8:3, 4; Isa 40:26)

The unfathomable process that allows the human brain to perceive beauty is a loving gift from God

Failure to acknowledge God's qualities in creation is inexcusable (Ro 1:19, 20)

### **THE BIBLE SHOWS HOW GOD'S WAYS CAN BENEFIT US NOW!** (6 min.)

Creation shows that God wants us to enjoy life; following his ways, as described in the Bible, brings us lasting happiness (Ps 119:18; 128:1)

God's way is for humans to enjoy a close marital relationship based on love and respect (Eph 5:28, 33)

God's way is that parents first have the truth in their own heart and then inculcate it in their children (De 6:6, 7; Eph 6:4)

God's way is that we speak truth, exercise self-control, show industriousness, and display kindness (Eph 4:25-29, 31, 32)

God's way is for us to be peaceable with all men and to be free of prejudice and hatred (Ro 12:17, 18)

God's way is for us to be respectful and to show a mild and obedient spirit to governmental authorities wherever we may live (Tit 3:1, 2)

### **BUILD A CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD** (10 min.)

Jehovah invites us to respond to his love

His Word tells us how to build and maintain a close personal relationship with him (Ps 73:28)

Through diligent study of the Bible, we come to know Jehovah and continue to draw closer to him (Ps 119:33-35; Joh 17:3; *w13* 10/15 27-28 pars. 6-7)

By opening our heart to him in prayer, we demonstrate our trust in him (Ps 62:8; 65:2)

As we speak to others about what we are learning, we make Jehovah's name known and bring him pleasure (Ps 105:1)

Strong faith built on accurate knowledge is necessary for a relationship with God; we show our faith by our works (Heb 11:6; Jas 2:24, 26)

Works include attending Christian meetings, which help us to make our mind over and put on the new personality (Ro 12:2; Col 3:10)

[As time permits, briefly relate verified experience(s) showing that Christian meetings play an important role in our spiritual progress (*w07* 5/15 11; *w02* 5/15 8; *w00* 6/1 30; *w93* 8/15 9)]

### **WALK IN GOD'S WAYS—NOW AND FOREVER** (2 min.)

Creation reveals Jehovah's love, wisdom, and power; God's Word reveals who he is, what his will is for us, and how to walk in his ways and be happy

Jehovah urges us to examine ourselves, to turn away from the ways of the world, and to learn to follow his ways (Ps 119:37, 59, 60)

Following God's ways brings blessings of peace and prosperity (Isa 48:17, 18)

By walking in God's ways, we can benefit ourselves and others—now and forever [**Read Psalm 119:1-3**]

(Public talk by circuit overseer, starting September 2015. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on)