

WHY BE GUIDED BY THE BIBLE?

Note to the speaker:

Develop the material so as to appeal to the mind with sound logic; deliver it in a way that will appeal to the heart with strong conviction. Help the audience to appreciate that the Bible is Jehovah's book of lifesaving guidance and that applying its counsel brings blessings. When relating the cited experiences, make them live

AS AUTHOR OF THE BIBLE, JEHOVAH PROVIDES GUIDANCE FOR MANKIND (5 min.)

God's ability to give guidance is seen in both his inanimate and his animate creation (*g82 7/22 12*)

He directs the stars by his laws of motion and gravitation (*Job 38:32, 33; w05 4/1 6*)

Birds and other creatures are guided by the instinctive wisdom given them by God (*Job 39:26; Pr 30:24-28; g 7/07 3*)

Humans, who can choose their course in life, are given direction by means of written principles that all of us need (*Ps 48:14; Jer 10:23*)

More so than stars and migrating birds, humans receive guidance; by following guidance from God, they can gain everlasting life (*w07 5/1 14, 18*)

Will you allow God to guide you by means of his Word, the Bible? (*g 7/07 5-6*)

By reading just four to five pages a day, you can cover the entire Bible in a year

Reading a portion of it daily and meditating on it can improve the quality of your life

We will now examine four aspects of guidance provided by the Bible

1. THE BIBLE IS A UNIQUE GUIDE FOR HUMAN CONDUCT (8 min.)

The moral standards and rules of conduct provided in the Bible are unsurpassable

Bible counsel never causes harm to the person following it [*Read 2 Timothy 3:16*]

For example, let us consider the Bible's standards of cleanness and morality

Note how people benefit when God's standards are followed and suffer when those standards are ignored

[As examples, consider the tobacco habit and sexual immorality, and draw on references cited to show the undesirable consequences and complicated problems that result when Bible principles are ignored. Also point out how following such principles results in healthful living, a good conscience, and peace (*Pr 1:2-4; 3:1, 2*)]

Tobacco use (*w07 4/1 5; g 7/07 6-7; gm 165-6; rs 109-11*)

Sexual immorality (*g 4/07 3-4; g00 4/8 6; gm 168-70; rs 370*)

2. THE BIBLE IS A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR GAINING TRUE HAPPINESS (4 min.)

The Bible fills an essential need by setting out guidelines that contribute to stable families and wholesome, happy relationships (*Pr 3:13, 18, 21, 22; Mt 5:3; Lu 11:28; Re 1:3*)

Following Bible principles will help all to improve their marriage (*g 7/06 6-9; rs 253-4*)

The Bible's guidance has been shown to produce the greatest happiness in the long run (*w04 9/1 6-7; w03 4/15 17*)

3. THE BIBLE IS AN UNFAILING GUIDE TO REAL SUCCESS (4 min.)

Jehovah is always completely successful (*Isa 55:11*)

Through the Bible, he shows humans how to be successful in life (*Jos 1:7, 8; Ps 1:1-3*)

He warns against striving after worldly and financial success (*1Ti 6:9, 10; w90 4/1 12-13*)

4. THE BIBLE IS THE EXCLUSIVE GUIDE TO EVERLASTING LIFE (5 min.)

A guide to life would be sadly lacking if it did not hold out a hope or goal for the future, since our outlook on the future strongly influences our present course

The Bible stands alone as the book that can lead us to the greatest prize a human could ever receive, everlasting life (*Ro 6:23; 1Ti 4:8; g 7/07 8-9*)

Emphasizes that God's Kingdom is the only hope for all mankind; shows how this heavenly government is the instrument for sanctifying God's name and vindicating his sovereignty (*Da 2:44*)

Explains the course we need to pursue to enjoy a close, personal relationship with our Maker and Life-Giver (*Joh 17:3; 1Ti 6:12; 1Jo 5:20*)

The very best, happiest, most productive life possible now falls far short of the real life in God's new world

Should not the knowledge of God's purpose for mankind motivate us to make adjustments in our lives now?

In harmony with what we have learned, should we not let the Bible guide our steps toward the goal of eternal life?

BE CONFIDENT IN GUIDANCE FROM THE BIBLE BECAUSE IT IS INSPIRED OF GOD (4 min.)

This book of incomparable value deserves to be taken from our shelves, read, and studied

Open the Bible with full confidence; it is completely accurate, reliable, and authentic (*Ps 78:7; w05 7/15 4-6; w98 4/1 14-20*)

All parts of the Bible are “inspired of God,” or “God-breathed” (2Ti 3:16, ftn; 2Pe 1:20, 21; *w97* 6/15 6-8; *it-1* 1204)

Originating with one Author, Jehovah, the Bible conveys a unique message

All who accept the Bible and its message are unified in thought, speech, and action (Zep 3:9; Ro 15:5, 6)

Would you like to be guided into everlasting life on a paradise earth just as surely as the stars are directed in their orbits and the birds are guided by God-given instinct?

Then let the Bible be your guide (Ps 119:105)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read or commented on)

No. 169-E—page 2

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TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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