

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 (5 min.)

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

We follow Jehovah's ways by imitating him and doing what he wants

God's ways are higher than man's ways because His ways are based on love (Isa 55:8, 9; 1Jo 4:8)

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)

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 (Ro 1:19, 20; *w13* 8/1 11)

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

The design evident in creation reveals *wisdom* and *love* (Ps 104:24)

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

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

Physical laws provide the framework that makes life on earth possible and enjoyable (*g* 12/09 5-7)

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 marriage mates to enjoy a close 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 by cultivating 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)

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 (3 min.)

Jehovah urges all to turn away from the ways of the world and learn to follow his ways (Isa 55:6, 7)

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]

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]