

ARE YOU DOING WHAT GOD REQUIRES OF YOU?

Note to the speaker:

Stimulate audience to put Jehovah's worship in the most prominent place in life and to sense that Jehovah's worship is not burdensome. It is the responsibility of each worshiper to discern God's requirements and meet them

NEED TO GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT TO GOD'S REQUIREMENTS (5 min.)

We are sincerely interested in understanding God's will; that is why we came to this meeting

Whether longtime students of God's Word or newly interested, we do not agree with outlook of persons who try to ignore God

Evident to us that relying on human philosophies has not brought happiness to mankind

Deplorable condition of human society emphasizes need to turn to God's Word, consider it seriously

God's Word does not encourage us to be complacent, content to say we believe in him (Jas 2:19; *w85* 9/1 3)

Activities and lives of many persons who profess belief in God give no evidence of serious concern about his requirements (Tit 1:16; *pe* 28-33)

Jesus stressed need to be doers of God's will (Mt 7:21)

DISCERN WHAT GOD REQUIRES OF YOU (35 min.)

How can we know what God's will is?

Is our situation so different from that of everyone else that God must speak to us personally?

What we need is in the Bible, along with the publications provided by 'the faithful slave' to guide us in understanding it (Mt 24:45-47; Ac 8:31, 35; 2Ti 3:16, 17)

God's dealings with ancient Israel provide clear indications as to his will for mankind (Ro 15:4)

His requirements for Israel were not oppressive; they resulted in satisfaction in doing God's will (Ps 16:11; Isa 48:17)

Requirements touched every facet of life: thoughts, motivations, relations with fellowmen (Mr 12:28-33)

Do we appreciate how the principles of God's Word provide direction for us?

When bad conditions developed in Israel, it was because of failure to do what God required; we benefit by taking note of what God told them through his prophets, such as Micah

God's disapproval was especially strong against false worship

Jehovah views idolatry by people who profess to belong to him as being as detestable as prostitution (Mic 1:7; *w77* 288)

Priests who claimed to speak in the name of God but who used this as a front for money-making were condemned (Mic 3:11, 12; *kj* 132-3)

We do well to take these lessons to heart

People complain about constant collections and solicitations in church, but do they honor God by membership in an organization that misrepresents God as one who exploits people?

What about graven images, material objects of devotion? Have we 'fled from idolatry'? (1Co 10:14)

Do we idolize our own desires? (Col 3:5; *g79* 4/22 6)

Through Micah, Jehovah also showed that he requires honest business practices (Mic 2:1, 2; 6:11, 12)

Cannot take the view that our business affairs and our homelife need not reflect the high principles of our worship (*w60* 408)

What good is it to go to a place of worship and hear the teachings of God's Word if we do not apply them? (1Sa 15:22)

True worship should affect our lives; should influence what we do in business, at home with our families, in contacts with neighbors

Worship of Jehovah deserves greatest prominence in our lives; are we personally giving it that?

Micah 4:1-4 foretold what would happen in our day, "the final part of the days" (*w81* 7/15 18-22, 25)

There would be people who would exalt their respect for Jehovah's worship above everything else

"Mountains" in ancient times were places of worship

In our day, people have carried on many forms of false worship

There has been an idolizing of various forms of nationalism; some idolize materialistic way of life

Relate experiences showing how people in varied situations have exalted the place of Jehovah's worship in their lives (*yb92* 42-64)

Because of responding to God's Word, the people foretold by Micah were to be peaceable

No amount of pressure from nations could induce them to forsake peace with persons of other nationalities

Would not reflect the animosity that is often evident between races; they acquire the viewpoint of God, who is not partial (Ac 10:34, 35)

Peaceableness would reach into congregations, homes; result is not strife but security

Do we find ourselves in the picture, doing what God requires of us as described at Micah 4:1-4?

Grand future for those who 'walk in name of Jehovah'; have prospect of doing so forever (Mic 4:5)

This implies being dedicated to Jehovah and representing him as one of his worshipers; it involves proclaiming his name and living in harmony with his will (*w05 9/1 14 par. 7*)

Not beyond our ability to serve God acceptably; what he requires is not some grand, showy sacrifice but sacred service and right conduct reflecting a good condition of heart (Mic 6:8; *w88 3/15 19-20*)

Exercise justice: Do what is right, fair, and honest; do what God requires; give Jehovah exclusive devotion (*w88 3/15 16-17*)

Jehovah tolerates no rivalry; we must be fully devoted to him, not to inclinations of flesh (Nu 25:5-8)

Safeguard your heart by exercising self-control in what you allow your mind to dwell on

Render acceptable sacred service out of a clean, complete heart (Ps 50:16-18, 23)

Love kindness: Hebrew word is also rendered "loyal love"

According to lexicographers: "Loyal adds to *faithful* the idea of wanting to stand by and fight for the person or thing, even against heavy odds" (*w88 3/15 17-19*)

Jesus proved by *obedience* he was loyal to Jehovah (Ro 5:19; Php 2:8)

Like Jesus, our loyalty to Jehovah and to his organization will be tested

Imperfections of our brothers, including Christian overseers, test our loyalty to God's organization

Not justified if we would leave God's organization (Ps 119:165; Joh 6:68)

Walk modestly with God: As God's fellow workers, we fear Jehovah and draw primary attention to him (*w88 3/15 19-20*)

Place moderate estimate on own abilities and worth (1Co 3:6, 7; 4:7)

It is especially fitting for you youths to adorn yourselves with modesty (Job 32:6, 7)

Those who apply themselves to do what God requires have sound reason for confidence that God will perform all the things that he has promised (Mic 7:7; *w78 10/1 19*)

He will not fail in his purpose to destroy the wicked system

Jehovah will without fail bring in his righteous new system

CONTINUE TO MAKE PROGRESS IN THE DOING OF GOD'S WILL (5 min.)

Do you want to know more about God's will for you?

If you do not yet have a personal Bible study, ask one of Jehovah's Witnesses

Regularly attend meetings with those desirous of doing God's will

If already dedicated, do not be complacent; keep alert to opportunities to serve zealously and to conform ever more fully to God's righteous will (2Pe 3:17, 18; *w66 370-1*)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read. Source material in parentheses need not be mentioned)