

FOLLOW THE WAY TO LIFE

Note to the speaker:

Develop audience's appreciation for the wise sayings inspired by Jehovah that are contained in the book of Proverbs. We can show wisdom ourselves by listening and applying these inspired sayings

LIFE IS A VERY PRECIOUS GIFT (4 min.)

All of us are concerned with getting the best out of life (*w85* 8/15 11-16)

We desire good health so we can enjoy our life

Frustrating to see the limitations poor health brings

Can thank parents we are alive and have opportunity to do things

It is most important that we thank Jehovah, the One who makes all life possible (Ps 36:9)

He knows the things we need, the way of life that brings greatest happiness, the principles for a successful life, as well as our prospects for the future (Pr 9:10, 11)

Will consider some examples in the book of Proverbs that can help us on the way to life

PROVERBS GIVES WISE GUIDE FOR HAPPY LIFE (20 min.)

How to be liked

Show kindness and trueness (Pr 3:3, 4; 11:17); speak honestly (Pr 3:29); speak mildly and of what is good (Pr 15:1, 2); show loyalty (Pr 18:24)

Making a living

Real success comes with industry and advance planning (Pr 6:6-11); diligence (Pr 10:4, 5); honesty (Pr 11:1); good judgment (Pr 11:15); doing skilled work (Pr 22:29); not putting all our trust in income (Pr 11:28)

Achieving a happy family life

Try to be understanding and tactful (Pr 16:21, 23, 24; 17:1); be forgiving (Pr 17:9, 13); be loving (Pr 10:12); be faithful to mate (Pr 5:15-20); husband should provide well for family (Pr 12:11); wife should care well for family (Pr 31:11, 12, 15, 26-28); train children well (Pr 13:24; 15:5, 20; 22:6, 15; 29:15, 17); show respect for older ones (Pr 1:8, 9; 19:26; 23:22, 24, 25)

Avoiding problems

Morality protects against health problems (Pr 5:3-11; 6:24-33); calmness aids health (Pr 14:30); mildness helps prevent anger (Pr 15:4, 18); do not retaliate (Pr 24:29); avoid drunkenness (Pr 20:1; 23:20, 21, 29-35)

FEAR OF JEHOVAH A BASIC REQUIREMENT FOR ETERNAL LIFE (10 min.)

Are these proverbs just a matter of following common sense to live a good life, or is there something more to life? (Pr 6:23)

Why does Proverbs 1:7 say that fear of Jehovah is the beginning of knowledge?

Listening to Jehovah leads to everlasting life (Pr 3:13-18)

Calls to mind the prospect of everlasting life Jehovah set before perfect man in Eden

How can we gain the prize of life? Just by living a "good life"?

Consider Proverbs 4:4, 10, 11; John 17:3

Doing things Jehovah's way is a requirement for everlasting life

Congregation arrangement and personal Bible study will help us learn what God requires of us (Pr 24:3)

Meetings motivate us to share knowledge of God's Word by engaging in field service (Pr 3:27; 15:7a)

Are helped to come close to Jehovah in personal relationship and prayer (Pr 15:29)

Can gain assistance from elders in congregation (Pr 24:6b)

Should grow in appreciation for our need of God's guidance (Pr 16:9)

We should become teachers of God's Word, holding Bible studies with others (Pr 1:2-6)

Feed sheeplike ones on every occasion, as we have been fed at meetings (Joh 21:15-17)

JESUS—THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE (6 min.)

No one comes to the Father and receives life except through Jesus (Joh 14:6)

Our approach to God depends on our faith in Jesus' sacrifice

Do we want to follow his course of life, even though it may bring opposition, so we can approach the Father, the Grand Giver of everlasting life? Is this way too difficult?

Jesus showed that most people would not follow this course, yet he recommended it (Mt 7:13, 14)

Is this narrow, cramped road so restrictive that it takes the joy out of living now if we are to gain a future reward? Is that what Jesus meant about a cramped road? (*w77* 621-5; *it-2* 168 ¶2)

Jehovah has given us guidelines for successful living that will keep us in the bounds of his favor and headed in the right direction while giving us a full life with no regrets (Pr 4:10-13)

Faithfully follow Jesus' example in preaching and teaching "good news" (Mt 9:35-38; 28:19, 20)

BE AMONG THE WISE ONES WHO FOLLOW JEHOVAH'S WAY TO LIFE (5 min.)

How happy we can be to know that Jehovah's way is best!

It is the way not only to a happy life now but to everlasting life under the rule of Christ as Prince of Peace
While way is open to all, most persons foolishly follow broad way to destruction

Even in days of apostles, many spoke injuriously about this way (Ac 19:9)

Do we want to take our place among those described at Proverbs 6:12-19?

Or do we want to follow wise way that leads to life? (Pr 8:32-35; 22:4)

This includes helping others to learn about the right way also

May we take wise course, Jehovah's way, to everlasting life! (Pr 12:28)

(Additional material may be found in *w80* 2/15 25-9; *w73* 488-94; *w87* 5/15 28-30; *it-2* 703-7. Also, check Scripture indexes for information on specific verses)

(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)

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TO BE COVERED IN 45 MINUTES

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