

INTO THE NEW WORLD UNDER CHRIST'S LEADERSHIP

Note to the speaker:

Help all to see Jesus as the dynamic Head of the congregation. Explain *how* he is leading us. In practical terms, describe what elders and others must do to prove that they recognize Jesus as Leader. Encourage all to follow Christ with full confidence that he will conduct them safely into the new world

CHRIST IS OUR LEADER (8 min.)

At a time of worldwide leadership crisis, we have a perfect Leader, Christ

Many national leaders are being rejected, for people are dissatisfied with ineffectual or corrupt leadership

One reason nations face one crisis or calamity after another is that leaders lack people's confidence and support

Men were not created to rule or lead other men (Jer 10:23; *ce* 189-93)

They do not have ability or right to do so (*yp* 305)

As Christians, we have as our Leader not any human but Christ (Mt 23:10)

Was prophesied that he would be outstanding Leader (Da 9:25)

Those hungering and thirsting in a spiritual sense look to him (Isa 55:1, 2, 4; *sl* 95-107)

He is OUR Leader

Our situation similar to that of Israelites on plains of Moab

They had Joshua as faithful, competent leader appointed by Jehovah (De 31:7, 8, 23)

He fearlessly took lead into Promised Land

Those following him were blessed for it (Jos 23:14; 24:31)

If we fully accept Christ's leadership, we will be led into new world

CHRIST'S LEADERSHIP IS REAL (10 min.)

When he was on earth, Jesus demonstrated his qualifications as a leader (*it-2* 70)

Provided his followers with helpful training (Mr 6:7-13; Lu 8:1)

Gave his disciples responsibilities and tasks in addition to the ministry (Mt 14:19; Mr 3:9; Joh 4:2)

Controlled crowds numbering into the thousands (Mr 6:39-46)

Provided leadership by personal example, exerting self in preaching, showing humility in dealing with others (Mr 6:31-34; Joh 13:3-15)

Today, Jesus is still providing leadership for the congregation (*w87* 8/1 15-20)

Foretold that he would be active in leadership during our time (Mt 18:20; 28:20)

Supervises "the faithful and discreet slave" (Mt 24:45-47)

Directs the work of the appointed elders in every congregation (Re 1:12-20; *re* 28-9)

Continues to use the angels

Truly, Christ "is the head of the body, the congregation" (Col 1:18; Eph 4:15)

DO YOU SHOW THAT CHRIST'S LEADERSHIP IS REAL TO YOU? (12 min.)

An appropriate question because many persons hear about Christ but do not actually accept his leadership and make needed changes in their lives

Have you been studying the Bible for some time now but keep postponing decisive action?

Perhaps your parents are in the truth, but have you personally decided to follow Christ's leadership?

Those who are baptized can ask: 'Do I manifest in my daily life and decisions that I accept Christ's leadership?'

Am I actually on the move toward the new world under his leadership?'

Manifest in your attitude and deeds that you accept his leadership

Be willing to recognize headship, not feeling that you know better or are an exception (Lu 2:51; Col 3:18, 20)

Live to do God's will, as did Jesus; view even times of rest as occasions to refresh you so you can continue (*w79* 6/1 16-17; *w74* 374)

Be willing to cooperate with congregation arrangements, recognizing that Christ is leading congregation by holy spirit (Eph 4:11, 12; 5:23)

Develop confidence in elders, turn to them for aid; they are serving with Christ to provide protection (Isa 32:1, 2; *w89* 9/15 10, 17; *tp* 184)

Remember: The way we think and act should display that we recognize Christ as our Leader, Exemplar

ELDERS NEED TO FOLLOW CHRIST'S LEADERSHIP (10 min.)

Christians are urged to have regard for elders taking spiritual lead, which involves imitating their faith (Heb 13:7)

They are to be imitated, not because they are leaders, but because they imitate real Leader, Christ (Mt 23:10; 1Co 11:1)

Elders should with modesty recognize this

Accepting Christ's leadership means elders must be willing to minister to or serve others (Mt 20:25-27; Joh 13:15)

Elders, do you accept Christ's way as the best way of dealing with brothers in congregation?

Christ did not just give orders but set example; he was mild-tempered (Mt 11:28-30; 1Pe 5:2, 3)

Avoid any tendency to promote personal ideas or to put on displays of self-exalting eloquence (1Co 2:1-5; 2Ti 4:2)

When in doubt as to how to handle a congregation matter, do you seek to obtain "the mind of Christ"? (1Co 2:16; *w86* 12/1 10-15; *w77* 566-8; *w76* 532-3)

Your efforts to acknowledge and follow Christ's leadership will benefit you and all the flock

CONTINUE TO FOLLOW CHRIST'S LEADERSHIP (5 min.)

Continue to move forward toward and into new world under Christ's leadership

Israelites did not move into Promised Land on own, each going his own way

They entered under Joshua's direction and leadership (Jos, chap. 3)

As new world draws nearer, survival will continue to involve following Christ's leadership

Ahead are big tests of faith

Must resist any sudden desire to take a course simply because it is expedient or self-serving

Will we keep uppermost in mind the example of Christ? (Lu 22:42)

Following Christ's leadership even includes being willing to die for our brothers—are we? (Joh 13:34, 35; 15:12, 13)

Doing whatever is required of us as we follow his leadership, we can be confident that we will gain promised blessings in new world (Jos 21:45; 23:14)

His leadership is certain to succeed, and so will each of us if we closely follow it, right on into the new world

(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)