

MAKE JEHOVAH YOUR CONFIDENCE

Note to the speaker:

Instill in the hearts of the brothers a deep sense of confidence that Jehovah's ways are best for us. Help the audience to see in practical ways how they can show confidence in Jehovah. Warn of the danger of trusting in self or in human wisdom, and show the sad consequences to which this can lead. Encourage all to put full trust in Jehovah in every aspect of life

FIND FAVOR AND GOOD INSIGHT IN THE EYES OF GOD AND OF MAN (Pr 3:1-4) (5 min.)

Consideration of Proverbs 3:1-26 will show us how to make Jehovah our confidence

Bible knowledge is to be impressed on the heart

All must listen to Jehovah, our Father; youths must listen to parents

Keep mind on the laws of God

“Write them upon the tablet of your heart” by study and by speaking about Jehovah's laws so that they become a part of you (Ps 40:8; *it-2* 483 ¶5; *w86* 11/1 17-18)

Reward will be “length of days and years of life and peace”

Jehovah determines whether one lives forever or passes away

Those applying Jehovah's Word should be free of strife, backbiting, and so forth, and have “peace” (Ga 5:20, 22)

TRUST JEHOVAH AND NOT LEAN ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING (Pr 3:5-8) (12 min.)

Whatever you do, keep Jehovah's laws in mind, seek his guidance

Trust Jehovah, and experience that the Bible guides people in the right way

Trust Jehovah by studying his Word; ponder over what it says; obey its commandments; live by its principles “Trust in Jehovah,” as did Jesus (Isa 8:17, 18) and Paul (2Co 1:9, 10); do not trust in men (Ps 146:3, 4)

Trust Jehovah's direction through his organization, provision of spiritual food, appointment of overseers

Never pit your “understanding” of things, events, arrangements, against Jehovah's direction to you through his Word and organization

“Take notice of him” by acknowledging Jehovah, doing what he says, following his ways

Recognize Jehovah's authority, sovereignty

Be obedient to him even in private matters and in your thoughts

Listen to Jehovah in such matters as ‘marrying only in the Lord’ (1Co 7:39)

He knows best, and you must learn to trust him

Those who trust Jehovah will have success, divine favor

Those who ‘lean upon own understanding’ may fall away and suffer spiritual calamity

Human wisdom is to be avoided

We should not think more of ourselves than is necessary (Ro 12:3)

We should not get off on a tangent because of personal ideas, theories

Should be guided by God's congregational arrangement (Ps 22:22)

The reason so many religions exist today is that people have insisted on leaning on their own understanding (Pr 14:12)

Few have consulted God's Word; they prefer their own opinions

“Turn away from bad,” and you will have a clean conscience

Avoid being overcritical, picking at brothers or congregation

Keep advancing in accurate knowledge, but do not allow pride, fear, or jealousy to motivate you

The study of God's Word as well as application of it in speech, thought, and deed has a favorable effect, is “a refreshment to your bones”

HONOR JEHOVAH WITH YOUR BEST, AND ACCEPT DISCIPLINE (Pr 3:9-12) (10 min.)

Support Jehovah's organization (*w85* 12/1 20-2)

As the Israelites brought their best to Jehovah, so do Christians today

Contribute toward your Kingdom Hall; assist the Society's headquarters and branches as well as the global missionary work (*g89* 1/22 14-15; *w87* 12/15 19-20)

Use your assets to assist the weak and brothers in need (*w84* 12/1 22)

Use them for the good of others; will be of no benefit to you “on the day of fury” (Pr 11:4; *w77* 201)

“Your stores of supply will be filled with plenty” mainly applies to spiritual riches with joy and security that these bring (*it-2* 1038 ¶4)

Accept Jehovah's discipline as an evidence of his fatherly love (*tp* 110)

Jehovah wants us to be obedient to him, as this is in our own best interest

It may be painful and may hit hard but has positive aspect; given with a beneficial end in view

Be thankful that the matter was called to your attention, that someone was interested enough in you to set you straight

Better to be corrected early in a wrong course than to go unchecked (Heb 12:5-7)

Do not be offended when discipline comes (Pr 4:13; 19:20)

Might come from a mature brother, from a parent

Might even come from reading the Bible or *The Watchtower*

View instructions not as arbitrary rules but as evidence of Jehovah's loving interest

Recognize the authority of Jehovah's organization to make changes

Do not fall out of the truth over some adjustment in understanding

VALUE OF GODLY WISDOM IS GREATER THAN MATERIAL GAIN (Pr 3:13-18) (7 min.)

Wisdom brings happiness, peace, and pleasantness (*w86 6/15 6*)

It gives one the ability to act in harmony with God's purposes

Necessary knowledge can be obtained by a sincere and enlightened study of Bible

Godly wisdom holds the promise of life, riches, and glory

"Its ways are ways of pleasantness," as Jehovah richly blesses those who gain godly wisdom and understanding

"It is a tree of life to those taking hold of it" in that the wisdom has a good effect on present life (*it-2 250 ¶3*)

Can save us untold trouble, including premature death

For example, apply principles regarding alcohol, drugs, rage

To acquire wisdom and discernment, we must put knowledge to work

This requires willingness to apply what is learned

MAKING JEHOVAH YOUR CONFIDENCE RESULTS IN BLESSINGS (Pr 3:19-26) (9 min.)

Spiritual security will be assured (Ps 91:1-3)

Fear of dangers will be allayed (Ps 91:5, 6)

Sleep will be pleasurable

In some respects sound sleep is a reward for wise living

We will not be afraid of the coming tribulation on the wicked

As Jehovah's Witnesses face the great tribulation, they find encouragement in these words: "You will not be afraid"

We do not expect protection from all physical harm

Jeremiah was not protected from all physical assault (Jer 37:15, 21)

Apostle James was martyred (Ac 12:1, 2)

Jehovah will protect us as a *class* or as an *organization* (Ps 145:20; Mt 10:28)

Individuals may suffer

All of us have confidence in the resurrection (Joh 5:28, 29)

We are confident that Jehovah will not forget us even in death

PURSUE THIS CONFIDENT COURSE IN STRENGTH FROM JEHOVAH (2 min.)

Continue to make Jehovah your confidence

Rely on God's promises

Serve Jehovah with humility and joy

Read Proverbs 2:20-22

(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)