

COME, YOU WHO THIRST FOR THE TRUTH!

Note to the speaker:

Help the audience to see the importance of acting on God's invitation to quench their spiritual thirst. Show in a practical way how to receive spiritual refreshment from God's provisions

A UNIQUE INVITATION GOING OUT TODAY ON A WORLDWIDE SCALE (3 min.)

Invitation in Revelation to take of "life's water" (Re 22:17)

Invitation is remarkable because it emanates from an exalted source through Jesus' anointed followers

These constitute a composite John class (Re 1:1-3)

This wonderful invitation could come only from Jehovah God, whose spirit directed John to pen these words of invitation

Millions who have already accepted the invitation and acted upon it now share in extending it to still others

Religious truth is part of "life's water," which encompasses God's entire provision for the salvation of those who love him

FINDING RELIGIOUS TRUTH VITAL TODAY (6 min.)

False religious teachings abound today

Result is religious defilement, spiritual neglect, and eventual death for worshippers

For instance, doctrine of immortal soul contradicts Bible truth

Is responsible for such religious errors as hellfire, purgatory, transmigration of the soul, and supposed talking with the dead

Bible truth corrects such (Ge 2:7; Eze 18:4; De 18:9-13)

Water of truth refreshes, cleanses from religious defilement, gives hope of eternal life (Eph 5:25-27; Joh 4:10-14)

When properly understood, Bible teaches us how to worship God with spirit and truth (Joh 4:24)

Those responding are washed clean of religious defilement, are refreshed, are set free from spiritual bondage (Joh 8:32)

They rejoice in well-founded hope of life in new world

Invitation still open to take in "life's water"

NECESSARY TO CULTIVATE A THIRST FOR RELIGIOUS TRUTH (15 min.)

Happy are those conscious of spiritual need (Mt 5:3)

Must reject religious error, thirst for truth, and seek knowledge from God (Pr 2:3-5)

Physical thirst must be quenched if we are to live

Likewise, spiritual thirst has to be satisfied for eternal life

Apostle Peter advised that each one "form a longing for the unadulterated milk belonging to the word," or thirst for it (1Pe 2:2)

Some do not have this longing; need help to develop thirst

One way that Jehovah's organization works to arouse thirst for truth is by publishing Bible literature

Develop greater thirst for truth by reading publications and by regular study (*w86* 5/15 12-20)

Set aside time to read new publications, and stick to schedule

Study is absorbing if accounts are visualized (Jg 7:19-22)

Associating new points with old also helpful; review ideas

Do not be content with just 'milk of the word' (Heb 5:12-14)

Need to study publications like *Revelation Climax* book

Another way that God's organization helps us develop this thirst is by providing wholesome meetings, assemblies, conventions

Joy results from gathering together (Ne 8:12)

Heed encouragement to be regular at meetings

Make serious, prayerful effort to develop spiritual thirst

Does not come easily, for fleshly and worldly tendencies at enmity with God (Ro 8:6-8; 1Jo 2:16, 17)

People not encouraged to appreciate spiritual need, for Satan tries to blind them (2Co 4:4)

Thus, majority are like poor soil (Mt 13:3-7)

You can be like good soil that is productive (Mt 13:8)

Ask yourself: Do I have a thirst for religious truth?

If you are associating with Jehovah's Witnesses, how much real thirst do you have for accurate knowledge of God's truth?

Do not be like some who associate for years but cling to false teachings, birthday and holiday celebrations, and so forth

Break off association with individuals or organizations that would divert your attention from spiritual pursuits

Even as you cannot live without water, you cannot enjoy eternal life unless you satisfy your need for "life's water"

By study, meeting attendance, and prayer, develop and satisfy thirst for truth

QUENCHING THIRST FOR TRUTH WITHOUT COST (15 min.)

Billions today in religious bondage to Babylon the Great, the world empire of false religion

They pay out large sums but remain spiritually thirsty (*w88* 2/15 21; *w87* 5/1 10-11; *w86* 12/1 28)

A beauty of true religious knowledge is that it is free

Note this as we read Isaiah 55:1-4

Primarily fulfilled on Jehovah's anointed witnesses (*Man's Salvation* pp. 95-9)

During World War I (1914-18), Babylon the Great got them under her power by means of her worldly par- amours, even as Babylon had taken God's ancient people captive

Anointed Christians looked for end of wicked world; but it did not occur, and they were keenly disap- pointed

Through Jesus Christ, God provided thirst-quenching waters of truth that infused life and hope into his parched people

The Scriptural message was one of deliverance from Babylon the Great by means of the established Mes- sianic Kingdom

Like a river, such religious truth keeps on flowing to millions of people, all without cost

To this day such waters are freely dispensed worldwide in upwards of 200 lands and more than 200 languages (From latest *Yearbook*, cite figures on increase in publishers, Memorial attendance, time dispensing waters of truth, etc.)

BLESSINGS OF QUENCHING THIRST FOR RELIGIOUS TRUTH (6 min.)

If you thirst for religious truth, do something about it now

Knowledge of God is beginning to fill the earth (Isa 11:9)

Will continue into the coming Millennium (Da 12:3, 4)

Blessings without end assured under Kingdom rule (Re 22:17)

Now is the time to quench thirst for religious truth

Flee famine-stricken Babylon the Great (Am 8:11, 12)

Join with God's people in spiritual paradise (Isa 49:8-10; Re 7:16, 17; *Revelation Climax* pp. 126-7)

Be eager to drink deeply from "the fountain of the water of life" (Re 21:6b; *Revelation Climax* p. 304)

Come, you who thirst for the truth, drink freely!

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