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THE **WATCHTOWER**
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**“Make Sure of the More
Important Things”**

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STUDY ARTICLES

■ “Make Sure of the More Important Things”

■ “Do Not Tire Out”

We are privileged to be part of God’s awesome universal organization. How, though, can we cooperate fully with what it is accomplishing today? What will help us to keep pace with Jehovah’s organization and not tire out? These articles will explain.

“Make Sure of the More Important Things”

“Make sure of the more important things.”—PHIL. 1:10.

POINTS FOR MEDITATION

What confidence do the visions of Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel give us?

What lesson do we learn by considering the clear focus of the earthly part of Jehovah’s organization?

What determination has this article given you?

PETER, James, John, and Andrew were finally alone with their Master. Jesus’ earlier comments regarding the destruction of the temple weighed heavily on their minds. (Mark 13:1-4) Thus, they asked: “Tell us, When will these things be, and what will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things?” (Matt. 24:1-3) Jesus began to tell them about events, or

1, 2. What prophecy regarding the last days must have intrigued Jesus’ disciples, and why?

conditions, that would not only result in great changes to life but also identify the last days of Satan's wicked system of things. One particular event must have intrigued Jesus' disciples. After telling of such distressing matters as wars, food shortages, and an increase of lawlessness, Jesus foretold that something positive would also mark the last days. He said: "This good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come."—Matt. 24:7-14.

2 Jesus' disciples had enjoyed preaching the good news of the Kingdom along with Christ. (Luke 8:1; 9:1, 2) They may have recalled that he said: "The harvest, indeed, is great, but the workers are few. Therefore beg the Master of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2) But how would they preach "in all the inhabited earth" and give "a witness to all the na-

tions”? Where would the workers come from? If only they could have looked into the future while sitting with Jesus that day! They would no doubt have been amazed to see the fulfillment of those few words that we now read at Matthew 24:14.

3 We are living in the time of the fulfillment of Jesus’ prophecy. Millions have joined together to fill the earth with the preaching of the good news of the Kingdom. (Isa. 60:22) Jesus indicated, though, that some would find it challenging to maintain their focus in these last days. They would be distracted and become “weighed down.” (*Read Luke 21:34.*) We are seeing the fulfillment of those words as well. Some among God’s people are getting sidetracked. This may be seen in the decisions they make with regard to secular work, higher education, and acquisition of material possessions, as well as the amount of time

3. How is Luke 21:34 being fulfilled today, and what self-examination should we make?

spent in sports and entertainment. Others are tiring out because of the pressures and anxieties of everyday life. Ask yourself: ‘How am I doing? What do my decisions say about my focus in life?’

4 Christians living in the first century had to put forth effort to maintain their spiritual priorities. The apostle Paul saw the need for praying that those in Philippi would “make sure of the more important things.” (*Read Philippians 1:9-11.*) Like the apostle Paul, most back then were “showing all the more courage to speak the word of God fearlessly.” (Phil. 1:12-14) In a similar manner, by far most of us today courageously preach God’s Word. Still, can a consideration of what is now being accomplished in Jehovah’s organization help us to focus even more on the all-important preaching work? Indeed it can! In this

4. (a) What did Paul pray about for the Christians in Philippi, and why? (b) What will we consider in this and the following article, and with what objective?

article, let us reflect on the arrangement that Jehovah has in place to facilitate the fulfillment of Matthew 24:14. What is the focus of his organization, and how can knowing this motivate us and our families? In the article that follows, we will consider what can help us to endure and to remain in step with Jehovah's organization.

THE HEAVENLY PART OF JEHOVAH'S ORGANIZATION IS ON THE MOVE

5 There are many things that Jehovah chose not to include in his written Word. For example, he did not provide details about how the brain works or how the universe functions, even though such information would have been very fascinating! Rather, Jehovah provided information that we need in order to understand his purposes and to live our lives in harmony with them. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17) How interesting, then, that the Bible

5, 6. (a) Why did Jehovah provide visions of the heavenly part of his organization? (b) What did Ezekiel see in vision?

does provide glimpses of the invisible part of Jehovah's organization! We thrill at reading the descriptions of Jehovah's heavenly arrangement written by Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel and in John's Revelation account. (Isa. 6:1-4; Ezek. 1:4-14, 22-24; Dan. 7:9-14; Rev. 4:1-11) It is as if Jehovah pulled back a curtain and allowed us to peer into the heavens. Why did he provide this information?

6 Jehovah wanted us never to forget that we are part of a universal organization. There is much more going on in support of Jehovah's purposes than what we can see. For example, Ezekiel saw the invisible part of Jehovah's organization depicted by a colossal celestial chariot. This chariot could move swiftly and change direction in an instant. (Ezek. 1:15-21) With each revolution of its wheels, the chariot could cover great distances. In vision, Ezekiel was also able to get a glimpse of

the Rider of the chariot. He said: “I got to see something like the glow of electrum, like the appearance of fire all around . . . It was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of Jehovah.” (Ezek. 1:25-28) How awe-inspiring it must have been for Ezekiel to see this vision! He saw Jehovah in full control of his organization, directing its movement through his holy spirit. What an amazing representation of the heavenly part of Jehovah’s organization on the move!

⁷ Daniel too saw much to give us confidence. He was allowed to see Jehovah depicted as “the Ancient of Days” sitting on a throne with flames of fire. The throne was on wheels. (Dan. 7:9) Jehovah wanted Daniel to see that His organization is in motion, accomplishing His purpose. Daniel also saw “someone like a son of man,” Jesus, being given oversight of the earthly part of

7. How does the vision given to Daniel fill us with confidence?

Jehovah's organization. Christ's perfect rule does not exist for just a few short years. Rather, it is "an indefinitely lasting rulership that will not pass away, and his kingdom one that will not be brought to ruin." (Dan. 7:13, 14) We are moved to trust in Jehovah and to recognize what he is accomplishing. He gave "rulership and dignity and kingdom" to his tried and proven Son, Jesus. Jehovah puts trust in his Son. Thus, we can have confidence in Jesus' leadership as well.

8 How should this view of the invisible part of Jehovah's organization impact us? Like Ezekiel, we are surely awed and humbled by what Jehovah is accomplishing. (Ezek. 1:28) Meditating on Jehovah's organization can move us to action, just as it did Isaiah. When the opportunity arose for him to tell others about what Jehovah is doing,

8. What impact did visions from Jehovah have on Ezekiel and Isaiah, and how should we be affected?

he seized it without hesitation. (*Read Isaiah 6: 5, 8.*) Isaiah was confident that with Jehovah's backing, he could successfully face any challenge. Similarly, this glimpse of the invisible part of Jehovah's organization should fill us with awe and spur us to action. How motivating to contemplate that organization, ever on the move and completely focused on accomplishing Jehovah's purposes!

THE EARTHLY PART OF JEHOVAH'S ORGANIZATION

9 Through his Son, Jehovah established an arrangement here on earth that works in harmony with the invisible part of the organization. Why is a visible arrangement needed to accomplish the work described at Matthew 24:14? Consider three reasons.

10 First, Jesus stated that this preaching work would take his disciples "to the most distant part 9, 10. Why is there a need for a visible part of Jehovah's organization?

of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) Second, arrangements would be needed to provide spiritual food and to care for those engaged in this work. (John 21:15-17) Third, provisions would have to be made so that those preaching the good news could gather together to worship Jehovah and be taught how to carry out the work. (Heb. 10:24, 25) Accomplishing these goals could not be done by accident. For Christ’s followers to be successful, the work would need to be well-organized.

11 How do we demonstrate our support for the arrangements made by Jehovah’s organization? One important way is by always putting our confidence in the ones whom Jehovah and Jesus are trusting to lead us in our preaching work. There are many activities or causes in the world today that could vie for the attention of those taking the

11. How do we demonstrate our support for the arrangements made by Jehovah’s organization?

lead among us. Yet, what has consistently been the focus of the visible part of Jehovah’s organization?

FOCUSED ON “THE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS”

12 Experienced Christian elders around the world have been appointed to oversee and give impetus to the Kingdom-preaching work in the lands where they serve. As these brothers make decisions, they seek direction from God’s Word, making it ‘a lamp to their foot and a light to their roadway,’ and they earnestly pray for Jehovah’s guidance.—Ps. 119:105; Matt. 7:7, 8.

13 Like those who took the lead in the first century, Christian elders who oversee the preaching work today are devoted “to the ministry of the word.” (Acts 6:4) They rejoice greatly at the

12, 13. How do Christian elders carry out their assignment, and why is that encouraging to you?

progress that is being made in the preaching of the good news locally and throughout the world. (Acts 21:19, 20) They do not set out endless rules and procedures. Instead, they follow the Scriptures and the leadings of God’s holy spirit as they make arrangements that are needed to help the preaching work go forward. (*Read Acts 15:28.*) By doing so, these responsible brothers set a fine example for all in the local congregations.—Eph. 4:11, 12.

14 Unseen to many are the constant labors of preparing the spiritual food for our publications, meetings, and conventions. Thousands of volunteers work tirelessly to translate this spiritual food into some 600 languages so that as many as possible can learn about “the magnificent things of God” in their own language. (Acts 2:7-11)

14, 15. (a) What arrangements are in place for supporting the preaching work earth wide? (b) How do you feel about the share you have in supporting the Kingdom-preaching work?

Young brothers and sisters work at producing our literature on high-speed printing presses and bindery equipment. This literature is then distributed to congregations even in the remotest regions of the earth.

15 Numerous arrangements are in place so that we can focus on preaching the good news with our local congregation. For example, thousands volunteer to assist with Kingdom Hall and Assembly Hall construction, to help those affected by natural disasters or who are facing medical emergencies, to organize our assemblies and conventions, and to teach theocratic schools, just to name a few activities that go on behind the scenes. What is the purpose of all this work? To facilitate the preaching of the good news, to enhance the spiritual welfare of those carrying out this work, and to advance true worship. Has the

earthly part of Jehovah's organization remained focused on the more important things? Indeed it has!

FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF JEHOVAH'S ORGANIZATION

16 Do we periodically take the time to reflect on the workings of Jehovah's organization? Some have chosen to include time in their family worship or personal study to do research on these matters and to meditate on them. The visions given to Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and John make an exciting study. The book *Jehovah's Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom* and other publications or DVDs available in your language provide intriguing insight into the organization.

17 Meditating on what Jehovah is accomplish-

16. What would be a good Bible study project for you or your family?

17, 18. (a) How has this discussion benefited you? (b) What questions should we consider?

ing through his organization is good for us. Along with this wonderful organization, may we be resolved to keep focused on the more important things. Doing so will fortify us to have the same determination as Paul, who wrote: “Since we have this ministry according to the mercy that was shown us, we do not give up.” (2 Cor. 4:1) He also encouraged his fellow workers: “Let us not give up in doing what is fine, for in due season we shall reap if we do not tire out.”—Gal. 6:9.

18 Are there adjustments that we need to make as individuals or as families so as to make sure of the more important things in our daily routine? Can we simplify our lives or reduce distractions so that we can give more attention to the all-important preaching work? In the next article, we will consider five things that will assist us to keep in step with Jehovah’s organization.

“Do Not Tire Out”

“Let us not give up in doing what is fine.”—GAL. 6:9.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

What provisions help us maintain our zeal for the truth?

How does focusing on the worship of Jehovah affect our meeting attendance?

How can our decisions indicate whether we will endure or tire out in our service?

IT IS awe-inspiring to contemplate that we are part of a vast universal organization. The visions recorded in Ezekiel chapter 1 and Daniel chapter 7 vividly portray Jehovah maneuvering matters to a grand climax. Jesus is taking the lead in directing the earthly part of Jehovah’s organization to focus on preaching the good news, to care spiritually for those carrying out this work, and to promote the true worship of Jeho-

1, 2. How is our confidence heightened by contemplating Jehovah’s universal organization?

vah. What confidence this gives us in Jehovah's organization!—Matt. 24:45.

2 Are we personally in step with this wonderful organization? Is our enthusiasm for the truth ever-increasing, or is it decreasing? When considering such questions, we may note that we have begun to tire out or perhaps have lost some of our zeal. That can happen. In the first century, the apostle Paul had to exhort fellow Christians to consider the zealous example of Jesus. Paul said that this would help them not to “get tired and give out in [their] souls.” (Heb. 12:3) In a similar manner, careful examination of the preceding article, which shows what is being accomplished by Jehovah's organization, ought to have done much toward helping us maintain our enthusiasm and endurance.

3 Paul, however, indicated that more is needed

3. What is needed in order for us not to tire out, and what will we consider in this article?

if we are not going to tire out. He stated that we would need to work at “doing what is fine.” (Gal. 6:9) Thus, action is needed on our part. Let us consider five areas of activity that can help us to remain steadfast and to keep pace with Jehovah’s organization. Then we can personally decide whether there are aspects to which we or our families need to give greater attention.

MEET FOR ENCOURAGEMENT AND WORSHIP

4 Gathering together has always been a key activity for Jehovah’s servants. In the invisible realm, spirit creatures are invited into Jehovah’s immediate presence at appropriate times. (1 Ki. 22:19; Job 1:6; 2:1; Dan. 7:10) In ancient Israel, the nation was to gather “in order that they may listen and in order that they may learn.”

4. Why can we say that gathering together is an integral part of true worship?

(Deut. 31:10-12) Jews in the first century had the custom of going to the synagogues to read from the Scriptures. (Luke 4:16; Acts 15:21) This emphasis on meeting together continued with the formation of the Christian congregation, and it is still a major part of our worship. True Christians “consider one another to incite to love and fine works.” We need to keep on “encouraging one another, and all the more so as [we] behold [Jehovah’s] day drawing near.” —Heb. 10:24, 25.

5 One important way in which we encourage one another is by having a share in our meetings. We can make a public expression of our faith by answering a printed question, by giving an application of a scripture, by relating a brief experience that illustrates the wisdom of

5. How can we encourage one another at our meetings?

following Bible principles, or in other ways. (Ps. 22:22; 40:9) Surely you will agree that no matter how many years we have been attending meetings, it remains a source of encouragement to listen to the heartfelt comments made by our brothers and sisters—old and young.

6 For what other reasons does our God place such importance on our regularly gathering together? Our meetings, assemblies, and conventions help us to have courage to speak with boldness and to deal with opposition or apathy in our territories. (Acts 4:23, 31) We are strengthened and made firm in the faith by the Scriptural discussions. (Acts 15:32; Rom. 1:11, 12) The teaching and interchange of encouragement that we receive at our gatherings for worship help us to experience real happiness and give us “quiet-

6. How do our meetings help us to stay spiritually active?

ness from days of calamity.” (Ps. 94:12, 13) The Teaching Committee of the Governing Body oversees the preparation of all spiritual programs for the instruction of Jehovah’s people earth wide. How thankful we can be for the provisions that are made for us to enjoy wholesome teaching at our meetings every week of the year!

7 There is something even more important, however, than the personal benefits we receive from our meetings. The primary purpose of our gathering together is to worship Jehovah. (*Read Psalm 95:6.*) What a privilege we have to praise our wonderful God! (Col. 3:16) Jehovah deserves our regular worship through our attendance and participation at theocratic gatherings. (Rev. 4:11) It is no wonder, then, that we are exhorted ‘not to forsake the gathering of

7, 8. (a) What is the primary purpose of our congregation meetings? (b) How do the meetings help you spiritually?

ourselves together, as some have the custom’!
—Heb. 10:25.

8 Do we see our Christian meetings as a provision to help us endure until Jehovah acts against this wicked system of things? If so, the meetings will be among “the more important things” that we make room for in our busy lives. (Phil. 1:10) It would have to be something extremely significant to cause us to miss an opportunity to be united with our brothers in worship of Jehovah.

SEARCH FOR THE HONESTHEARTED

9 Having a full share in the preaching work also helps us to keep in step with Jehovah’s organization. Jesus set this work in motion when he was here on earth. (Matt. 28:19, 20) Since then, the Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making work has been a main focus of Jehovah’s

9. How do we know that the preaching work is important?

entire organization. Many modern-day experiences give evidence that the angels are supporting our work and guiding us to those “rightly disposed for everlasting life.” (Acts 13:48; Rev. 14:6, 7) The earthly part of Jehovah’s organization is in place today and organized to support this all-important work. Is the ministry also the focus of our life?

10 Being zealous in the ministry helps us to maintain our enthusiasm for the truth. Consider the comments of Mitchel, a longtime elder and regular pioneer. He states: “I love telling people about the truth. I think about a new article in *The Watchtower* or *Awake!* and just marvel at the wisdom, insight, and perfect balance in each issue. I want to get out in the ministry to see how people will react, how I can spark

10. (a) Illustrate how we might maintain our enthusiasm for the truth. (b) How has the ministry helped you not to tire out?

their interest. My ministry keeps me stable. I force everything else to take place either before or after the time slot set aside for the ministry.” Likewise, our staying busy in our sacred service can help us to continue steadfast in these last days.—*Read 1 Corinthians 15:58.*

PARTAKE OF SPIRITUAL PROVISIONS

11 Jehovah has provided a bounteous supply of written spiritual food to give us strength. No doubt, you can think of a time when after reading a publication, you thought: “That is exactly what I needed! It is as if Jehovah had that written just for me!” That is not a coincidence. Through these provisions, Jehovah does instruct and guide us. He has said: “I shall make you have insight and instruct you in the way you should go.” (Ps. 32:8) Do we strive to take in all the

11. Why should we make full use of the spiritual food we receive from Jehovah?

spiritual food we receive and meditate on it? Doing so will help us to continue to bear fruit and not wither spiritually in these difficult last days.—*Read Psalm 1:1-3; 35:28; 119:97.*

12 It is good for us to consider the work that is involved in making sure that we receive this regular flow of healthy spiritual provisions. The Writing Committee of the Governing Body oversees the process of researching, writing, proof-reading, illustrating, and translating our printed publications as well as material posted on our Web site. Printing branches ship literature to congregations near and far. Why is all this work done? So that Jehovah's people are well-fed spiritually. (Isa. 65:13) May we be diligent in partaking of all the spiritual food we receive through Jehovah's organization.—Ps. 119:27.

12. What can help us not to take our spiritual provisions for granted?

SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

13 In the vision given to the apostle John, Jesus is seen riding on a white horse to conquer those rebelling against Jehovah. (Rev. 19:11-15) How faith-strengthening it is to know that right behind Jesus are the faithful angels and with him are the anointed conquerors from the earth, who have already received their heavenly reward! (Rev. 2:26, 27) What a superlative example that is of supporting Jehovah's arrangements!

14 In like manner, the great crowd fully supports the work of Christ's anointed brothers who are still on earth and who are taking the lead in the organization today. (*Read Zechariah 8:23.*) How can we show our individual support for Jehovah's arrangements? One way is by being in subjection to those taking the lead. (Heb. 13:7, 13, 14. Who are supporting Jehovah's arrangements in the heavens, and how can we show similar support on earth?)

17) This starts right in our own congregation. Do our comments about the elders build respect for them and their office of oversight? Do we encourage our children to respect these faithful men and to look to them for Scriptural advice? Additionally, do we discuss as a family how we can use our finances to support the worldwide work through our donations? (Prov. 3:9; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:12) Do we view as important the privilege of sharing in the upkeep of the Kingdom Hall? Jehovah's spirit flows freely where there is such respect and unity. Through that spirit, we receive continuous help not to tire out in these last days.—Isa. 40:29-31.

LIVE IN HARMONY WITH OUR MESSAGE

15 Finally, to endure and to stay in step with Jehovah's organization, we must keep our

15. Why must we constantly battle to live in harmony with Jehovah's lofty purpose?

personal lives consistent with the message that we bear by “making sure of what is acceptable to the Lord.” (Eph. 5:10, 11) Because of our imperfect flesh and the efforts of Satan and this wicked world, we are constantly battling negative influences in our lives. Some of you dear brothers and sisters have a hard fight every day to maintain your relationship with Jehovah. That endears you greatly to him. Do not give up! Living our lives in harmony with Jehovah’s purpose will give us great satisfaction and ensure that our worship is not futile.—1 Cor. 9:24-27.

16 What should we do, however, if we commit a serious sin? Get help as soon as possible. Keeping the matter hidden will only make matters worse. Remember, David said that when he kept silent about his sins, ‘his bones wore out through his groaning all day long.’ (Ps. 32:3)

16, 17. (a) What should we do if we commit a serious sin?
(b) How can we benefit from the example of Anne?

Yes, hiding secret sins will just cause us to tire out emotionally and spiritually, but “he that is confessing and leaving them will be shown mercy.”—Prov. 28:13.

17 Consider the example of Anne.* When Anne was in her late teens, she served as a regular pioneer. However, she began to live a double life. This affected her greatly. She states: “What was left of my conscience felt guilty. I was unhappy and depressed all the time.” What did she do? She states that one day at the meeting, James 5:14, 15 was discussed. Anne realized that she needed help and went to the elders for assistance. Looking back, she says: “Those scriptures are a prescription written by Jehovah for spiritual healing. The medicine is not easy to swallow, but it does heal. I heeded the advice found in those scriptures, and it worked.” Some years

* Name has been changed.

have passed, and with renewed strength Anne is again zealously serving Jehovah with a good conscience.

18 What a privilege it is to live in these last days and to be part of Jehovah's incredible organization! Let us be determined never to take what we have for granted. Instead, let us work together as a family to be regular in meeting for worship with our local congregation, to search diligently for honesthearted ones in our territory, and to cherish the regular provisions of spiritual food we receive. Let us also support those taking the lead and live our lives in harmony with the message we bear. If we do so, not only will we find ourselves in step with Jehovah's organization but we will never tire out in doing what is fine!

18. What should be our determination?