

HOW WE RECOMMEND OURSELVES AS MINISTERS

Note to the circuit overseer:

Use this outline for the Tuesday service talk from March 2017 through August 2017. (tg 18:9)
You will need to prepare your own 30-minute service talk for use after the *Watchtower* Study.
Instill appreciation for the privilege we have in working with Jehovah as we help others to salvation. However, in order to retain this privilege of service, we must keep recommending ourselves as ministers by comporting ourselves in the proper way

AN URGENT MINISTRY HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED TO US (2 min.)

With each passing day, we draw closer to the great day of Jehovah and the destruction of this wicked world

However, as long as people refuse to know God and become reconciled to him, they are in the position of being his enemies and the recipients of his coming wrath

Surely this should move us to do all we can to fulfill our ministry, helping others to learn of Jehovah and his grand purpose **[Read 2 Corinthians 5:10, 11]**

At the same time, we are working out our own salvation

An examination of 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 can help us to fulfill this serious commission and remain qualified as ministers

REMAINING QUALIFIED AS MINISTERS (23 min.)

[Read 2 Corinthians 6:1, 2]

Like the early Christians, the “acceptable time” will be a day of salvation for us if we prove ourselves worthy of God’s undeserved kindness and not miss its purpose (*it-1* 37)

What a privilege we have to work together with Jehovah in accomplishing an urgent ministry!

[Read 2 Corinthians 6:3, 4]

Paul treasured the ministry entrusted to him; in order to avoid stumbling anyone, he watched every aspect of his life closely, including his conduct

While we may be firm in keeping separate from the world on such issues as neutrality, religious holidays, and immorality, we also would not want to stumble others in seemingly minor areas, including our manner of dress and grooming

We recommend ourselves by our endurance when we continue to call on our neighbors in the field ministry

Enduring is not simply a matter of suffering hardship; it involves being steadfast, keeping the proper mental attitude, and maintaining a hopeful outlook in the face of trials [If available, cite a local experience from the congregation or the circuit of a publisher who persevered in the ministry joyfully despite apathy or opposition]

We cannot allow tribulations or difficulties to prevent us from paying attention to our ministry and fulfilling it **[Read Colossians 4:17]**

Instead of slowing down, we need to remind ourselves that our service to Jehovah should be the main interest in our life, that we need to be self-sacrificing, and that the destruction of this wicked system is imminent

Jehovah will help us to keep recommending ourselves as ministers (Mt 6:33)

[Read 2 Corinthians 6:5-8]

In places such as Armenia, Eritrea, and South Korea, many of our brothers have recommended themselves as God’s ministers by enduring beatings and imprisonments [If time permits, relate an experience that was featured on JW Broadcasting]

Others endure sleepless nights while caring for the needs of their families, the congregation, and the field

We recommend ourselves “by purity” as we live in harmony with accurate Bible knowledge [Cite an example showing how refinements in our understanding have aided us in upholding Jehovah’s moral requirements (*kr* 110-115 ¶4-21)]

At the same time, we need to avoid entertainment or association that can erode our purity

We recommend ourselves by patiently enduring wrong or provocation

We recommend ourselves “by kindness” as we do helpful things for others

Moreover, we can recommend ourselves as ministers of God by accepting the guidance of his holy spirit, displaying “love free from hypocrisy,” speaking truthfully, and relying on Jehovah for power to carry out our ministry

Whether honored or dishonored, we should always behave like Christians

Bad reports about us do not stifle our preaching work, nor do favorable reports about us make us overconfident

When opponents spread a bad report about us, we can have the assurance that in reality we are truthful and have Jehovah’s approval

[Read 2 Corinthians 6:9, 10]

We speak the truth and may gain recognition for our fine works

We accept all spiritual education, advice, training, and even discipline with gratitude

If Jehovah allows something that brings us sorrow, we view it as discipline and rejoice (Jas 1:2, 3)

We might have reason to sorrow over our afflictions, but we can have inner joy

Joy is an aspect of the fruitage of the spirit; thus in all circumstances and regardless of what we face, if we obey Jehovah so as to have his approval, we will be blessed with his holy spirit (Ac 5:32)

Even if we lack material possessions, we are spiritually rich, “possessing all things”

We find satisfaction in “making many rich” spiritually, endeavoring to share in all features of the ministry according to our personal circumstances, especially the house-to-house work [If applicable, relate the success of public witnessing being done in the congregation or circuit]

CHERISH YOUR PRIVILEGE OF WORKING WITH JEHOVAH (5 min.)

In all these ways, we recommend ourselves as God’s ministers

[Share encouraging points you noted while reviewing the congregation’s records. If applicable, identify an area or two that needs attention. Then show how the congregation can make the improvement over the next several months. Outline the schedule for the week, including the arrangements for meetings for service held each morning and afternoon, Wednesday through Friday (*tg* 4:8)]

Let us continue “without letup” sharing in the ministry of reconciliation right now—in this acceptable time (Ac 5:42)