

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



2821 Route 22, Patterson, NY 12563-2237 Phone: (845) 306-1100

April 22, 2012

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: Reading scriptures at the *Watchtower* Study

Dear Brothers:

In January 2008, all bodies of elders were provided direction on how to handle the reading of texts marked “read” when conducting the *Watchtower* Study. At this time, we are pleased to reissue that direction for the benefit of those not familiar with it.

Should texts marked “read” be read by the assigned paragraph reader, or may someone else from the audience read such scriptures? This decision is left to the judgment of the *Watchtower* Study conductor. Nevertheless, texts marked “read” should be read by someone who reads well.

When should texts marked “read” be read? For the most part, this is being left to the discretion of the *Watchtower* Study conductor. At times, texts marked “read” will be cited at the very beginning of a paragraph, such as in a verse-by-verse consideration of a Bible passage. In that case, the texts should be read before the reading of the paragraph. However, other texts marked “read” might be read before the question is asked, particularly if the answer to the question is found in the scripture. Still other texts marked “read” may be read at some point during the general discussion of the material when other cited verses are considered. Please note that whereas in our audio recordings of *The Watchtower* texts marked “read” are read at the point that they are cited in the paragraph, this is not a pattern to be followed in the congregation *Watchtower* Study. At our congregation meetings, paragraph reading should be uninterrupted.

It will be advantageous for bodies of elders to review periodically the direction in the *Shepherding* textbook, chapter 2, paragraphs 24 and 25. In view of the foregoing, each elder should make the notation “See letter dated April 22, 2012, to all bodies of elders regarding reading scriptures at the *Watchtower* Study” next to the fifth bullet point of paragraph 25 in chapter 2 of the *Shepherding* textbook. For the meaning of the word “compare” when used before a cited scripture text, please refer back to *The Watchtower* of January 15, 2008, page 3, paragraph 4.

Please be assured of our appreciation for the fine work of *Watchtower* Study conductors in helping congregations get the sense of the spiritual food being supplied at the proper time. We send our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

cc: Traveling overseers

PS to secretary:

This letter should be retained in the congregation's permanent file of policy letters. You may wish to update the congregation copy of *Index to Letters for Bodies of Elders* (S-22) at this time as well.

4/22/12-E