

ARE YOU CONTENT WITH JEHOVAH'S PROVISIONS?

Note to the speaker:

While Christendom suffers spiritual starvation, Jehovah's Witnesses have spiritual abundance. Do you really appreciate the many provisions that Jehovah makes for you? If you do, you should be a very happy and contented person

CHRISTENDOM'S SPIRITUAL FAMINE CONTRASTS WITH THE CONDITION OF GOD'S PEOPLE (7 min.)

As foretold, Christendom is in a bad way (Am 8:11)

Her own members and clergy admit that the churches are dying (*w*90 7/15 30; *g*89 11/22 19-22; *g*88 2/8 12-15; *re* 229)

Why is Christendom experiencing spiritual famine even though she has the Bible?

Has forsaken Jehovah, strayed from his Word (Jer 2:13; *w*83 11/15 22)

Instead of life-giving Word, Christendom offers pagan teachings, philosophy, and modernist ideas (Col 2:8; *g*88 3/8 27)

The churches substitute tradition for the Word of God, as the Pharisees did (Mt 15:3-9; *w*88 12/1 4-7)

God's people are lovingly cared for with an abundance of spiritual food (Isa 65:13, 14)

Their experience is like that of David, who lacked nothing (Ps 23:1; *w*88 7/1 23)

Those coming to Jehovah's place of worship openly acknowledge that they will be properly taught; they desire to walk in his ways (Isa 2:2, 3)

They are enjoying a continuous spiritual feast (Pr 15:15)

Are able to feed on 'words of faith and fine teaching,' which makes them content (1Ti 4:6)

WE HAVE SOUND REASONS TO BE CONTENT WHEN WE EVALUATE JEHOVAH'S PROVISIONS (20 min.)

God's Word is the basis for spiritual food that is served to the household of faith (*w*87 10/1 10-14)

Enables one to know the truth that leads to eternal life (Ps 119:160; Joh 14:6)

Progressively enlightens us as to Jehovah's will and purpose (Ps 97:11; Pr 4:18)

With light from the Bible, we understand meaning of the times, have vision of future events (2Pe 1:16-19; Re 1:1, 3; *re* 15-17)

Serves as a guide and is beneficial in other ways (Ps 119:105; 2Ti 3:16, 17; *w*84 6/15 15)

Has powerful influence on our lives, transforming minds; aids in putting on new personality (Ro 12:1, 2; Eph 4:23, 24)

While fundamentals are needed, we cannot become full-grown by staying with elementary things (Heb 5:14; 6:1-3; *w*85 5/1 8-12)

Need solid food to distinguish between right and wrong

Making advancement spiritually brings contentment (1Ti 4:15)

Provision of God's spirit makes Christians content

By living in accord with the spirit, we can produce right fruitage (Ga 5:22-25)

We are activated to accomplish the work of preaching and of making disciples, as well as declaring God's judgments despite opposition (Zec 4:6)

Congregation meetings and larger assemblies provide program of continuous learning and encouragement, along with wholesome and refreshing fellowship (Ps 26:8; 122:1; 1Co 14:26, 31; Heb 10:24, 25)

Have a variety of publications for use at meetings, in personal and family study, and for distribution in the field (*km* 4/91 1; *w*87 10/1 13-14)

Local elders are available to teach, readjust, and help brothers (Eph 4:11, 12; 1Ti 5:17)

Traveling overseers visit periodically to stimulate efforts and build up spirituality (Ac 14:22; Ro 1:11, 12; *w*79 2/15 23-6)

Various schools are provided to train pioneers, elders, missionaries, others

All these provisions show how well Jehovah cares for his people

Is there any religious group in Christendom that gives such attention to its members?

Reflecting on Jehovah's goodness and love makes one truly feel a sense of gratitude (Ps 40:5)

STAY CONTENTED BY APPRECIATING GOD'S PROVISIONS AND BY HELPING OTHERS (15 min.)

It is unwise to neglect or take any provision for granted (*w*88 2/15 17 ¶9-11; *w*88 7/1 24 ¶7; *w*74 250)

If we are negligent, will be unable to meet present trials and difficulties or those ahead

Dangerous to take the attitude some did in ancient Israel (Mal 1:6-8, 12, 13; *w*87 12/1 17-20; *w*89 7/1 30)

They failed to appreciate Jehovah's arrangement in connection with regulations governing the sacrifices, thus showed disrespect for Jehovah's table

If we look to Jehovah for spiritual food, we can expect to receive it, for he knows what we need (*w*79 7/1 7-8)

Provisions served should be received with thanksgiving, just as when material food is served (Lu 11:9-13; 1Ti 4:3, 4)

“Faithful and discreet slave” is being used to provide “food at the proper time” (Mt 24:45-47)

Recognizing this and partaking regularly at Jehovah’s table shows we are content with his provisions (*w81 11/15 28-30*)

We must also extend an invitation to other hungry and thirsty ones (*w90 12/15 10-15*)

For genuine satisfaction they must come to the right source for spiritual food and drink (Isa 55:1, 2)

Jehovah’s Witnesses are calling out to people of all nations to join them in feeding at Jehovah’s table

Individuals cannot go to Christendom’s churches and try to feed at Jehovah’s table simultaneously (1Co 10:21)

This means we must do more than simply invite Bible students and others to meetings

Simply because there is abundant supply of spiritual food among Jehovah’s people does not mean one will automatically be sustained (Pr 3:18; *it-2 250 ¶3*)

It is necessary to take certain steps and to meet Scriptural requirements

To get relief from spiritual famine gripping Christendom, individuals must do what was symbolically foreshadowed when famine struck Egypt in Joseph’s day (*w87 5/1 19-20*)

People sold themselves and their land to Joseph for food

In return for seed to plant and use of land, Egyptians gave back one fifth of their harvest

Likewise today, truth seekers must dedicate themselves to Jehovah and follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ (Mt 16:24; Joh 6:27)

Hence, Christians today have obligation to help others in spiritual need (*w70 27-30*)

Truly, we are greatly favored over those in Christendom, who are famished and broken in spirit

Contentment we have received by means of Jehovah’s provisions is too precious to lose

If we are content with Jehovah’s spiritual provisions as well as basic material things, then we will maintain an approved relationship with God (1Ti 6:6-8)

CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM JEHOVAH’S PROVISIONS BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE (3 min.)

In the midst of spiritual famine afflicting worldly religion, we are enjoying a banquet of spiritual things (Isa 25:6; *w88 1/15 14; w83 11/15 30*)

Stay with those who look to Jehovah, who satisfies the needs of his servants (Ps 145:15-18; *w90 9/15 18-19*)

In view of all that Jehovah provides, we have every reason to be content

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