

## DOES GOD COUNT YOU PERSONALLY IMPORTANT?

### *Note to the speaker:*

Try to deepen appreciation for the fact that Jehovah is interested in each one of us. We demonstrate interest in him by studying his Word and by praying regularly.—Jas 4:8

### **UNIVERSAL LAWS PROVE THAT GOD IS INTERESTED IN MANKIND** (8 min.)

Some people have said that God is dead—that is, he is far off, uninterested in human affairs

Others have said that God may have some interest in the universe but that he does not condescend to hear an individual or take a personal interest in him

There are many things that we observe daily that prove a personal interest on the part of God and show a definite purpose (*ce* 129-41; *lp* 98-107)

These things point to the fact that God's purpose is progressively working out for mankind's benefit

Physical laws are indispensable to continuance of life on earth

Constant, consistent operation of physical laws proves that God is not far off

Scientists, some of whom may ridicule the idea of faith, themselves put faith in the reliability and constancy of the physical laws governing the universe

The laws governing procreation reveal a good purpose on God's part toward humankind

Moral laws are just as inescapable and are vital to purposeful life

Very bad results have come from breaking moral laws (Read Romans 1:26-31)

Religious hypocrisy is the most reprehensible form of violation of God's moral laws (2Ti 3:5)

God purposes to bring all intelligent creation into full harmony with his moral laws so that there will no longer be violations

It is clear from a consideration of God's universal laws that he has an interest in mankind, but can we say that he gives consideration to each individual?

### **WILL GOD GIVE ATTENTION TO EACH INDIVIDUAL?** (12 min.)

To God, "each one of us" is of significance (Ac 17:26, 27)

Christ "tasted death for *every* man" (Heb 2:9)

By his sacrifice, Christ purchased mankind, who were "sold under sin" (Ro 7:14)

Individuals need to be brought back into good relationship with God

Jesus has authority to judge men (Read John 5:27-30)

Should a person feel that he is too bad, too far gone, to have hope of receiving help from God? (*w*90 2/15 23 ¶4, 5)

Consider Isaiah 1:18 and the apostle Paul's experience (1Ti 1:15, 16)

Conversely, it is a sad mistake for a person to think that he can win God's favor just because he is "good" or is doing "powerful works" (Mt 7:22, 23; Mr 10:18; Ro 3:10; 4:2, 3; 10:1-3)

To discouraged persons we can say that Jehovah's love toward those who diligently seek him is far greater than any love we might express (Read Romans 8:38, 39)

Jesus, while on earth, showed he has the same loving attitude toward humankind (Mr 1:40, 41)

To get an understanding of God and his ways, we must have help from him

He opens up one's mind to understanding (Joh 6:44)

No one can understand God without the help of his spirit (1Co 2:11, 12)

God's interest in each individual is seen in His provision of the resurrection (*Lmn* 20-1; *lp* 116-19)

In order to resurrect a person, God has to have full details about that person so that the individual will indeed be the *very same personality* that he was before his death

God will perform the resurrection through Christ, who was himself resurrected

Since God is interested in every one of us, we can expect that he would arrange matters so that we can know what his purposes are. But has he?

### **WE CAN KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD** (12 min.)

Jesus told his disciples that they could know the truth (Read John 8:31, 32)

He knew that he had the truth because he had been with God for ages before coming to earth

The apostles knew the truth because they learned it from the Hebrew Scriptures and from Christ

We can know the truth because we have the writings of the apostles and their associates

The record of the Bible is indispensable for getting God's view and for understanding his principles

The Bible, being written by men under God's inspiration and dealing with the lives of men and women, is more warm, appealing, and realistic than if it were written by angels

God oversaw its production in every aspect and guarded against inaccuracies or mere ideas of men (*si* 10 ¶19, 20)

We have in the Bible the words of Jesus, who was a witness to the truth of God's Word

The Bible has been preserved as God's truth (*gm* 12-24)

Bible is perfect in that it gives the person of faith all he needs to be *completely equipped* (2Ti 3:15-17)

It is also perfect in the sense that it is ample for faith leading to salvation

While the Bible is a communication from God to us, we can communicate with God in prayer

A person today should recognize God and approach him through Christ, acknowledging that the petitioner is a sinner needing help (*w90* 1/15 4, 6)

What are proper subjects for prayer? (Read 1 John 5:14)

*Anything* that has to do with our relationship with God or that will affect us spiritually

Answers will come in the form of guidance through the Bible, our brothers, and God's dealings

We must be persistent in prayer

Two questions naturally arise: Do we personally have faith that God is interested in us? Will he bring his purpose to pass?

**FROM THE BEGINNING GOD HAS BEEN WORKING PROGRESSIVELY TOWARD THE FULFILLMENT OF HIS GOOD PURPOSE** (13 min.)

The progressive work of God cannot be seen without faith

Those who view things without faith do not see God's purpose working out—matters appear exactly the opposite to them

In 66 C.E. the Romans under Cestius Gallus surrounded Jerusalem and then withdrew. Those in Jerusalem who had faith in Jesus' words fled; those without faith stayed. Later, the Roman troops returned and destroyed those who had stayed (Lu 21:20, 21)

Persons with faith see beyond deceptive outward appearances; they have "the evident demonstration of realities though not beheld" by the ordinary person not having faith (Heb 11:1)

Jehovah has taken time to educate men about his government and to lay a foundation for faith

The Almighty has provided these necessary things:

- (1) A knowledge of the principles of his government
- (2) A demonstration of his qualities
- (3) An unmistakable identification of the Messiah, the King

God selected the nation of Israel to become a demonstration of his principles and qualities

*Israelite* history demonstrates what happens when God's laws are obeyed or disobeyed; *world* history reveals the outcome to those without divine law (Eph 4:17-19)

Israel was selected because of God's love for Abraham (De 7:7, 8)

God still supplied necessities to the other nations but did not deal with them

Jehovah also used faithful Jewish men to write the Hebrew Scriptures (Read Romans 3:1, 2)

God was working out matters to provide the "seed," preparing a positive identification of him and making patterns of things to come (Ge 3:15)

During his service on earth, Jesus carefully selected those who would be very close to him in his Kingdom

The training and testing of the 144,000 during the past 1,900 years has proved that those selected are persons who will be everlastingly loyal (Re 14:1-4)

Merciful rulers are assured for the "new earth" (2Pe 3:13)

Christ himself was tested in all respects, and he understands human makeup and problems (Heb 4:15)

With a heavenly kingdom, there must be earthly subjects (*ws* 164-8; *lp* 140-3)

There must be a nucleus to survive the destruction of this corrupt system of things (Re 7:9, 14)

Survivors will be joined by and able to teach millions who will be resurrected

God is interested in billions who have lived previously (Read 2 Peter 3:9)

We can and should study God's Word and serve Jehovah diligently, showing appreciation for his interest in us and looking forward to life under his Kingdom government

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