

“HAVE FAITH IN THE GOOD NEWS”

Note to the speaker:

Deepen audience's appreciation for the fact that each person who expects to be part of the Kingdom arrangement must show this by the way he conducts his life

GOOD NEWS IS READILY AVAILABLE (8 min.)

What would you consider to be the best possible news? world peace? elimination of crime? the end of all pollution? discovery of an economical, inexhaustible energy source?

These things would be good news, but people would still age, get sick, die

Vexing personal and family problems would still trouble us

News that is truly good for all people would have to bring peace of mind and a way to cope with problems now, with hope of elimination even of health problems in the future (*g78 7/8 3-5*)

It is easily seen from history that no man or body of men, no organization or government could be the source of any feature of the good news we need (*Jer 10:23*)

The good news that God the Creator would send would surely not lack any of the factors necessary for our complete welfare and happiness (*Ro 8:31, 32; w75 702*)

Is such good news available?

Yes, and it is not difficult for us to get (*Ac 17:27; 2Pe 3:9*)

Apostle Paul shows that we, as hearers, have good news right at hand, do not have to look exhaustively for it (*Ro 10:6-10; w72 694; g68 11/22 28*)

WHAT THE GOOD NEWS IS ABOUT (12 min.)

Bible speaks of “the good news of God,” “the good news about the Christ,” and “the good news of the kingdom” (*Ro 15:16, 19; Mt 9:35; w79 12/15 5-6; it-1 986-8*)

These three titles fit because the good news, the Source of which is Jehovah God, includes all the truth about which Jesus Christ spoke and the disciples wrote

The good news focuses on the King, Jesus Christ, and his Kingdom (*Mt 6:10*)

Faithfulness in holding on to the good news was counted by Jesus as more important than one's present life (*Mr 8:35*)

Paul recognized that faithfully declaring the good news was vital (*1Co 9:16; 2Ti 1:8*)

Because of taking a stand for the good news, a person might at times suffer loss of possessions or endure persecutions (*Mr 10:29, 30*)

Acceptance of the good news results in salvation; rejection brings destruction (*2Th 1:6-8*)

To the individual who takes hold of the good news, it brings many personal benefits *now* (*1Ti 4:8; enumerate some of the many joys and blessings we now have if we become servants of God*)

The good news promotes truthfulness, which brings the individual many benefits (*w77 620*)

It promotes honesty, with its benefits (*w88 2/15 6-7; w87 11/15 5-6*)

It develops moral uprightness (*w86 7/15 6*)

This brings many benefits, even if some say it is impractical (*g85 11/8 17-19; yp 188-9; w85 8/15 15*)

MEN OF OLD COUNTED THE GOOD NEWS MOST PRECIOUS (15 min.)

Abraham, though not understanding all things about the good news, “rejoiced greatly” when the good news was declared beforehand to him (*Joh 8:56*)

What was the good news in Abraham's day that caused him to rejoice? (*Ga 3:8*)

He had unquestioning faith in Jehovah's promise that nations would be blessed; Abraham *really believed* and acted on that faith (*Ge 15:5, 6; Ro 4:3, 18-22*)

Abraham considered the good news precious and was willing to manifest that, so God loved him (*De 7:7, 8; 2Ki 13:23; Ro 4:11, 12; Heb 11:17-19; w89 7/1 18-23; w87 1/15 13*)

In Moses' day the good news took on an additional aspect: deliverance from Egypt and entry into the Promised Land (*w74 333*)

Moses treasured knowledge of the good news and his share in serving (*Heb 11:24-28; w92 11/15 30; w87 1/15 13-15*)

Abraham, Moses, and other men of old served faithfully even though they knew the reality was in the far distant future (*Heb 11:10, 13-16, 32-39; w87 1/15 13, 16-19*)

In the days of the apostles, the good news took on a new dimension (*it-1 988 ¶4*)

Apostles made plain that after Jesus laid down his life as a ransom, he ascended to heaven and was then sitting at God's right hand (*Heb 10:12, 13*)

They preached the good news of Jesus' return and his Kingdom to come (*2Ti 4:1*)

They had unflinching zeal for this good news (*2Co 11:23-28; w82 12/1 12-22*)

Paul worked tirelessly to give the good news the widest possible proclamation and to build up the congregation

to face what would come against it, particularly the great apostasy

He committed things he knew to faithful men who could carry on the work of the good news after his passing off the scene; tried to teach them *everything* he knew (Ac 20:19, 20; 1Ti 3:14, 15; 2Ti 2:2)

Paul did this even though he knew that he would die before “the day of Jehovah” (2Th 2:2, 3, 7)

The apostle knew that, for each of us, ‘our salvation is nearer now than when we became believers’ (Ro 13:11; 1Co 7:29)

In our day the good news is better and more urgent than ever (*w74 331 ¶13*)

The King is now enthroned! The Kingdom is now established!

The end of this system is imminent! The new world is at hand!

“Good news of the kingdom” is now being enthusiastically preached (Mt 24:14)

“The day of Jehovah” must be kept “close in mind” (2Pe 3:12)

IS THE GOOD NEWS A TREASURE TO YOU? (10 min.)

Each of us can ask ourselves:

‘Am I anxious to learn more about the good news, get the real *sense* of it, apply it in my everyday life, and help others to learn about it?’ (*w79 12/15 8*)

We can increase our faith in and appreciation of the good news by considering more closely the faithful men of past times and the interest angels have shown in it (1Pe 1:10-12; *bw 20-2*)

We are surrounded by many brothers who are just as faithful today as those men of ancient times were and who are receiving blessings by following the good news (*w90 1/1 4-6; w90 7/15 31*)

Greatest honor of all is to represent the Universal Sovereign now in a world that opposes him and to help those who need the good news so much

Never again will such an opportunity exist

We have angelic direction, observation, and backing (1Ti 5:21; Heb 1:14; Re 14:6)

Since you have seen the value of the good news in your life and in that of others, have faith also in the good news when you present it

Realize its transforming power and its ability to soften the hardest hearts and to bring unbounded joy and happiness to those gladly receiving it (Ro 1:16, 17)

(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)