

WHY LIVE BY BIBLE STANDARDS?

Note to the speaker:

Show clearly how living by Bible standards improves the quality of life. Explain that the problems many suffer are often due to their own failure, intentionally or unintentionally, to apply Bible standards. When considering next-to-last subhead, display different issues of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*, and call attention to the practical information therein

BIBLE STANDARDS ARE GOD-GIVEN (5 min.)

Bible has long been acclaimed as God-given guide

Abraham Lincoln, 16th president of the United States: "I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man"

William E. Gladstone, 19th-century British statesman: "The Bible is stamped with a Specialty of Origin, and an immeasurable distance separates it from all competitors"

Napoléon Bonaparte, French emperor: "The Bible is no mere book, but a Living Creature, with a power that conquers all that oppose it" (*w92* 5/15 3)

Bible standards endure, for their Source is the Creator, Jehovah (Isa 40:8)

Given by God out of love for his human creation (Isa 48:17, 18)

Encouraged, not forced, to obey God's standards

When heeded, result in peace and happiness (Pr 3:1, 2)

WORLD CONDITIONS SHOW FOLLY OF IGNORING BIBLE STANDARDS (10 min.)

Majority of mankind choose to ignore God's standards (Ps 14:1-3)

Rather than an increase in love and peace, there is growing violence and terrorism (*w90* 10/1 4-5)

Selfishness abounds, resulting in a ruining of the earth

Food, air, water, and soil have been polluted

Although there is enough for all, poverty and food shortages stalk the earth (*g91* 5/8 28)

Moral breakdown has brought added suffering to both young and old (*g92* 1/22 3, 8-9)

Family stability increasingly threatened as divorces soar

Drug addiction has pushed many into immorality and crime

AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases bring misery and snuff out increasing numbers of lives

Greed and materialism "plunge men into destruction and ruin" (1Ti 6:9, 10)

Increasing suicide, especially among youths, demonstrates inability to cope when Bible standards are ignored

Truly, man cannot 'direct his own steps' (Jer 10:23)

BIBLE PROVIDES STANDARDS FOR US IN EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE (15 min.)

No matter who we are or what our station in life, there are Bible standards that apply

Family relationships (Eph 5:22-25, 28, 33; 6:1-4)

Husbands, as family heads, are to love wives as their own bodies and rear children to follow Bible standards

Wives are to be submissive to husbands

Children are to honor and obey parents "in union with the Lord"

Personal relationships

All sexual immorality must be avoided (Heb 13:4)

Dealings to be conducted in honesty and truthfulness

Always do good and try to live peaceably with all (Ro 12:17, 18, 21)

Employer-employee relationships (In principle, see Ephesians 6:5-7, 9)

Employers must treat employees justly

Employees must be conscientious workers

Relationships with governments

Must be subject and give superior authorities their due (Ro 13:1, 5-7)

Standards are summarized by Jesus: Show love for God and for neighbor (Mt 22:37-40)

Love of God will motivate us to abide by his standards (1Jo 5:3)

Neighbor love will motivate us to do good deeds and refrain from things that harm others (Ga 6:10)

HELP NEEDED TO LIVE BY BIBLE STANDARDS (10 min.)

Have to withstand influence of Satan and the wicked world surrounding us

At same time, have to build up appreciation for God and his righteous standards (Ps 119:97)

Requires conscientious effort and diligent study of God's Word (2Ti 2:15)

Be conscious of spiritual need

Buy out time for personal study

Keep seeking God's Kingdom first

Fear of displeasing God will also protect us (Pr 8:13)

Jehovah is wholly righteous; sin displeases him

Will not tolerate willful violators of his righteous standards (2Th 1:8, 9)

Help provided through Jehovah's visible organization

Watchtower, Awake! and other publications stress God's standards

Congregation meetings incite us to live by these standards

Elders are ready to give personal help

Get help from holy spirit by prayer (Lu 11:13)

LIVING BY BIBLE STANDARDS MAKES SENSE (5 min.)

Bible's axiom is true: We reap what we sow (Ga 6:7, 8)

Can avoid the problems of those who ignore Bible standards

Jehovah sees and deals with us accordingly (1Pe 3:10-12)

Living by Bible standards brings blessings

Means salvation for ourselves and others (1Ti 4:8, 16)

Our course can set an encouraging example for others

Assures a good relationship with Jehovah

Brings benefit of a good conscience

Fulfills purpose for which we were created, bringing glory and honor to Jehovah

Imparts hope of future blessings

Thus, it is the course of true wisdom to live by Bible standards

(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)