

## REACH OUT FOR THE REAL LIFE!

### *Note to the speaker:*

Contrast the world's view of "the real life" with what Jehovah God promises in his written Word. Help the audience to appreciate how living our lives in harmony with God's purpose now is meaningful and satisfying

### **THE WORLDLY VIEW OF THE REAL LIFE** (6 min.)

Some think that they are really living by pursuing pleasure

They may seek pleasure so intently that they virtually say: "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we are to die" (1Co 15:32)

Often neglect health, family, especially spiritual welfare

Many thus fit description of those in last days who are "lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God" (2Ti 3:1-4)

Solomon did not find real life in pleasure, possessions, but saw that such things are vanity (Ec 2:17; *it-2* 250)

Others, too, know real life does not result from material possessions

American billionaire and politician H. Ross Perot told Harvard Business School students: "If you make a lot of money, if you go out and buy a lot of stuff—it's [going to] break. . . . *Things* just don't mean happiness" (*Fortune*, September 11, 1989, p. 50)

Scientist Albert Einstein stated: "Possessions, outward success, publicity, luxury—to me these have always been contemptible. I believe that a simple and unassuming manner of life is best for everyone" (*The New Dictionary of Thoughts*, p. 622)

Since it is not associated with pursuit of pleasure and possessions, what is the real life?

### **WHAT THE REAL LIFE IS** (5 min.)

Apostle Paul spoke of the real life in 1 Timothy chapter 6

Paul counseled Timothy to pursue godly virtues, get a firm hold on everlasting life (Read 1 Timothy 6:11, 12)

We should trust in God, treasure up fine foundation for future so as to get firm hold on the real life (Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19)

Analyzing Paul's words helps us to determine what "the real life" is

1 Timothy 6:12 says: 'Get a firm hold on *everlasting life*'

Verse 19 speaks of 'getting a firm hold on *the real life*'

Hence, the real life is everlasting life with God's approval

It is immortal heavenly life for Jesus' anointed followers

For others, it is eternal life in earthly Paradise (Lu 23:43)

### **HOW TO GET A FIRM HOLD ON THE REAL LIFE AND MAINTAIN IT** (17 min.)

Must accept ransom, give full devotion to God after taking steps resulting in baptism (*it-2* 249; *w93* 4/1 5-6)

Necessary to prove faith by fine works (Jas 2:26; *rs* 359)

Vital to share in the fine work of Kingdom preaching (1Ti 6:12b)

We must work to maintain our hold on the real life

Keep mind on spiritual things, guard heart (Col 3:2; Pr 4:23; *it-2* 249)

Need to deaden fleshly desires and cultivate fruitage of God's spirit (Col 3:5; Ga 5:22, 23)

Must avoid loving the world (*w86* 7/15 13; read 1 John 2:15-17)

Important to "persevere in prayer" (Ro 12:12)

One vital aspect is asking God: "Do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the wicked one," Satan (Mt 6:13; *w90* 1/15 5-6)

God allows testing but does not try us with evil or let us be tempted beyond what we can bear (Jas 1:13; 1Co 10:13)

Jehovah leads us 'not into temptation' by warning against evils and advising what will occur if we share in them

For example, at 1 Timothy 6:9, 10 God's Word warns that the love of money can lead to injurious things and shows that this can result in our being led astray from the faith

After praying, avoid situations in which temptations arise

Self-sacrificing spirit and full trust in God also help us to maintain a firm hold on the real life

Because self-sacrificing Ruth chose true worship, God gave her "perfect wage" as Jesus' ancestress (Ru 2:12; Mt 1:1, 5)

### **HELP OTHERS TO REACH OUT FOR THE REAL LIFE** (6 min.)

With self-sacrificing spirit, we can help others to "get a firm hold on the real life" (1Ti 6:19)

By regular family study, meeting attendance, and participation in ministry, we help our own households to appreciate spiritual things and grasp the real life

Our preaching work helps others grasp real life and brings us great joy (Use current *Yearbook* experiences)

Among those who help others to grasp the real life are missionaries trained at the Watchtower Bible School of Gilead

Margarita Königer says: "I have never regretted the decision to use my life in Jehovah's service. . . . I could have pursued a materially rewarding career, but I hold this as nothing to compare with the privilege of helping people . . . to learn the truth about God's grand purposes" (*w78* 11/1 29; quote also F. E. Skinner, *w90* 1/1 28, par. 1)

Whatever we do to help others grasp real life is rewarding

### **LOOK FORWARD TO THE REAL LIFE** (8 min.)

It is helpful to reflect on the blessings of the real life

Anointed ones joyfully anticipate immortality in heaven

Will have duties as mankind is lifted to perfection, plus privileges after Thousand Year Reign (Re 22:5; *re* 313)

Majority of Jehovah's people happily look forward to life eternal on a paradise earth

Picture yourself as survivor of "the great tribulation" taking part in making earth a paradise (Re 7:9, 14, 17)

Imagine living in Paradise, where you enjoy meaningful work, unpolluted air and food, and where neither humans with beastly traits nor animals will prey upon you (Isa 11:6-9; 65:21-23)

You see no jails, no homeless persons, and joy of resurrection replaces anguish of burial (Re 21:4; Joh 5:28, 29)

By the end of the Thousand Year Reign, all mankind is perfect and living in an earth-wide paradise (*it-2* 249)

God declares worthy of eternal life those faithful during final test (Re 20:5-10; *re* 290; *it-2* 251)

True worship will flourish, ever providing spiritual sustenance for our mental and physical welfare (*it-2* 247-8)

### **KEEP FIRM YOUR HOLD ON THE REAL LIFE** (3 min.)

In these last days, lethal to occupy ourselves solely with a quest for academic achievement, wealth, fame, or worldly success

This would cost God's approval and the real life

As Flood wiped out mankind except Noah and his family, so destruction will be for those 'taking no note' today (Mt 24:36-42)

Let us recognize the urgency of these days (2Co 6:2)

Get a firm hold on the real life, maintain that grip, help others to grasp such life

Keep that hope in heart through study, prayer, meditation

Think of the blessings ahead, and let nothing hinder you from reaching out for the real life

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