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### Salvation

#### **The Watchtower, August 15, 1972, p. 491**

“Working Hard for the Reward of Eternal Life”

#### **The Watchtower, August 1, 1981, p. 26**

“Your attitude toward the wheatlike annointed ‘brothers’ of Christ and the treatment you accord them will be the determining factor as to whether you go into ‘everlasting life.’”

#### **The Watchtower, November 15, 1981, p. 21**

“And while now the witness yet includes the invitation to come to Jehovah’s organization for salvation, the time no doubt will come when the message takes on a harder tone, like a ‘great war cry.’”

#### **The Watchtower, February 15, 1983, p. 12**

“What does God require of those who will reside forever upon his Paradise earth?...Jesus Christ identified a first requirement when he said in prayer to his Father: ‘This means everlasting life, their *taking in knowledge* of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ.’ ... Many have found the second requirement more difficult. It is to *obey God’s laws*... The third requirement is that we *be associated with God’s channel*, his organization...The fourth requirement is connected with loyalty. God requires that prospective subjects of his Kingdom support his government *by loyally advocating his Kingdom rule to others*.”

(done)

mine his worth. In fact, God will judge mankind according to their deeds. (Rev. 20:12) That is why it is well that we ask ourselves: What have we done with our lives? What works have we performed or can we point to that would prove our worth? If you have little or nothing to show for the time you have been on earth, do not despair. The good news is that it

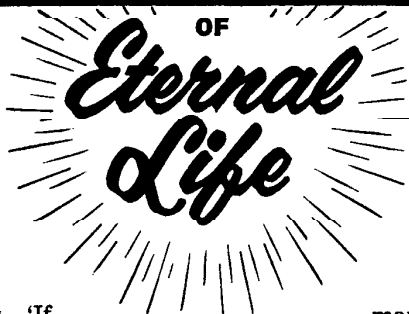
is not too late to change. There is still time in which you can do useful work to God's glory and from which you can gain everlasting satisfaction. In these critical hard times God has a work in which you can engage and become his co-worker. Of that work and how you might take part in it to your eternal happiness, we leave for the following article to tell.

## WORKING HARD FOR THE REWARD

IF AN opportunity were extended to you today to start a completely new way of life, would you accept it? Or are you satisfied with the work you are doing and the life you are leading? Young people often ask older persons, 'If you had a chance to live your life over again, would you do the same work that you are now doing, or would you choose something different? Would you want your sons and daughters to do the same work you are doing?' These probing questions are youth's way of determining whether your work has been rewarding and would be a course worth while for them to pursue.

Few people, however, will admit to having wasted away their lives at worthless jobs, despite how unrewarding their lives have been. One such person, Andrew Carnegie, a man envied for his wealth, said: "I would give all my millions, if I could have youth and health. If I could

1, 2. (a) What questions do youths often propound, and why? (b) What do some persons admit about their past lives? (c) What did the psalmist and Jesus Christ have to say about life and mankind's most urgent need?



"Always having plenty to do in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in connection with the Lord."—1 Cor. 15:58.

make Faust's bargain, I would. I would gladly sell anything to have my life over again." But, alas! eternal life is not for sale. Youth and health are beyond the reach of wealth. Perhaps those persons among

mankind busily engaged in amassing wealth as if it were some form of panacea are the ones most to be pitied.

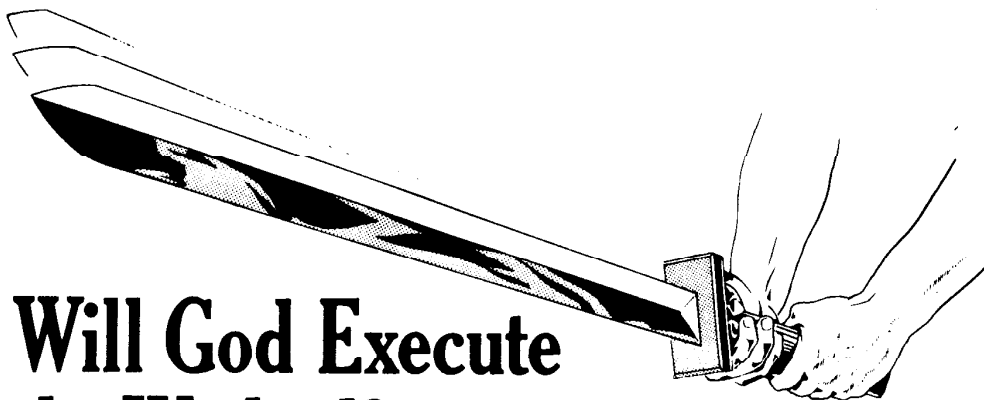
For their life is an empty illusion indeed. Wrote the inspired psalmist: "Man's busy life indeed is but a phantom, making an empty ado, amassing wealth and knowing not who is to have his hoard." (Ps. 39:6, *Moffatt*) Probing into this very subject of determining life's chief concern or pursuit, the greatest thinker among men of all time, namely, Jesus Christ, pinpointed the answer in two searching questions, saying: "For what benefit will it be to a man if he gains the whole world but forfeits his soul [or, life]? or what will a man give in exchange for his soul [or, life]?" (Matt. 16:26) Man's most urgent and lasting need, according to Jesus Christ, is not fame or fortune, pleasure or pos-

close, the ingathering of the "sheep" continues. In God's due time the remaining ones of the "wheat" class will finish their earthly course and join the "Son of man" as part of his heavenly kingdom or government. They will "receive the kingdom" with the rest of the 144,000 "holy ones." (Dan. 7:18, 22, 27) As for the "great crowd" of "sheep" that are now being gathered, they will survive the "great tribulation" that will mark the end (*telos*) of the present satanic system of things and will become a part of the "peoples, national groups and languages" that will serve the "Son of man" on earth, under his "indefinitely lasting rulership" or heavenly kingdom.—Rev. 7:4, 9, 10, 14; Dan. 7:13, 14.

<sup>20</sup> Where do you stand with regard to the fulfillment of the illustration of the

20. What does the fact that the harvest is well advanced prove; so what should you do, and why?

"wheat" and the "weeds"? The fact that the "harvest" of the "sons of the kingdom" is well advanced proves that the "conclusion [*synte'leia*] of the system of things" is nearing its end (*telos*). Your attitude toward the wheatlike anointed "brothers" of Christ and the treatment you accord them will be the determining factor as to whether you go into "everlasting cutting-off" or receive "everlasting life." (Matt. 25:34-46) Prove yourself to be a loyal companion of the anointed "wheat" class, the "faithful and discreet slave," whom Christ has appointed to provide spiritual "food at the proper time." (Matt. 24:45) Keep active in the ingathering work, for remember, "this good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end [*telos*] will come," and "he that has endured to the end [*telos*] is the one that will be saved."—Matt. 24:13, 14.



## Will God Execute the Wicked?

**Habakkuk Answers Yes!**

PEOPLE all over the world have asked, "Will God ever execute judgment on the wicked?" The inspired prophecy of Habakkuk gives us complete confidence that God will soon act against the wicked worldwide. Then, and only then, will the earth be "filled with the knowing



his provision for salvation through Jesus Christ by meeting together this past April to observe the Memorial of Christ's death.

<sup>16</sup> As Jehovah's forward-moving organization approaches the final years of its preaching activity toward this world, there is no doubt that the scope of the work will grow. Recall what the Israelites were instructed to do just before God destroyed

Jericho. First, they were instructed to march around the city once a day for six days. But then they were told: "On the seventh day you should march round the city seven times and the priests should blow the horns. And it must occur that when they sound with the horn of the ram, when you hear the sound of the horn, all the people should shout a great war cry; and the wall of the city must fall down flat."—Josh. 6:2-5.

<sup>17</sup> On that seventh and last day, the Israelites were to increase their activity seven times! Then they were to "shout a great war cry." Exactly as instructed, they did this. "It came about on the seventh day that they proceeded to get up early, as soon as the dawn ascended, and they went marching round the city in this manner seven times. . . . And it came about on the seventh time that the priests blew the horns, and Joshua proceeded to say to the people: 'Shout; for Jehovah has given you the city.' . . . And it came about that as soon as the people heard the sound of the horn and the people began to shout a great war cry, then the

wall began to fall down flat."—Josh. 6:15, 16, 20.

<sup>18</sup> We can expect a similar expansion of our preaching activity now, at this climax of the ages. No doubt, before the "great tribulation" is finished, we will see the greatest witness to God's name and kingdom in the history of this world. And while now the witness yet includes the invitation to come to Jehovah's organization for salvation, the time no doubt will come when the message takes on a harder tone, like a "great war cry." Revelation 16:21 shows that "a great hail with every stone about the weight of a talent [nearly 100 pounds] descended out of heaven upon the men, and the men blasphemed God due to the plague of hail, because the plague of it was unusually great." Hailstones are frozen, hardened water. So this pictures how, at the end, Jehovah's judgment message sent down upon disobedient mankind will be like a barrage of hard-hitting hail. The fact that the plague of hailstones is spoken of as being "unusually great" suggests that at the very end there will be a hard proclamation of Jehovah's "day of vengeance" by Jehovah's servants.

<sup>19</sup> So, then, we do well to say, as Peter did, "Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought you to be in holy acts of conduct and deeds of godly devotion"! (2 Pet. 3:11) Surely, we need to "keep comforting one another and building one another up." We should "always pursue what is good toward one another." (1 Thess. 5:11, 15) "Really, then, as long as we have time favorable for it, let us work what is good toward all, but especially toward those related to us in the faith." (Gal. 6:10) To this end, do not fail to 'stay awake and keep your senses.'—1 Thess. 5:6.

18. What do we anticipate as regards the scope and manner of the preaching activity before this system comes to its end?

19. In view of the immediate future, 'what kind of persons ought we to be'?

16, 17. (a) What instructions were given to the nation of Israel before God destroyed Jericho? (b) How were those instructions carried out?

# You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth —But How?

**L**IVING forever on earth is just an impossible dream. There is no way anybody can do it.'

You may have heard people say that. Yet you may know that in the beginning it was God's purpose for obedient humans to live forever in an earthly Paradise. And God never fails to accomplish what he purposes! (Genesis 1:28; Isaiah 55:11) His Word plainly promises: "The righteous themselves will possess the earth, and they will reside forever upon it."—Psalm 37:29.

That is the thrilling message that Jehovah's Witnesses bring to people when they call at their homes. The Kingdom, with Jesus Christ as Ruler, will see to it that God's original purpose is accomplished. Under the Kingdom's righteous administration this earth will be cultivated to become a beautiful Paradise. However, not everyone will be permitted to live in the Paradise earth. Requirements must be met. That is reasonable.—Matthew 6:10.

Consider: If you were the owner of a beautiful home surrounded by well-kept gardens, would you allow just anyone to live there? No, he would have to meet with your approval, meeting your requirements. What does God require of those who will reside forever upon his Paradise earth? Let us examine four basic requirements.

## Four Requirements

Jesus Christ identified a first requirement when he said in prayer to his Father: "This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ." (John 17:3) Knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ includes knowledge of God's purposes regarding the earth and of Christ's role as earth's new King. Will you take in such knowledge by studying the Bible?

Many have found the second requirement more difficult. It is to obey God's laws, yes, to conform one's life to the moral requirements set out in the Bible. This includes refraining from a debauched, immoral way of life.—1 Corinthians 6:9, 10; 1 Peter 4:3, 4.

A third requirement is that we be associated with God's channel, his organization. God has always used an organization. For example, only those in the ark in Noah's day survived the Flood, and only those associated with the Christian congregation in the first century had God's favor. (Acts 4:12) Similarly, Jehovah is using only one organization today to accomplish his will. To receive everlasting life in the earthly Paradise we must identify that organization and serve God as part of it.

The fourth requirement is connected with loyalty. God requires that prospective subjects of his Kingdom support his

government by loyally advocating his Kingdom rule to others. Jesus Christ explained: "This good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth." (Matthew 24:14) Will you meet this requirement by telling others about God's Kingdom?

Perhaps you are well acquainted with these requirements. Yet many persons are ignorant of God's purposes and of what he requires. Now we have a marvelous instrument to help such ones. It is the book *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth*. Have you used it to help others learn what God requires of them?

#### **An Effective Teaching Aid**

The new *Live Forever* book contains knowledge that leads to everlasting life. It discusses important Bible truths that people need to understand in order to dedicate their lives to Jehovah God and to serve him acceptably. In expressing appreciation for this new Bible study aid, a Witness from Ohio, U.S.A., wrote:

"In June I had no Bible studies. As of this day, I have three Bible studies and a fourth one ready to start. All three studies are in this new publication. All three are regular and exciting. The book answers the student's questions in a precise and understandable way. . . . I cannot say 'Thank you' enough for making Bible studies easy to conduct, as well as covering every essential aspect needed by the student for gaining a lasting and heartfelt appreciation for Jehovah and his organization."

Also pointing to the book's effectiveness is the following letter: "I have been able to start three Bible studies in this book and what I have found is that the book is very good for any age group. I have a study with a woman who is 83 years old, also with two girls who are 11 years old and another one with a wom-

an who is 50. It is a great privilege to be associated with an organization that knows exactly what is needed to help the most people learn of Jehovah and his purposes for the earth and all of mankind."

#### **Motivates to Obey the Truth**

Besides taking in life-giving knowledge, a person must conform his life to God's moral requirements if he is to live forever in Paradise on earth. The *Live Forever* book is helping people do this. Not only is direct counsel provided regarding wrongs to avoid and how to avoid them but encouragement is also given to do what is right. In a fine way this book exposes the subtle designs of Satan. It also spells out clearly the fight that the Christian must put up to do what is right.

For example, a missionary of Jehovah's Witnesses in Panama writes about a young man who had been studying the Bible: "By the last week of July he got the book *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth*. His mother had obtained it for him at the 'Kingdom Truth' District Convention in Hawaii. At the Service Meeting on Thursday, July 29, he told me that he had quit smoking because of what he saw in the book.

"On Friday at his home Bible study I asked him to show me what impressed him so much. The picture on page 131, which shows the activities condemned by God that must be avoided by subjects of God's government, was pointed out. 'Look,' he said, 'two whole frames to a cigarette!' Then the picture on page 227 and the material on page 226 about praying for help when tempted to smoke was called to my attention. 'That did it! I told Sunshine [his little girl] to get rid of the cigarettes right then and there!' Thus ended 17 years of smoking! Needless to say, that night we started studying the