

## No. 8 Public Bible Discourse: Avoid Mocking God—In What Sense? (Circuit overseer)

### *Note to speaker:*

Help new ones to grow in appreciation for the value of Jehovah's ways, and motivate them to make needed adjustments in their conduct to gain Jehovah's approval

### **WHY IS IT DANGEROUS TO MOCK GOD?** (3 min.)

When it comes to planting literal seeds, few people would argue with the adage, You reap what you sow

The type of seed a person plants determines the type of crop he can expect to reap

The Bible applies this same fundamental truth to our conduct [**Read Galatians 6:7**]

Many living in “the last days” of this system ignore this vital principle (2Ti 3:1-4)

Bible prophecy indicates that the last days of this system will soon end (Mt 24:3, 6-8, 14)

Now is no time to mock God!

### **GOD'S STANDARDS ARE BENEFICIAL** (12 min.)

All who wish to honor Jehovah need to examine their view of his righteous standards

Jehovah has the right to set standards of conduct (Isa 33:22; Re 4:11)

He knows what is best for us (Isa 48:17, 18)

The permissive world around us rejects God's moral standards, viewing them as impractical and out-of-date

Those who fail to accept God's standards are, in effect, mocking him

Consider the practical benefit of some of God's standards

*Sexual morality* (1Co 6:9; w06 11/15 6 ¶1-4)

*Honesty* (Heb 13:18; wp16.1 7)

*Use of alcohol* (Pr 23:20; w10 1/1 4-5)

### **“WHATEVER A PERSON IS SOWING, THIS HE WILL ALSO REAP”** (9 min.)

We cannot ignore God's moral laws with impunity (w02 4/15 14 ¶5)

The consequences may not be immediate, but they are inevitable

Just as it takes time for a seedling to sprout, it takes time for the effects of our decisions to become apparent

The ancient nation of Israel provides a warning example (Ho 8:2-4, 7; w05 11/15 26 ¶18-20)

Those today who mock God experience problems now and “will not inherit God's Kingdom” (1Co 6:10)

Jehovah wants people to serve him because they love him, not merely because they fear punishment

Jehovah must take action against the wicked because of his justice, but his love moves him to provide a warning and a means of salvation (Ps 33:5; 37:9; 2Pe 3:9)

Galatians 6:7 also assures us that conforming to God's will brings blessings (Isa 1:18, 19)

We can enjoy a happy, healthful life now and the prospect of everlasting life

### **CHOOSE TO HONOR GOD RATHER THAN MOCK HIM** (5 min.)

Some engage in practices that are harmful to their health, despite knowing the bad consequences of doing so

However, such ones may be motivated to make changes out of love for a family member

Likewise, merely knowing about God's impending judgment may fail to motivate a person to take action

However, as you continue to grow in love and appreciation for Jehovah, you will be moved to serve him from the heart (Ps 97:10; 1Jo 5:3)

Use your “thinking ability” to reject the world's standards and bring your life into harmony with Jehovah's standards (Pr 2:10-12; 2Pe 2:19; 3:17; it-2 1094-1095)

As you “take notice” of Jehovah's ways, he will help you to succeed (Pr 3:5, 6)

(Speaker does not need to read or comment on every cited text or discuss every subpoint)