

No. 1 Chairman's Address: Jehovah Deserves "Undivided Loyalty"

[PLEASE NOTE: This talk includes a video]

WHEN WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP, WE ENJOY JEHOVAH'S BLESSING (2 min.)

It is good to be together again!

Our very presence here today shows that we want to exercise loyal love toward Jehovah

Our love is evident in that we obeyed his command not to forsake our meeting together (Heb 10:24, 25)

We commend you for your loyal love; you are here, even though coming here today may not have been easy

Many of you may have small children, poor health, or an unbelieving mate; you may have found it hard to get time off from secular work, or you may have had to make special arrangements for transportation for you and your family

You will be blessed for your effort to be loyal and obedient!

[Read Psalm 133:1-3]

Welcome to this "Remain Loyal to Jehovah!" Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses!

WHAT LOYALTY ENCOMPASSES (2 min.)

We are going to spend three days talking about loyalty

We want to be sure that we know exactly what it is

Dictionaries define "loyalty" as 'personal steadfast adherence in the face of any temptation to desert or betray'

The Hebrew word rendered "loyal love" refers to kindness that lovingly attaches itself to an object until its purpose in connection with that object is realized (*it-2* 280)

The Greek noun rendered "loyalty" and the adjective rendered "loyal" carry the thought of holiness, righteousness, reverence; the careful observance of all duties toward God

THOSE WHO DESERVE OUR LOYALTY (8 min.)

Jehovah is worthy of our loyalty because . . .

(1) he is our Creator (Re 4:11)

(2) he has outstanding qualities; he himself is loyal to us (Ps 145:8, 9)

(3) he exercises his sovereignty in a loving way (Ps 89:1)

(4) he is the only true God (Isa 45:22, 23)

Jesus deserves our loyalty because . . .

(1) next to Jehovah, Jesus is the most powerful person in the universe (Mt 28:18)

(2) he has been appointed as King of God's Kingdom (Da 7:13, 14)

(3) he has outstanding qualities; he is loyal to his followers (Heb 7:26)

(4) he gave his life for us (Joh 15:13)

Like the anointed, the "other sheep" must "keep following the Lamb no matter where he goes" (Joh 10:16; Rev 14:4)

Members of the "great crowd" have the heartfelt desire to be loyal to the *symbolic Jew*, representing the anointed ones including "the faithful and discreet slave," God's channel for dispensing spiritual food and enlightenment to the visible part of His organization (Re 7:9; Mt 24:45; Zec 8:23; w96 3/15 16-17 ¶9-10)

We want to be loyal to *all* those who are appointed to take the lead in Jehovah's organization, whether of the anointed or of the "other sheep" [Read 3 John 5, 6] (w96 3/15 17-19 ¶11, 14)

Unlike disloyal Satan, who focuses on the negative, we loyally defend such ones and never speak ill of them (Jude 8; Re 12:10)

BEWARE OF MISPLACED LOYALTY (3 min.)

While certain other loyalties are not wrong in themselves, loyalty to Jehovah should always take priority

Children should loyally obey and honor their parents (Ex 20:12)

Adult children should continue showing honor even when their parents are old and need their assistance (Pr 23:22; 1Ti 5:4)

Yet, Jesus showed that family loyalty should never come before loyalty to him and his Father (Mt 10:37)

Our loyalty to Jehovah can be severely tested if a close family member or a dear friend is disfellowshipped

We never want to make the mistake that Adam did when he chose loyalty to his wife over loyalty to his loving heavenly Father

A Bible student's loyalty to Jehovah can be tested when he realizes that he has to choose between his present religion and the truth

The Bible is clear about which is the correct choice (Re 18:4)

BEWARE OF DIVIDED LOYALTY (7 min.)

Because Jehovah requires exclusive devotion, it is not possible to divide our loyalty between Jehovah and another god (Ex 34:14)

It was not possible to serve both Jehovah and Baal (1Ki 18:21)

It is not possible to slave for God and for Riches (Mt 6:24)

Jehovah stated that he would unleash his wrath on those trying to mix true worship with false religion [Read Zephaniah 1:4, 5]

Loyalty will keep us from being one thing on the inside and another on the outside

We must ask Jehovah to give us "an undivided heart" [Read Psalm 86:11 and footnote]

Our goal must be to serve our heavenly Father in the way that the men of Zebulun served David, namely, "with undivided loyalty" [Read 1 Chronicles 12:33 and footnote]

The purpose of this convention is to help all of us to do that!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS (3 min.)

Please take out your copy of the program, and let us see what gems await us during this convention

[Show from the program what the convention will teach us about how Jehovah and Jesus are examples of loyalty, how we can cultivate and display this beautiful quality, how our loyalty might be tested, and how those serving Jehovah "with undivided loyalty" are blessed]

The following video will whet our appetites for what will be presented over the next three days

VIDEO (3 min.)

LEARN TO CHERISH LOYALTY (1 min.)

We are sure that this convention will help all of us to "cherish loyalty" as never before [Read Micah 6:8]

We now eagerly look forward to the rest of today's program, which will highlight the theme "Cherish Loyalty"

May all of us be fully determined to serve Jehovah "with undivided loyalty" for all eternity!

TO BE COVERED IN 29 MINUTES