

BIBLE PRINCIPLES—CAN THEY HELP US TO COPE WITH TODAY’S PROBLEMS?

WHY USE BIBLE PRINCIPLES? (4 min.)

Today, there is a superabundance of advice on virtually every imaginable subject (Col 2:8; *w09* 6/1 3-4)

Whose advice can be trusted for coping with today’s problems?

The Bible provides timeless principles that are superior to anything offered in the world (Pr 19:20)

Let us consider how Bible principles can help us deal with four common problems

HOW TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS (5 min.)

Many today suffer at the hands of thoughtless and self-centered people (2Ti 3:1-3)

Some might be inclined to rebel or to react in like manner

Others adopt the ethic: “What you do not want done to you, do not do to others” (*w04* 6/1 32)

Such attitudes have not brought about peaceful relationships

Rather than simply instructing people not to do bad to others, Jesus stated the principle that we find at Matthew 7:12 [Read]

Applying this principle means treating others respectfully, fairly, and honestly, showing genuine concern for their welfare

Jesus gave excellent advice on how to pursue peace (Mt 5:23-25)

Pursuing peace gives us inner calm and helps us to enjoy happy relationships (Ro 12:18; *w09* 10/15 9 pars. 7-9)

HOW TO FIND HAPPINESS (5 min.)

The popular view is to seek happiness through material things, prominence, or other selfish means (Eph 2:2, 3; *g* 4/06 6)

Such pursuits do not guarantee happiness (Lu 12:15)

Jesus taught his followers that true happiness comes from being generous [Read Acts 20:35]

Those who give generously actually prosper (Pr 11:25)

Includes giving of our time and energy (Pr 19:17)

Giving generously builds strong marriages and happy families (Php 2:3, 4)

By giving of ourselves, we bring comfort to the bereaved, the sick, the elderly, and the depressed (1Th 5:14)

We can find true happiness by showing generosity, knowing that “with such sacrifices God is well pleased” (Heb 13:16)

HOW TO DEAL WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS (5 min.)

The spirit of this world fosters “the desire of the eyes,” a desire that is never satisfied (1Jo 2:16; Pr 27:20)

Success is often measured in terms of material possessions, but the determination to be rich is ruinous (1Ti 6:9, 10)

The Bible provides wise counsel concerning material things [Read 1 Timothy 6:8]

Contentment involves living within one’s means and keeping a ‘simple eye’ (Mt 6:22; Pr 22:7)

Heeding this inspired advice will help us to avoid incurring heavy debt, which brings anxiety and insecurity (*w03* 12/15 23 par. 17)

Being content helps us to focus on the more important things, such as cultivating a good relationship with God and enjoying a happy and secure family life (Php 1:10; 1Ti 6:17-19)

HOW TO ALLAY ANXIETY (5 min.)

Anxiety may be caused by concerns over family, health, or finances

Self-help guides may offer some good ideas, but they can also give harmful advice that leads to disappointment and serious problems

Practical wisdom is found at Philippians 4:6, 7 [Read]

Prayer brings us “the peace of God that excels all thought”

Rest assured that Jehovah knows our needs and will provide for us

Many anxieties can be avoided or eliminated when we act in harmony with our prayers (Jas 1:5)

In God’s coming new world, all problems that cause anxiety will belong to the past (2Pe 3:11-13)

WHAT IS THE KEY TO COPING WITH TODAY’S PROBLEMS SUCCESSFULLY? (6 min.)

The Bible contains practical advice for coping with our problems (Heb 5:14; *w05* 10/1 13; *w02* 2/15 6, box)

Bible principles always work when applied

Applying Bible principles brings us happiness now and helps us to make wise decisions concerning the future (Ps 128:1, 2; Isa 48:17, 18)

Note practical Bible principles to apply regarding:

Health problems (Pr 14:15, 30)

Money problems (Mt 6:31, 32)

Marital problems (Col 3:14)

Ethnic and racial hatred (Ac 10:34, 35)

Harmful associates (Pr 13:20)

Employment problems (Ps 37:25)

We are pleased to see newly interested ones in attendance

Please speak to one of Jehovah's Witnesses so that arrangements can be made for you to learn more about how to understand these principles and apply them in your life

Following practical Bible principles is truly the course of wisdom now and will result in your own eternal blessing (Ps 19:7)

(Not all cited texts need to be read)

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TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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