

TRUE RELIGION MEETS THE NEEDS OF HUMAN SOCIETY

Note to the speaker:

Help the audience to see that true religion meets human needs. Show that it is based on the Bible and is practiced only by those serving Jehovah. Keep secular sources updated by using reports published in *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*

SPECIAL NEEDS OF HUMAN SOCIETY (5 min.)

Jehovah God created humans with the need to worship

The New Encyclopædia Britannica says: "As far as scholars have discovered, there has never existed any people, anywhere, at any time, who were not in some sense religious." (g89 1/8 4; sh 28)

Human society today also needs divine guidance (Read Jeremiah 10:23)

In view of man's urge to worship and need for divine help, we ask:

Are the world's religions meeting mankind's spiritual needs?

Have religions of this world uplifted human society morally?

Do these religions promote peace, assure family happiness, and give people a satisfying purpose in life?

WHAT ARE THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS DOING FOR HUMAN SOCIETY? (10 min.)

Spiritual needs are not being met; religion is declining (tp 22-6)

Morality is not being affected for the good

By teaching and example, religious leaders are responsible for moral breakdown (g89 1/8 8-9; w87 10/15 3-4; w86 4/15 21; tp 26-31)

Peace is not being promoted, as world's religions often foster war

Author Tom Harpur wrote: "Religion . . . somehow finds ways to condone or ignore violence even when it is itself a prime or underlying cause of it."—*The Toronto Star*, January 17, 1993

Religion's role in war well documented (w88 2/1 17; g88 12/22 20)

Family happiness is elusive for millions despite their religion

Divorce and family disintegration rampant (w84 10/1 4-7)

Purposeful life based on knowledge of God eludes even clergymen

One well-known cleric said: "Why sin? Why suffering? Why the devil? These are questions I want to ask the Lord when I get to heaven."—*U.S. News & World Report*, May 3, 1993

Yet this does not mean that all religion has failed human society

WHEN ONE TRUE RELIGION MET HUMAN NEEDS (12 min.)

Spiritual needs were met by God-given true religion

Adam and Eve worshiped only Jehovah, the Universal Sovereign

Jehovah, their Creator, knew how to give them perfect guidance

Priesthood and temple were not needed in Adam's paradise home, for he could communicate with God intimately

Moral uprightness was required by undefiled true religion

Righteousness was pursued as long as God was worshiped obediently

Sacrifices were unnecessary because humans were then sinless

Peace and tranquillity prevailed

There was no fear of a vengeful deity that had to be appeased

God's love promoted a sense of security (1Jo 4:8)

Family happiness was ensured if Adam and Eve would worship Jehovah God in harmony with divine revelation and guidance

Purposeful and satisfying life was set before Adam and Eve, for they were blessed with rewarding work (Read Genesis 1:27, 28)

False religion began when Satan led the first pair to rebel against God and abandon true worship (Ge 2:17; 3:1-7)

Satan misrepresented Jehovah as being against human interests

To this day, false religion is based mainly on lies (Joh 8:44)

In contrast, however, true religion is meeting human needs today

HOW TRUE RELIGION IS MEETING HUMAN NEEDS TODAY (13 min.)

Spiritual needs are being met for those practicing true religion

Worship is given solely to Jehovah, the only true God (Mt 4:10)

The urge to worship is fulfilled in a close, trusting relationship with Jehovah as his dedicated people (Pr 3:5, 6)

Divine guidance is being received through God's Word and publications of the 'faithful slave' (Mt 24:45; Ps 119:105)

True worshipers also enjoy other blessings (Joh 4:23; *w*91 5/1 18)
Are not confused by the Trinity doctrine (Joh 14:28; 1Co 8:5, 6)
Have faith in Christ and hope of salvation (Joh 3:16; Ac 4:12)
Realize that man was created by God and did not evolve (Ge 2:7)
Know soul dies, but resurrection possible (Eze 18:4; Ac 24:15)
Can explain why sin and suffering now exist (Ro 5:12)
Are aware that the end of this wicked system is near
Rejoice in hope of eternal life in God's new system (Joh 17:3)

Moral standards of Jehovah's servants are high because they comply with his righteous requirements (Ps 97:10; Mt 6:33)

Peace is pursued by Jehovah's Witnesses

Are united in true worship as global brotherhood (*g*90 12/8 8-10)
Have 'beaten their swords into plowshares' (Read Isaiah 2:4)

Family happiness results from applying God's Word (*w*93 5/1 4-6)

Bible gives practical guidance in human relations and family life
Scriptures help family members fulfill their roles (Eph 5:33; 6:1)

Purposeful, satisfying life is common to all practicing true religion

They are active preachers of God's Word (Read Romans 10:10)

Theirs is the joy of helping others spiritually

Never too late for purposeful life in God's service (*g*91 3/22 9)

TRUE RELIGION WILL ALWAYS MEET THE NEEDS OF HUMAN SOCIETY (5 min.)

Because true worship is God-given, it is not declining like false religion, and it will never fail (*g*89 11/22 20)

True worship will always meet mankind's spiritual needs and will help people to maintain high moral standards

It will continue to promote peace, build happy families, and give those practicing it a satisfying and purposeful life

True religion will also meet man's need for a new world (2Pe 3:13)

That will be a world of endless peace (Ps 37:10, 11; 46:8, 9)

The peace wrecker Satan will ultimately be crushed (Ro 16:20)

For obedient mankind uplifted to perfection on a paradise earth, there will be no more tears, pain, death (Read Revelation 21:4)

What will you do about true religion and its wonderful prospects?

Learn about it, and make it your own if you have not yet done so

Let pure worship give meaning to your life

Make it your aim to be among those who will practice true religion eternally to Jehovah's praise and glory

Embrace and hold fast to the one true religion that meets the needs of human society

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