

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES — THE WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY

KNOCK! KNOCK!

and you find it hard not to answer them! and in they come to intrude on your privacy! to seek to get you to take the first step in their "program" to deceive you with their cult! You are trying to be nice — they are very seriously involved in an effort to earn a place among the 144,000! They are carefully keeping records of their Kingdom ministry and of your response!

Most know the Jehovah's Witnesses (or JW's) for their refusal to salute the flag! their denial of blood transfusions! their persistent efforts to sell their magazines and periodicals! (They do succeed in "placing" over 250 million copies of WATCHTOWER and AWAKE annually in over 80 languages around the world!)

What most do not know is that they are a very aggressive group! very opposed to the organized (or disorganized!) Church! and seek to get you involved in their maze of distorted ideas about eschatology and doctrine! Their system involves you with —

1. Getting one of their publications in your hands.
2. Calling back to encourage you to read and study the publication, to interest you in it.
3. To get you to agree to have a Bible study with the "Publisher".
4. To urge you to be involved in an "area book study" outside your home. They seek to get attenders to express their dislikes about the Church, etc.
5. Have you attend a "Watch Tower Study" at their "Kingdom Hall".
6. Encourage you to become a "Publisher", to reach out to others, especially those in churches.
7. Baptism. This the public initiation into the organization and marks a deep commitment, a great control and regimentation of the life of the Kingdom Publisher.

And many people take that first step not knowing what they will be involved in! how it can control their life! take them down a road to accept a false religion — a Satanic cult!

THE REAL ISSUE IS: WHAT DO THEY BELIEVE? HOW DOES IT COMPARE WITH BIBLICAL TRUTH? CHRISTIANITY? THE CHURCH? This is what is most difficult to discover in most of the cults! It is especially true of the Jehovah's Witnesses!

1. WHAT DO THEY BELIEVE ABOUT THE BIBLE? They claim to believe that it is God's Word (as originally given) but do not accept the translations that have been used thru the years. They have their own *NEW WORLD TRANSLATIONS* used to impress! amaze! confuse! the unwary or the person who does not know God's Word! what he believes and why!

Like so many cults they simply insert their own interpretation making it say what they want it to say! to support their "theology"! For example:

They believe that Jesus Christ returned in 1914 and that His presence is known by "the faithful". He is at work now — though invisible. They support this by taking the Greek word "*parousia*" and translating it "*presence*" — a correct use in some instances but not all! It is done to take away the expectation and hope of His return for they believe He is already here but only they know it! Their reasoning is explained on pp 779-80 of *New World Translation*.

So, according to them, we should not look for the "*parousia*" — the expected coming again of Christ as mentioned in Matthew 24; 1 Corinthians 15:23; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; 4:15; 5:23; 2 Peter 3:4. His "*presence*" is already with us.

So, like so many cults, they accept the Bible as long as it is convenient! They have made it fit their own ideas! 2 Timothy 4:3-4.

2. WHAT DO THEY BELIEVE ABOUT GOD? It is obvious that they do not accept the Biblical view, the Christian view. There is a total denial of the Doctrine of the Trinity in the book, *Let God Be True*:

"Such doctrine is not of God." p. 100

"The obvious conclusion is . . . that Satan is the originator of the trinity doctrine." p. 101

"The plain truth is that this is another of Satan's attempts to keep God-fearing persons from learning the truth of Jehovah and His Son, Jesus Christ. No, there is no trinity!" p. 111

This is not acceptable because it does not fit into their "reasoning"! They fail to realize that the Bible is a book of revelation — that the Trinity is a revealed doctrine of the Bible! It begins with "Elohim", the plural form for God in Genesis 1:1 and a continuing revelation

throughout the Bible! All are referred to as God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit! John 1:1; 1 John 5:20; Romans 9:5; Titus 2:13; Acts 5:3-9; 2 Corinthians 3:7 and many more!

3. WHAT DO THEY BELIEVE ABOUT THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST? And here is one of the great tests of any cult! In *From Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained* they write:

" . . . The Bible shows that there is only one God . . . 'greater than His Son' . . . and that the Son, as the First-born, Only-begotten and 'the creation by God' had a beginning. That the Father is greater and older than the Son is reasonable, easy to understand and is what the Bible teaches." p. 164.

Compare this with John 1:1-14; Colossians 1:15-17. They also state in *What Has Religion Done for Mankind*:

" . . . Jesus birth on earth was not an incarnation . . . He was not a spirit-human hybrid, a man and at the same time a spirit person . . . He was flesh." p. 231

The Bible gives a clear picture in Philippians 2:5-11; 1 John 4:1-3; 2 John 1:7-11.

4. WHAT DO THEY BELIEVE ABOUT PERSONAL SALVATION? They argue that the Atonement is not wholly of God. See 2 Corinthians 5:20. They believe that it is half of God and half of man! Jesus only removed the effects of Adam's sin . . . and the work will not be completed until the survivors of Armageddon return to God and become subject to the Theocratic rule of Jehovah. In *Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained*:

"We have learned that a person could fall away and be judged unfavorably either now or at Armageddon, or during the thousand years of Christ's reign, or at the end of the final test . . . into everlasting destruction." p. 241

What a contrast to the assurance of salvation we have in Jesus Christ! Ephesians 2:8-10; 1:13-14; Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 8:1-4; 5:1-2. What a contrast — Christianity and the uncertainty of this cult!

5. WHAT DO THEY BELIEVE ABOUT LIFE AFTER DEATH? And, again, it is a denial of very vivid Biblical truth! In *Let God Be True* they state concerning Hell:

"The doctrine of a burning hell where the wicked are tortured eternally after death cannot be true, mainly for four reasons: (1) Because it is wholly unscriptural; (2) Because it is unreasonable; (3) Because it is contrary to God's love; and (4) Because it is repugnant to justice." p. 80

Tie this with their belief about the mortality of the soul of man in *Let God Be True*:

"Thus we see that the claim of religionists that man has an immortal soul, and therefore differs from the beast, is not Scriptural." p. 59-60

"... it is clearly seen that even the man Christ Jesus was mortal. He did not have an immortal soul: Jesus, the human soul, died." p. 63

When you look at this in the light of John 5:24-29; 1 Corinthians 15 and others . . . you begin to see the error of this cult in a greater way! Then, study carefully the Scripture on death and punishment! It is not extinction (as they teach) but an eternal state of separation from God! Luke 16:19-31 is an "inside" view of life after death! Read Revelation 20. It is a literal and eternal separation and punishment!

**6. WHAT DO THEY BELIEVE ABOUT ESCHATOL-
OGY — THE DOCTRINE OF LAST THINGS?** It is strange and not Scriptural. They believe that Jesus Christ began His return in 1874 and did return in 1914. And He came to His "temple" three and one half years after that!

However, the "temple" now means Jehovah's Witnesses since Christ's people are called "temple". 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:18-22; 1 Peter 2:5. They believe He is now testing them as mentioned in Malachi 3:2-3. The purpose of this is to let them be one of the 144,000! In *Let God Be True*:

"Who, and how many are able to enter the Kingdom? Revelation limits the number to 144,000 that become a part of the Kingdom and stand on Mount Zion — Revelation 14:1, 3; 7:4-8. . . In the capacity of priests and kings of God they reign for a thousand years with Jesus Christ." p. 121

That this 144,000 refers to the twelve tribes of Israel is beyond question! But note the delusion of Satan to inspire people to labor for such a false hope — to be one of this "select group"!

Their belief that Jesus' return is not to be seen is contradicted by the entire Bible! Look at Zechariah 14:4; Amos 9:8-15; Isaiah 22 & 12; Ezekiel 37:20-28; Luke 17:22 and forward; Matthew 24:26-31; Revelation 1:7; Acts 1:1-11 and many more! That Jesus Christ returned in 1914 is beyond belief according to the Bible! Their acceptance of this as fact is fulfillment of Matthew 24:11, 23-28.

THE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES . . .

are not the witnesses of the Jehovah of the Bible! They are another of the cults that Satan is using to deceive! to destroy! to damn the souls of men! Pray for them! Share the truth with them! Love them!

Jesus Christ died for them . . . and you! And He is the only way of salvation! 1 Peter 1:18-25.