

YOU Who is 'The Channel' to GOD?

Formerly published under the title:

IS THE WATCHTOWER SOCIETY GOD'S CHANNEL?

by Prof. Edmond C. Gruss, Los Angeles Baptist College
and Theological Seminary, Newhall, California 91321

The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, the governing body of Jehovah's Witnesses, identifies itself as God's "sole collective channel for the flow of Biblical truth to men on earth" in these last days (*The Watchtower*, July 15, 1960, p. 439). How long has God used the Society?

"The WATCHTOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY is the greatest corporation in the world, because from the time of its organization until now the Lord has used it as His channel through which to make known the Glad Tidings" (*The Watch Tower*, 1917, p. 22, quoted in *Studies in the Scriptures*, VII, p. 144).

It is claimed that Bible translations and interpretations emanate from God. "They are passed to the Holy Spirit who invisibly communicates with Jehovah's Witnesses — and the publicity department" according to F.W. Franz, Vice-President of the Watchtower Society (*Scottish Daily Express*, Nov. 24, 1954). In the treatment which follows, a few examples — hundreds could be given — show that the lofty Watchtower claims find no support in an examination of Watchtower publications.

Ruth — from historical book to book of prophecy.

STATEMENT: "While the book of Ruth is not prophetic, but merely historical, it is valuable to us in various ways" (*Watch Tower Reprints*, IV, Nov. 15, 1902, p. 3110).

CONTRADICTION: "Not only is the book historical, but it is prophetic, the fulfillment of which prophecy takes place in these present days We must conclude that the book of Ruth was made part of God's Word or message as a prophecy for the special benefit of the remnant in the last days the book is a prophecy" (J.F. Rutherford, *Preservation*, pp. 169, 175, 176).

Abaddon, Apollyon — from Satan to Jesus Christ. This example relates to Revelation 9:11 and the identification of the angel of the bottomless pit.

STATEMENT: "The prince of the power of the air.' Eph. 2:2 . . . That is, Destroyer. But in plain English his name is Satan, the Devil" (*Studies in the Scriptures*, VII, p. 159).

CONTRADICTION: "In Hebrew his name is Abaddon, meaning 'Destruction'; and in the Greek it is Apollyon, meaning 'Destroyer.' All this plainly identifies the 'angel' as picturing Jesus Christ, the Son of Jehovah God" (*Then is Finished the Mystery of God*, p. 232).

Sodom and Gomorrah — resurrection promised, resurrection denied, resurrection reinstated.

STATEMENT: "Thus our Lord teaches that the Sodomites did not have a full opportunity; and he guarantees them such opportunity . . ." (C.T. Russell, *Studies in the Scriptures*, I, p. 110).

CONTRADICTION: "He was pin-pointing the utter impossibility of ransom for unbelievers or those willfully wicked, because Sodom and Gomorrah were irrevocably condemned and destroyed, beyond any possible recovery" (*The Watchtower*, February 1, 1954, p. 85)

RETURN TO FORMER POSITION: "As in the case of Tyre and Sidon, Jesus showed that Sodom, bad as it was, had not got to the state of being unable to repent . . . So the spiritual recovery of the dead people of Sodom is not hopeless" (*The Watchtower*, March 1, 1965, p. 139).

Worship of Jesus Christ — from acceptance to rejection.

STATEMENTS: "Question . . . Was he really worshipped, or is the translation faulty? Answer. Yes, we believe our Lord

while on earth was really worshipped, and properly so . . . It was proper for our Lord to receive worship . . ." (*Watch Tower Reprints*, III, July 15, 1898, p. 2337). "He was the object of unreprieved worship even when a babe, by the wise men who came to see the new-born king . . . He never reprieved any for acts of worship offered to Himself . . . Had Christ not been more than man the same reason would have prevented Him from receiving worship . . ." (*Watch Tower Reprints*, I, Oct. 1880, p. 144). "The purposes of this Society are: . . . public Christian worship of Almighty God and Jesus Christ; to arrange for and hold local and world-wide assemblies for such worship . . ." (*Charter of the Watch Tower Society of Pennsylvania*, Article II).

CONTRADICTIONS: ". . . No distinct worship is to be rendered to Jesus Christ now glorified in heaven. Our Worship is to go to Jehovah God" (*The Watchtower*, Jan. 1, 1954, p. 31). "For example, the magi from the east and King Herod said they wanted to 'do obeisance to' (*proskyneō*) the babe that had been born king of the Jews. 'Do obeisance' is preferable here because neither the magi nor King Herod meant to worship the babe as God" (*The Watchtower*, May 15, 1954, p. 317).

Hebrews 1:6 is a special problem for the Jehovah's Witnesses because it clearly states that the angels are commanded to *worship* Christ: ". . . And let all the angels of God worship him." In an attempt to explain away the meaning of worship a Witness writer concluded: "If the rendering 'worship' is preferred, then it must be understood that such 'worship' is only of a relative kind" (*The Watchtower*, Nov. 15, 1970, p. 704). Yet such an explanation is rejected in *Make Sure of All Things*, p. 178! "Bowing before men or angels as 'relative' worship forbidden."

Israel—literal Israel to spiritual Israel.

STATEMENTS: "That the re-establishment of Israel in the land of Palestine is one of the events to be expanded in this Day of the Lord, we are fully assured by the above expression of the Prophet [commenting on Amos 9:11, 14, 15]. Notice, particularly, that the prophecy cannot be interpreted in any symbolic sense" (C.T. Russel, *Studies in the Scriptures*, III, p. 244). "The promise, time and again repeated, that the Lord would regather them and bless them in the land and *keep them there* and bless them for ever is conclusive proof that the promise must be fulfilled . . . Behold, that time is now at hand!" (J.F. Rutherford, *Comfort for the Jews*, p. 55). (See also Rutherford's *Life*.)

CONTRADICTION: "Nothing in the modern return of Jews to Palestine and the setting up of the Israeli republic corresponds with the Bible prophecies concerning the restoration of Jehovah's name-people to his favour and organization . . . The remnant of spiritual Israelites, as Jehovah's Witnesses, have proclaimed world-wide the establishment of God's kingdom in 1914" (*Let God Be True*, second ed., pp. 217, 218).

The Great Multitude as a spiritual class — yes, no.

STATEMENTS: "*Does the Great Company receive life direct from God on the Spirit plane? Answer — Yes, they receive life direct in that they have been begotten of the Holy Spirit, and when they are begotten they are just the same way as the little flock, because we are called in the one hope of our calling. They do not make their calling and election sure, but not being worthy of second death, they therefore receive life on the spirit plane*" (*What Pastor Russel Said*, p. 297). "Ever and anon someone advances the conclusion that the 'great multitude' will not be a spiritual class. The prophecy of Ezekiel shows that such conclusion is erroneous. The fact that their position is seven steps higher than the outside shows that they must be made spirit creatures . . . They must be spirit creatures in order to be in the outer court of the divine structure, described by Ezekiel" (J.F. Rutherford, *Vindication*, III, p. 204).

CONTRADICTION: "Thus the great multitude is definitely identified, not as a spirit-begotten class whose hopes are for a place in heaven, but a class trusting in the Lord, and who hope for everlasting life on earth . . ." (J.F. Rutherford, *Riches*, pp. 324, 325).

CONCLUSION

Do these examples support the claim that the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society "from the time of its organization until now" has been God's "sole collective channel for the flow of Biblical truth to men on earth?" Do they support the claim that Witness interpretations emanate from God? Let the reader read and apply the following statements found in Watchtower material.

"Jehovah never makes any mistakes. Where the student relies upon man, he is certain to be led into difficulties" (J.F. Rutherford, *Prophecy*, pp. 67, 68).

"Men not only contradict God, they contradict one another. How can they be reliable guides — unless their words are based on God's words? But how can you know whether they are or not? By going directly to God's Word as your source of authority. Search for yourself and let God be true!" (*Awake!* March 22, 1963).

Many former Jehovah's Witnesses can testify to having come free of this organization because of "going directly to God's

Word" as their source of authority and enlightenment.

Edmond C. Gruss,

More FOOD

for thinking Christians

from HELP JESUS

Professor Gruss has shown how men contradict themselves. Imagination and speculation become their doctrine! They deny and avoid the "healthful teaching (2. Tim 4:3) . . . of *Eternal Life in Christ*" (Jn 3:14-16, Rom 6:23; 1. Tim 1:15-16). They busy themselves with persistent guesswork, catching many with empty promises (Gal 1:6-7).

Hebrews 13:8-9 points out, that Christ never changes. His statements are consistent. "*Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday and today and forever.*" To this very verse the Bible links this warning: "*Do not be led away by diverse and strange doctrines.*" For . . . "*many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.*" When? . . . "*in the last days*" (Mt 24:11).

The Russel-Watchtower is a false prophet — one — among many established in the last days. Put to the test . . . they fail: "*When the prophet speaks in the name of Jehovah and the word does not come true — that is the word that Jehovah did not speak.*" (Duet 18:22; 2. Pet 1:2).

A fool will entrust his life to man. The wise man to God. He knows: "Jesus Christ stays eternally the same. Heaven and earth will change . . . *but not my words!*" In contrast WT-leaders flash out 'new lights and new truths' in ever-changing babylonian confusion. A body of men, *self established* teachers, claim their teachings to be consistent, yet the only consistency is their consistent ERROR!

Why is this? What makes them speculate? Why do they avoid the TRUTH? There is only one answer — a lack of faith in the Salvation of God! They teach in rivalry "strange doctrines" such as: . . . each (man) for himself, may have a full chance to prove by obedience or disobedience, their worthiness or unworthiness of life eternal.' (Studies in the Scriptures 1. p. 158). This doctrine becomes their 'good news'! They preach:

- Outside of the Watchtower — no salvation!
- 'Obedience to the Watchtower-way' secures a second chance on eternal life which Adam lost.
- Whosoever 'endures' in WT-teaching 'meets the requirements' of Jehovah (of Brooklyn and thus works his way to eternal life from door to door).

The facts of Salvation in Christ have been replaced by speculation, works and obedience to the

Society's religion of change. This unbiblical religion keeps every WT-member under the law! Proving yourself 'worthy' . . . is impossible and abominable in the sight of Jehovah (Rom 3:20-27, Rom 4:2-6, Gal 2:16). — Why [It shows your lack of faith in the Good News, that: "*The Gift of God is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*" (Rom 6:23). The assurance of Eternal Life, God's Gift by Grace, is received by the believer ON EARTH during his lifetime by *faith*. A faith that has need to join a visible organization FOR SAFETY . . . will NOT save your soul! "*Who ever wants to save his life (in this manner) will lose it.*" (Luke 9:24). Dear Witness . . . true faith leads in simpleness of heart to seek and find the invisible God (Rom 10:10, Jer 29:13). This is life's sole purpose! "*Behold, I set before you the WAY OF LIFE . . . and the way of death.*" Jer. 21:8). Whoever seeks other objects and not God alone . . . will never have God. God is not found accidentally. He is NOT in the Watchtower nor in a Mormon Temple. "*You shall seek me and find me, when you shall search for ME with all your heart!*" (Jer 29:13)

God is discovered by the searching, burning heart. WT-leaders control your heart by 'a way'. THE WAY, they are withholding. They hide, that: "*the waters of life are free*" (Rev 22:17). Why? Their security, riches and power depend on an army of unpaid salesmen, who buy and sell *their doctrines* (Rev 13:17). Their adherents, lost souls are without assurance of eternal life. In enlightened-moments they sense the wrath of God resting upon themselves (Jn 3:36). By zealous works they try to satisfy their inner need of deliverance (Rom 4:5). Peace of mind is outwardly obtained by constant indoctrination, but *not* peace with God.

Those cruelly fed by the Society with: "Who endures to the end shall be saved", never get to hear, that the ONE who saves also KEEPS. "*I will not lose even one*" (Jn 6:39). They don't KNOW the One "*Who is able to save to the uttermost . . . those . . . that come to God by Him . . .*" (Heb 7:25). They have more confidence in men . . . than in Him "*Who is able to keep you from falling . . . and to present you . . . faultless . . .*" (Jude 24). They don't search for the One: "*Who will sustain you to the end . . . guiltless in the day of our Lord . . .*" (1. Cor 1:8).

They prefer the corporate 'salvation' of the Watchtower to the *individual* Salvation of Christ. Dear Witness, why do you have no assurance of eternal life? Why do YOU not grasp and believe: *"By Grace are you saved . . . through FAITH; not of yourselves: it is the Gift of God: not of works, or man would boast."* (Ephes 2:8-9). Are YOU, contrary to God's Salvation striving to prove yourself worthy? Dear Friend, unless you have felt His Supernatural Hand and His Spirit has touched your spirit, there will be no experience of God or inner witness of Eternal Life. Your religion is all talk and teaching, a worthless *dead* exercise. God has one requirement: YOUR surrender to Christ (Jn 14:21).

You must be saved . . . not by your feeble works, but by *His work* on the Cross, where *"the Righteous died for the unrighteous to bring them of God"*. (1. Pet 3:18). *"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."* (1. Cor 1:18).

The WT-Society and its 'governing body', the board of directors of the Brooklyn Business Corporation is just another power-hungry pressure-group! *"They have a form of godly devotion but proving false to its power."* (2. Tim 3-5). As a *self-appointed* 'channel to God', under the guise of 'spiritual' teachers, they moved *themselves* into the Holy Place, bringing to men's minds 'scriptural teachings and understanding', which they change according to 'new lights and new truths' (Watchtower May 1st 1972 p. 272-3). To these false teachers our Lord says: *But YOU, do not YOU be called teacher, for ONE is your teacher . . ."* (Mt 23:8). No man can bring 'spiritual understanding', but: *"When the Spirit of truth comes (upon YOU). He will guide you into all TRUTH,"* (Jn 16:12). *"Doth not interpretation belong to God?"* (Gen 40:8). *"There is one mediator . . . Christ Jesus."* (1. Tim 2:5). *"And they shall all be taught by God"* who belong to God (Jn 6:45).

Dear Witness, the true Channel to God – CHRIST – stands at the door of your heart, waiting patiently to live in you by means of the Holy Spirit (Rev 3:20). Invite Him in – NOW! He wants to live with His people in spiritual union. He alone, by His Spirit, (the true Channel to God), admits members to the true Church. Till He opens the door, no man on earth can open it.

Through faith you can have Christ now . . . and for eternity! Only then will you have His promise: *"And look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things."* (Mt 28:20). As the Son, so the Father is waiting saying I delight to give you the Holy Spirit if you ask me. (Luke 11: 13).

"I write this to YOU about those who would deceive you; but the anointing (Spirit of Christ) which YOU (can) receive from Him (Christ) abides in you, you have NO NEED that ANYONE should teach you; as His ANOINTING (the Holy Spirit) teaches you about everything . . ." (1. Jn 2:26-27). The Channel to God is NOT the Watchtower-Society of Brooklyn, but . . . the *Spirit of Christ* in man (1. Jn 2:26-27, Gal 2:20, Gal 3:25-27, Ephes 3:16-17, 1. Cor 3:16, Rom 8-5, Rom 8:14, 1. Cor 2:10-16). *"But anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him."* (Rom 8:9) . . . and if not it will be better at last if you had never been born.

Anyone who desires a clear insight into the teachings of the Watchtower-Society must read: **'Apostles of Denial'** by Edmond C. Gruss (1970). **'The Jehovah's Witnesses and Prophetic Speculation'** by Edmond C. Gruss (1972). **'We left Jehovah's Witnesses a NON-Prophet Organization free in Christ'** by Edmond C. Gruss (1974).

Available in the USA from:

Department of Apologetics
Los Angeles Baptist College
Newhall, Calif 91321, USA

Available Throughout the World:

Christian Literature Crusade-shops
or Christian booksellers
or any good bookseller

Available in Emergency from:

HELP JESUS around the world.

Contact for further help

If not imprinted Write to: **HELP JESUS**

IN THE USA
HELP JESUS PO Box 265
Whittier, Calif. 90608 USA

FREE to every Jehovah's Witness seeking salvation and everlasting life in Christ are the following Bible-Related Studies.

- Who is Jehovah (the hidden mystery of God)?
- Jesus Christ (the Firstborn of all Creation).
- Must you be born again?
- Who is the Channel to God?
- Examining the Watchtower Society.

Please cut out and mail to: **HELP JESUS**

Name and Address

(BLOCK LETTERS)

- I am an active Jehovah's Witness
- I am an EX-JW
- I am a Christian helping JW's



a non-profit organization