

KEEP TESTING WHETHER YOU ARE IN THE FAITH

Dear Friend,

As a Jehovah's Witness you probably believe that the Watchtower Society is God's sole representative on earth today; that it is God's means of providing you with spiritual food: "meat in due season". Believing thus puts you in harmony with the Watchtower's own claims. The Watchtower says,

"Thus the Bible is an organizational book and belongs to the Christian congregation, not to individuals, regardless of how sincerely they may believe that they can interpret the Bible. For this reason the Bible cannot be properly understood without Jehovah's visible organization (The Watchtower) in Mind" WT Oct. 1, 1967, pg. 587.

"The Bible sets forth every inducement and encouragement to place the theocratic organization (The Watchtower) ahead of oneself, to accept it in all its features and stick to it loyally." Ibid., pg. 597.

The Watchtower gives us an invitation to examine its claims to being the only true religion. *The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life* on page 130 says:

"Since God assures us that practicing true religion brings great contentment now and opens up the way for eternal life in his new system of things, it surely will be worth your while to make such an investigation. (Deuteronomy 30:19,20) You have our warm invitation to do so. Why not investigate now?"

Let us examine the following Watchtower quotes to test its claim of being God's visible channel:

1. The Watchtower teaches that God has a representative on earth to lead His people. This leader is called the "Faithful and Wise Servant" (Matt 24:45). In 1973 the W.T. said that C.T. Russell, its first president, never claimed to be the "faithful and wise servant".

"From this it is clearly seen that the editor and publisher of Zion's Watch Tower disavowed any claim to being individually, in his person, that "faithful and wise servant." He never did claim to be such."

God's Approach of a Thousand Years Has Approached Pg. 346.

Yet from 1916 to 1927 the Watchtower said that Russell *did* claim to be the "faithful and wise servant." Here is an example.

"Thousands of the readers of Pastor Russell's writings believe that he filled the office of 'that faithful and wise servant,' and that his great work was giving to the household of faith meat in due season. His modesty and humility precluded him from openly claiming this title, but he admitted as much in private conversation."

W.T. Dec. 1, 1916 Reprints, pg. 5998

Quoted also in *Studies in the Scriptures*, Vol. 1, 1927 Ed. P. 7.

If Russell *did not* claim to be "that servant" then why did the Watchtower say he *did* for 11 years? But if Russell *did* claim to be "that servant" then why does the Watchtower today say he *did not* make the claim? *Either the Watchtower Society lied then or today.*

2. The Watchtower today claims the "faithful & wise servant" is a "class" of people. This "class" comprises a small number within Jehovah's Witnesses, also called the "annointed" or "remnant". In 1955 it was said this "class" realized they were the "faithful and wise servant" in 1919:

"Only the remnant of Jehovah's annointed witnesses have realized this office since 1919, since when they have made a supreme effort to channel forth clean spiritual food to all those in association with them as Christ's 'domestics.'" WT May 15, 1955 pg. 315.

Yet, one year after this "class" had "recognized" themselves as the "faithful and wise servant" the Watchtower wrote:

"(2) Do we believe that the Lord chose as an earthly representative to serve the household of faith one wise and faithful servant whom he made ruler over the household, and that the person so chosen was Charles Taze Russell? (3) Do we believe that the Lord directed Brother Russell during the time of his service in what he did with reference to carrying on his (the Lord's) work?"

"We assume that every one in present truth, realizing that his knowledge of present truth came from the Lord through the ministration of his servant, will answer the foregoing questions in the affirmative."

W.T. April 1, 1920, pg. 100

If a class of people *recognized* themselves as the "faithful and wise servant" in 1919, how can Russell be the *One* "faithful and wise servant" in 1920?

Note that the 1920 Watchtower article said EVERYONE in PRESENT TRUTH believed Russell to be the ONE "faithful and wise servant." Did the "faithful and wise servant" class FORGET that they were "that servant", or is the Watchtower trying to hide something from you today?

3. The Watchtower formerly used the Great Pyramid to arrive at various prophetic dates. By measuring the lengths of the various passages and chambers in this structure, one could calculate important biblical dates. This pyramid was called the "Bible in Stone" because it was believed to be divinely provided. On page 342 of the 1901 edition of *Thy Kingdom Come* (Vol. 3 *Scripture Studies*) we read:

"...we find it to be 3416 inches, symbolizing 3416 years from the above date, B.C. 1542. This calculation shows

A.D. 1874 as marking the beginning of trouble. . . . Thus the Pyramid witnesses that the close of 1874 was the chronological beginning of the time of trouble such as was not since there was a nation."

Now watch how the measurement and date changes in the 1907 edition of the same book.

" . . . we find it to be 3457 inches, symbolizing 3457 years from the above date, B.C. 1542. This calculation shows A.D. 1915 as marking the beginning of the period of trouble. . . . thus the Pyramid witnesses that the close of 1914 will be the beginning of the time of trouble such as was not since there was a nation."

The pyramid "grew" 41 inches!

4. In Romans 13:1 we have the doctrine of the "Superior Authorities" (Higher Powers KJV). It reads, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." Originally the Watchtower held to the belief that the "Superior Authorities" were human political governments. Later, they felt the need to change this belief. In commenting on the reason for the change, the Watchtower said,

"There were many false doctrines and practices that had not yet been cleaned out of the Organization. Not all of them were recognized at once, but gradually over the years that followed it became evident to what extent the brothers had been in Babylonish captivity at that time. With considerable misunderstanding they had accepted earthly political governments as the "superior authorities" that God had ordained according to Romans 13:1; and as a result the Witnesses had been held in fear of man, particularly the civil rulers."

Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose, p. 91

Yet in 1963, four years after the previous statement the Watchtower Society said:

"In spite of the end of the Gentile Times in 1914, God permitted the Political authorities of this world to continue as the 'Higher Powers' or the 'Powers That Be', which are 'ordained of God'."

Babylon the Great Has Fallen, p. 548.

The Watchtower justifies its doctrinal changes by saying the "light gets brighter", but how did the light get "brighter" by returning to the former position that was denounced as "false doctrine"?

5. Can one take the Watchtower's claim of being God's sole channel seriously when we see the following examples of its "Biblical interpretation"? Here is the "interpretation" of Revelation 14:20.

"By the space of a thousand and (six) TWO hundred furlongs—This cannot be interpreted to refer to the 2100 mile battle line of the world war. A furlong or stadium is not a mile and this is without the city whereas the battle line is within the city. See Rotherham's translation.

A stadium is 606¾ english ft.; 1200 stadii are, mi., 137.9.

The work on this volume was done in Scranton, Pa. As fast as it was completed it was sent to Bethel. Half of the work was done at an average distance of 5 blocks from the Lackawanna station, and the other half at a distance of 25 blocks. Blocks in Scranton are 10 to the mile. Hence the average distance to the station is 15 blocks, or, 1.5 mi.

The miliage from Scranton to Hoboken Terminal is shown in time tables as 143.8 and this is the mileage charged to passengers, but in 1911, at an expense of \$12,000,000, the Lackawanna Railroad completed its famous cut-off, saving 11 miles of the distance. From the day the cut-off was completed the trainmen have been allowed 11 miles less than the time table shows, or a net distance of 132.8 mi.

Hoboken Ferry to Barclay Street Ferry, New York, is 2.0 mi.

Barclay Street Ferry to Fulton Ferry, New York, is 4,800 feet or 0.9 mi.

Fulton Ferry, New York, to Fulton Ferry, Brooklyn, is 2,000 feet or 0.4 mi.

Fulton Ferry, Brooklyn, to Bethel, is 1,485 feet or 0.3 mi.

Shortest distance from place where the wine-press was trodden by the Feet Members of the Lord, Whose guidance and help alone made this volume possible. (Jn 6:60,61; Matt 20:11) mi., 137.9

**Studies in the Scriptures Vol. 7:
The Finished Mystery, p. 230.**

Does this type of "Biblical Exposition" come from God, or man?

6. Another example of the Watchtower's Biblical speculation is found in their explanation of Genesis Chapter 18, verses 8 and 9:

"In the 8 verse Abraham asked some proof that he should inherit the land promised him in the seventh verse. In verse 9 the Lord said to Abraham, 'Take me an heifer three years old, and a she goat three years old, and a ram three years old, a turtle dove and a young pigeon.' Now a bird is usually considered young up to one year old. So I figured three years each for the heifer, goat and ram—nine years—and one year each for the birds, eleven years in all. Eleven prophetic years of 360 days equals 3,960. A day for a year gives us 3,960 years."

Watchtower, March 1, 1907, p. 3957.

Can the Watchtower expect people to take its claims seriously when it gives us this type of Biblical "interpretation"? Notice that the birds' ages were not recorded in the Bible!

7. The Watchtower Society has introduced its own translation of the Bible called the *New World Transla-*

tion. An understanding of the Bible in its original languages is necessary to produce an accurate translation. We feel the Watchtower's scholarship is lacking. For example, in the footnotes in different editions of their Bible, the Society gave the following reasons for translating the Greek words "ego eimi" to "I have been".

In 1950:

"Properly rendered in the **perfect indefinite tense.**"

In 1963:

"Properly rendered in the **perfect tense indicative.**"

In 1969:

"Properly rendered in the **perfect tense.**"

In 1971:

"Properly rendered in the **perfect tense indicative.**"

In just 21 years, the Watchtower has *changed its position 3 times* as to what Greek tense Jn 8:58 is "properly" rendered. The first tense mentioned (perfect indefinite) doesn't even exist!

8. The Watchtower says today concerning military service:

"Jehovah's Witnesses show courage to follow their conscience in these martial times. It is *only due to conscience* that they have personally and legally objected before draft boards to participating in the armed conflicts and defense programs of worldly nations. In this course their consciences are not warped, but are instructed in what is right, for they are instructed in the Scriptures, God's Word.

Watchtower, Feb. 1, 1951, p. 73.

So strongly is the Watchtower against military service that it will disfellowship any witness for entering the Armed Forces.

How different was the Watchtower's previous belief on military service:

"Obedience to the laws of the land might at some time oblige us to bear arms, and in such event it would be our duty to go into the army, if unable in any legal and proper manner to obtain exemption. But it would not be our duty to volunteer. . . . There could be nothing *against our conscience* in going into the Army. Wherever we would go we could take the Lord with us, the Captain of our Salvation, and wherever we would go we would find opportunities to serve Him and His cause. . . . All this Army service would come under this heading, "Render to all their dues."

Watchtower, April 15, 1903, reprints P. 3179-80.

How can it "not be against our conscience" to go into the military yet also be "against our conscience" in going in? How can the Watchtower claim "Scriptural" support on two opposite beliefs!? Does this not show that the Watchtower *forces* its followers to accept its beliefs, regardless of conscience?

9. Hayden Covington was for several years Vice President of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, and afterwards its legal advisor. In a 1954 trial in Scotland, Watchtower leaders were questioned on various aspects of the Watchtower Society. At this trial, Covington made the following statements: (Vice President, F.W. Franz said at this trial that ". . . 1874 used to be understood as the date of Jesus' Second Coming spiritually.") Covington's statement:

Q—A false prophecy was promulgated?

A—I agree to that.

Q—It had to be accepted by Jehovah's Witnesses?

A—That is correct.

Q—If a member of Jehovah's Witnesses took the view himself that the prophecy was wrong and said so, he would be disfellowshipped?

A—Yes, if he said so and kept persisting in creating trouble, because if the whole organization believes one

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thing, even though it be erroneous, and somebody else starts on his own trying to put his ideas across then there is disunity and trouble, there cannot be harmony, there cannot be marching together. When a change comes it should be from the proper source, the head of the organization, the governing body, not from the bottom upwards, because everybody would have ideas, and the organization would disintegrate and go in a thousand different directions. Our purpose is to have unity.

Q—Unity at all costs?

A—Unity at all costs. . . .

Q—And unity based upon an enforced acceptance of false prophecy?

A—That is conceded to be true." (Pg. 342,343)

Is it really Biblical for the Watchtower to force its members to a certain belief, even if it is "error" or "false prophecy"?

We have investigated the Watchtower at its invitation. It claims that a person cannot understand the Bible without it yet we have seen some of its Biblical "Interpretations". Would "God's channel" lie to you about Russell claiming to be the "Faithful and Wise Servant," or make a pyramid "grow" 41 inches between book editions? Does God's "Theocratic organization" hold a particular doctrine, then later denounce it as "false doctrine" yet return back to its former position? Does Jehovah's "sole channel" on earth force people to believe error and false prophecy for the sake of unity? We believe not.

The *Watchtower* of May 15, 1976 contained the article *Preaching Christ—Through Envy or Goodwill*. On page 297 it states:

"Nevertheless, as with early Christians, Jehovah's Witnesses have opposers today. Some spring out from among their own ranks, just as it was with early Christianity. (Acts 20:30) But what is the objective of such men? It is to tear down. What they say and publish is almost wholly

in the form of an attack upon Jehovah's Witnesses.

The Watchtower seems to have forgotten its own statement in the Jan 15, 1974 *Watchtower*:

"What results when a lie is let go unchallenged? Does not silence help the lie to pass as truth, to have freer sway to influence many, perhaps to their serious harm?

"What happens when misconduct and immorality are allowed to go unexposed and uncondemned? Is this not like covering over an infection without any effort to cure it and keep it from spreading?

"When persons are in great danger from a source that they do not suspect or are being misled by those they consider their friends, is it an unkindness to warn them? They may prefer not to believe the warning. They may even resent it. But does that free one from the moral responsibility to give that warning?" (P. 35)

It is because of this danger to you that we have written this tract. Our concern is for you to find THE TRUTH who is JESUS CHRIST. Our hope is for you to discover Jesus and grow in His knowlege and grace. But the Watchtower tells you that we have no program for spiritual growth. (W.T. May 15, 1976. P. 297)

As Christians, we believe there is a plan for you in God's Word. Our desire is to share with you this life changing plan. The Watchtower places a heavy burden on you; but Jesus said: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn for me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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