

## **INTRODUCTION:**

There can be no doubt Satan has tried to destroy the work of God throughout history. This is especially true about the work He is doing through His true church today. Satan knows that he cannot stop the Church of God (Matthew 16:18). He does believe that he can pervert it. If he can pervert the church, he had destroyed it. This has been his effort since Christ. Perhaps the earliest form of this perversion was Gnosticism. Gnosticism could possibly have been in existence during Paul's lifetime and was very strong by 150 AD. Other early perversions of Christianity are Manichaeism (second century), Marcion (second century), Arianism (fourth century), Apollinarianism, (fourth century), and Pelagianism (fourth century), and Mariology (before the sixth century). These, with many other perversions, show us that perversions of the biblical church have and will exist. These perversions are cults. Today we have many of these groups in the world. One of these groups is Jehovah's Witnesses.

Are Jehovah's Witnesses a perversion of the church? If so, are they a threat to the true church in our world today? They are a worldwide organization, with missionary work in over 200 nations and branches in at least 100 of these. They have printed material in more than 110 languages. Their claim is that they are the only true witness of Jehovah in the world today. Do they really teach and praise the Jehovah God of the Old and New Testaments? Are their teachings really in line with the Holy Bible? Or are they simply another Satanic deviation of Christianity? This is the subject of this paper. It will examine the doctrines of Jehovah's Witnesses and compare them to the teachings of the Holy Bible.

## **THE HISTORY OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:**

Jehovah's Witnesses are a relatively new religion, officially founded in 1879. It has its beginnings much earlier than that. Jehovah's Witnesses had their earliest beginnings in 319 AD, with a man named Arius of Alexandria. Arius was a learned teacher and leader in the Alexandrian church. He developed a theology and following, called Arianism. The council of Nicaea (325 AD) labeled Arianism a heresy and excommunicated Arius.<sup>1</sup> The basic concept of Arian theology was that if God the Father gave birth to the Son (Jesus), the Son has an origin of existence, therefore there was a time the Son did not exist and was created out of nothing. Arianism, as a movement, disappeared by 400 AD. The theology of this cult continued and is now a basic part of many cults in the world today, such as Mormonism, Unitarianism, and Jehovah's Witnesses.

Jehovah's Witnesses consider Arius the forerunner of Charles Taze Russell, the founder of the Watch Tower, the organization of Jehovah's Witnesses. Russell was born on February 16, 1852 in Allegheny, PA. Russell was raised as a Congregationalist, but was unable to accept the teachings of this church. He revolted violently at the concept of hell and eternal punishment for the unsaved. This led to his

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<sup>1</sup>Elwell, Walter A. Evangelical Dictionary Of Theology. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House,

rejection of many biblical doctrines.

At the age of 18 Russell began a Bible class in Pittsburgh, installing himself as the teacher. Russell's class grew into a church and in 1876, he was conferred as "Pastor." This title is still applied to him by Jehovah's Witnesses today. By 1879, Russell left his job as a clothing store manager and founded the Zion's Watch Tower. This was incorporated in 1884 as Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society. In the year 1886, Russell published the first of six books. These books were originally called Millennial Dawn. Later, the name was changed to Studies in the Scriptures. A seventh in the series was added after his death.

Russell, like many founders of modern cults, was involved in schemes and frauds during his lifetime. Some of these frauds are documented by the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, especially the Miracle Wheat scheme. Russell sold wheat for \$1.00 per pound, claiming that it would produce five times as much as any other brand. Russell sued the Eagle for libel because of a cartoon it included in an issue concerning this scheme. Government experts testified to the poor quality of the Miracle Wheat and Russell lost the lawsuit. This is only one of many of Russell's schemes. Russell died on October 31, 1916.

Judge Joseph Franklin Rutherford took control of Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society at Russell's death. Rutherford expanded the work of the Society and gave them the name of Jehovah's Witnesses. He continued in the tradition of Russell and is responsible for many Jehovah's Witness doctrines today. Modern Jehovah's Witnesses claim that they follow Rutherford's teachings instead of Russell's. Examination of Russell's writings and Jehovah's Witnesses doctrine reveal many similarities.

### **DOCTRINES OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:**

When studying the theology of another religious organization, the best place to begin is by creating a list of their doctrines. This has already been done by Dr. Walter Martin in His book, Kingdom of the Cults, on page 46. The following is a copy of that list:

- A. There is one solitary being from all eternity, Jehovah God, the Creator and Preserver of the Universe and of all things visible and invisible.
- B. The Word or Logos is "a god," a mighty god, the "beginning of the Creation" of Jehovah, and his active agent in the creation of all things. The Logos was made human as the man Jesus and suffered death to produce the ransom or redemptive price for obedient men.
- C. The Bible is the inerrant, infallible inspired word of God as it was originally given, and has been preserved by Him as the revealer of His purpose.
- D. Satan was a great angel who rebelled against Jehovah and challenged His Sovereignty, through Satan, sin and death came upon man. His destiny is annihilation with all his followers.
- E. Man was created in the image of Jehovah but willfully sinned, hence all men are born sinners and are "of the earth." Those who follow Jesus Christ faithfully to the death will inherit the heavenly Kingdom with Him. Men of good will who

accept Jehovah and His Theocratic Rule will enjoy the "new earth"; all others who reject Jehovah will be annihilated.

- F. The atonement is a ransom paid to Jehovah God by Christ Jesus and is applicable to all who accept it in righteousness. In brief, the death of Jesus removed the effects of Adam's sin on his offspring and laid the foundation of the New World of righteousness including the Millennium of Christ's reign.
- G. The man, Christ Jesus, was resurrected a divine spirit creature after offering the ransom for obedient man.
- H. The soul of man is not eternal but mortal, and it can die. Animals likewise have souls, though man has the pre-eminence by special creation.
- I. Hell, meaning a place of "fiery torment" where sinners remain after death until the resurrection, does not exist. This is a doctrine of "Organized Religion," not the Bible. Hell is the common grave of mankind, literally sheol (Hebrew), "a place of rest in hope" where the departed sleep until the resurrection by Jehovah God.
- J. Eternal Punishment is a punishment or penalty of which there is no end. It does not mean "eternal torment" of living souls. Annihilation, the second death, is the lot of all those who reject Jehovah God and it is eternal.
- K. Jesus Christ has returned to earth in A.D. 1914, has expelled Satan from Heaven and is proceeding to overthrow Satan's organization, establish the Theocratic Millennial Kingdom, and vindicate the name of Jehovah God. He did not return in physical form and is invisible as the Logos.
- L. The Kingdom of Jehovah is supreme, and as such cannot be compatible with present human government ("Devil's Visible Organization") and any allegiance to them in any way which violates the allegiance owed to Him, in a violation of the Scripture.

These twelve doctrines will be discussed, in order, on the following pages.

- A. The Bible teaches there is only one God and the Old Testament calls Him, Jehovah. Jehovah's Witnesses do not accept other teachings concerning Him. The most obvious of these is the rejection of the trinity and the deity of Christ. On page 81, the book Let God Be True, claims that the doctrine of the trinity is not of God, referring to it as "confusion." While the trinity is not easily explainable, it is Biblical. How does the Christian respond to Jehovah's Witness's denial of the trinity? Use Scripture: 1 John 5:7, John 1:1, and 1 Timothy 3:16. The response of Jehovah's Witnesses will be that this doctrine is not rational or understandable. Remember, 1 Corinthians 2:14. The doctrine of the trinity, as taught by the Bible is understood only through the power of the Spirit. Yes, it is a mystery to those who perish and it is difficult for those who have Jesus to explain, but God reveals His mystery to those who accept His Son.

Logic or rationalism is the basis of their religion. Anything that the human mind cannot comprehend is considered confusion and God is not the author of confusion. Logic is the science of reasoning, it is the reasoning of man. Yet one may ask, is God like man or is He superior to man? Perhaps 1 Corinthians 1:25

might help: "Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men." Isaiah 55:8-9 says; "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." How can man ever hope to understand God by man's reasoning power? He can't, for no man knows the mind of the Lord (Romans 11:33-36, 2 Corinthians 2:16).

In dealing with Jehovah's Witnesses in the area of the deity of Christ and the trinity, this author has had the most success with the use of Matthew 1: 18-25, emphasizing the use of the word Immanuel in relationship to Jesus. This verse is a quotation of Isaiah 7:14, which is a reference to the coming Messiah or Jesus. Using their logic against them, one can show that Jesus cannot be God with us, unless he is God and since there is only one God, there must be a trinity.

- B. John 1:1 of the New World Translation (Jehovah's Witness) says: "In the beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god." This shows that Jehovah's Witnesses are polytheistic in nature (the belief in many gods, commonly called paganism). They believe that God created Jesus as his son before he lived on earth, and therefore is a lesser god. Let God Be True, page 43, says: "God exalted his Son Jesus to be higher than he was before he lived and died as a man." Of course, the Bible teaches that Jesus was preexistent, but Jehovah's Witness's teaching is that God created him.

When disputing with Jehovah's Witnesses, logic must be used. The first question to raise with them on this topic is that the Bible discusses the creation of the world, the creation of man, and the creation of Satan. If God created Jesus, why isn't his creation discussed? Then use the evidence for the trinity, given in the previous section to show the deity of Christ. Passages such as Isaiah 43:10 show us there is no God besides the one true God. None were formed before him and none were formed after him. So how could Jesus be a god created after God? Demigods do not exist! Many angels exist, both fallen and unfallen. Many men exist, both saved and unsaved. Only one God exists, both great and small. Only by believing the truth about Him can one be saved. Since the Bible teaches that Christ and God are the Savior of the world, surely even Jehovah's Witness logic must see that they can be the same (Isaiah 43:3, 11; Hosea 13:4).

- C. In its basic form, this statement is compatible to a foundation of the Christian faith, the Bible is without error and is infallible. This naturally does not apply to any translation or copy, as human error is possible in any of these. However, conservative Christian scholarship indicates there is no major deviation in most of the major translations from the original. The dead sea scrolls indicate that the manuscripts we have today are accurate and dependable. This is not where we disagree with Jehovah's Witnesses. Our disagreement lies with the translations of the manuscripts. As a rule, most major translations have been done by competent Greek and Hebrew scholars, with the best possible credentials. Not that this keeps them from making a mistake or

inserting their own theology, but it does tell us that they knew how to perform the task. The major translations were all translated by a group of scholars to prevent the inclusion of personal beliefs. Many of these committees consisted of people from various denominations to prevent denominational influence.

The New World Translation was prepared by a committee of Jehovah's Witness scholars. This would allow only Jehovah Witness theology and cause it to agree with them. A list of the scholars and their credentials are not provided for the reader. Therefore, it is impossible to tell if these men were qualified to translate the Bible. Walter Martin, Kingdom of the Cults, page 64, says: *"but let it be remembered that the Watch Tower Translation Committee, comparatively speaking, had but a handful of "scholars" who hold degrees in New Testament Greek Exegesis, or Hebrew for that matter; yet these egotistical pseudo-scholars dare to challenge the record of translations which have had hundreds of the greatest Greek and Hebrew scholars in the world as contributors."* This author has education in the Greek and a lesser amount in Hebrew, and he would not challenge the translators of the Bible. In the work he has done, he has found the King James Version and the New International Version to be accurate and dependable translations of the original language manuscripts. The New World Translation, on the other hand, has been found by him to be highly inaccurate and very undependable.

Add to this the idea that God has preserved the Bible down through the years. There is no reason to consider Jehovah's Witnesses claim that the Bible, as the Christian Church has kept, is not an accurate copy of the originals. Since their version does not match the ancient Greek, Hebrew, Latin, Coptic or even the modern English manuscripts and Bibles, clearly it is a product designed to deceive people into their cult.

- D. Satan was an angel who was a leader among the angels, Ezekiel 28:13-19. The reason he fell from God's grace was that iniquity was found in him. This is described in Isaiah 14. However, his destiny is in no way simple annihilation. This is based upon Jehovah's Witness belief there is no hell. The concept of no hell is discussed in section I. A brief statement is necessary here. Jehovah's Witnesses say that every time the word hell is found in the Bible, it is really sheol or hades, meaning the grave or abode of the dead. Annihilation is ceasing to exist, so we see the belief that Satan will simply end. No eternal torment for him, according to this statement.

Yet, the Bible says that Satan will suffer eternal punishment without using the term hell, hades, or sheol. See Matthew 25:41 & 46 for an example. An interesting point to make in witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses is found in these verses. The New World Translation says: "Then he will say, in turn, to thee on his left 'Be on your way from me, you who have been cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41). It is a clear teaching in their Bible that an everlasting fire exists. Matthew 25:46 in the New World Translation says: "And these will depart into everlasting cutting-off, but the righteous ones into everlasting life."

In considering Satan's destiny and eternal punishment, one cannot over

look Revelation 20:10. Here is another place their supposed translators failed to match Jehovah's Witness doctrine. For the New World Translation reads: "*And the Devil who is misleading them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulphur, where both the wild beast and the false prophet [already were]; and they will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*" Isn't it wonderful how our glorious God has preserved enough truth in their lies for us to be able to witness to them? Show them in their translation where they will spend eternity with Satan, and that it is not annihilation, but torment for ever and ever.

E. There are three concepts presented in this statement, man's past, man's present, and man's future existence. There are many similarities between Baptist beliefs and Jehovah's Witness beliefs concerning man's past, however, there is a great difference concerning man's present and future.

Jehovah's Witnesses claim that God created man in His image. This agrees with the Bible, as it says that God created man in His image, that image being spiritual. Yet as we shall see in section H, they do not believe that this spiritual image or soul is eternal. They also claim that man willfully sinned. This also agrees with the Bible, as man chose to sin when tempted by Satan. It is in the area of the effects of this sinful nature and the redemption from this effect that we disagree. This is discussed later. It is enough to say that at this time, we disagree with their concept of punishment for sin, i.e., hell, and the method through which we receive deliverance from hell, the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

Man's present state, according to the Bible, either lost or saved. If saved, then man should be living to bring others to the salvation offered by Jesus. If lost, then man needs to be seeking that salvation.

Jehovah's witnesses teach there are two future kingdoms; heaven and earth. The heavenly kingdom will be ruled by Christ, with 144,000 select Jehovah's Witnesses. These will reign over the earthly kingdom, which will consist of the rest of Jehovah's Witnesses. This is the Theocratic Rule of God. Those who have rejected the teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses will be annihilation at the end judgment, which is the lake of fire and second death of Revelation 20:14-14. The basis for this doctrine is Revelation 7:4-8 and 14:1-3. Revelation 7:9-10 is ignored. When admitted, the claim is that these are those on the recreated earth.

Another difference between Jehovah's Witness and Christian teachings is the idea of soul-sleeping. The Bible teaches that when we die there is a separation of the body and spirit (often called the soul). The body goes into the grave and the soul to God or into hell. A good rebuke for this is the story of the rich man and Lazarus, found in Luke 16:19ff. Jehovah's Witnesses will claim that this is not the point of the parable, and to use it in this manner is to say that only the poor will enter heaven (See Let God Be True, page 78). Jehovah's Witnesses tell us that the body and spirit remain in the grave. This is based upon their concept of the words sheol and hades, discussed in section I.

F. Their concept of Christ is totally different. To them, Jesus became God at the time of His baptism. Before that time, He was simply a man. Please refer to section E for the method of salvation.

G. Jehovah's Witnesses believe that the resurrection was only a spiritual event and that Christ was not resurrected bodily. Let God Be True, page 276 says; *"The firstborn one from the dead was not raised out of the grave a human creature, but he was raised a spirit."* In the same book, on page 43, we read: ". . . God raised him from the dead, not as a human Son, but as a mighty immortal spirit son, with all power in heaven and earth under the Most High God."

The Bible teaches otherwise:

1. The tomb did not continue to contain the body of Christ, Matthew 28:6 & John 20:3-10.
2. Jesus was seen in the body by many witnesses, John 20:21- 29.
3. The disciples saw a bodily ascension, Acts 1:9-10.
4. He will return in the same manner, Acts 1:11.

Jehovah's Witnesses respond to these teachings by saying: *"for forty days thereafter he materialized, as angels before him had done, to show himself alive to his disciples as witnesses."* The claim is that he only took on a bodily form to show that he was alive. What does that do to the idea that God is not the author of confusion? It makes God a liar and a fraud, which He is not.

H. The Greek word for soul is Psucho and the Hebrew is Nephesh. These simply mean the force which animates the body or life. In Paul's time, it meant the entire man or the body, spirit and intellect. Today, the word is often used incorrectly to refer to the spiritual being of man. There is no doubt that man has an eternal spirit, which is often called the soul. The Old Testament word ruach, means breath, spirit or wind. The New Testament word pneuma, means breath, spirit or wind. Jehovah's Witnesses fail to consider that the translator's of the Bible often translated ruach and pneuma as soul, rather than Spirit. The reasoning behind this is to separate the spirit of man from God's Spirit. When psucho is used, it is mortal, such as Ezekiel 18:4 in the Greek Old Testament. The word nephesh does mean animal soul or life. The Bible does not speak of an eternal spirit in animals. It is only into man that God breathed (ruach) the breath (or spirit) of life, giving them immortality. Jehovah's Witnesses claim that the soul is mortal is based on the words psucho and nephesh. It ignores the fact that the soul, in the since it is present by these words, refers to the entire earthly person. It also ignores all the passages in which the eternal spirit (ruach and pneuma) are used.

The Hebrew word, ruach is used 375 times. Of these 375 times, it is used 232 times as spirit. No fewer than 26 times is the word an obvious reference to the spirit of man, see appendix one. One very interesting use of this word is in Ecclesiastes 12:1; *"Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."* This shows not only the eternal spirit of man, but also refutes the concept that man remains in the grave.

The Greek Word, pneuma, is used 383 times. Three hundred and eighty times it is used as spirit. Fifteen of these times it refers to man's spirit, see appendix two. Two verses are of special interest here, as they show that man has a psucho, pneuma, and soma (body): 1 Thessalonians 5:23; *"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and*

*body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."*  
Hebrews 4:12; *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*

- I. Jehovah's Witnesses deviate completely from the Bible on this point. This doctrine caused Russell to revolt against Christianity and begin his church. Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe that hell exists. They teach that wherever the word hell is found in the Bible that it should be considered the grave, and that the final punishment of Revelation 20:14 & 15 is annihilation, called the second death. The Bible teaches that hell is a literal place and is an eternal place where Satan, Satan's angels, and the immortal spirit of unsaved humanity will spend an eternity in punishment. This is found in Matthew 25:46 and Revelation 20:10, and many other passages in the Bible.

One chapter of Let God Be True is titled "Hell, a Place of Rest in Hope." This chapter claims that sheol (Hebrew) and Hades (Greek) are translated hell in the King James and other versions, and that they should be translated as the grave. In their theology, this makes hell the grave, a place where one awaits the day of resurrection. On page 80 of Let God Be True, the chapter on hell closes by saying: *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. From this it is clearly seen that hell or sheol or hades means the grave, the tomb, the condition where all, good and bad, go, awaiting the day of resurrection; while gehenna is the condition of destruction where the Devil, his demons and all opposers to The Theocratic Government of Jehovah God will go and from which condition there is not recovery or resurrection."*

Is this an unscriptural truth? If so, why is the idea of eternal punishment taught in the Bible? Two passages have already been cited and many others could be mentioned. Notice, there are many passages in the Bible that talk about a place where there will be "wailing and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 8:12, 13:42 and others).

Is it unreasonable? God destroyed thousands in Old Testament times for disobedience. Sodom and Gomorrah had fire and brimstone poured out on it and the only ones God delivered were the few righteous ones found there. The children of Israel perished in the wilderness for their disobedience to God. Why then is it unreasonable to believe that God is capable of punishing the unrepentant people?

It might be contrary to the idea of love, but is love the only attribute of God? Is He not also a God of justice, wrath, truth, and mercy? He will have mercy upon whom He will, the rest will not receive His mercy. Truth demands that He fulfilled His promises, even the promise of eternal damnation for the lost. Wrath shows that He is capable of doing what He has said. Justice demands punishment for wrong doing, so punishment cannot be repugnant to justice.

The Greek is not against the concept of punishment as we believe. There are three Greek words used for hell in the New Testament; Hades, Gehenna, and Tatarus. Hades is used 10 times and is the name of a subterranean region. It was regarded by the ancient Greeks as the abode of the wicked dead, where they suffer punishment for their evil deeds. Gehenna is used 11 times and is the name of a valley south east of Jerusalem. It received its name from the cries of the little children who were thrown in fires as a sacrifice to Malock (an idol having the form of a bull). The Jew abhorred the place after those horrible sacrifices had been abolished by Josiah. They began to use it as a garbage dump, a place to cast bodies of animals and criminals. A fire burned there constantly to consume the garbage. It was known as an evil place, and no one would try to live there. Tatarus is used once and is a proper name for a place of punishment for evil. Jesus and the New Testament writers used these words, as there was no Greek word for hell. It was a concept that they presented by using terms they had available. When passages dealing with hell are kept in context, there is no doubt that hell exists. Even if the Greek and Hebrew lacked a word for it.

J. As already demonstrated in section I, there is a hell and it is a place of eternal torment for Satan, his angels or demons, and those who do not obtain salvation through Jesus Christ in this life. Annihilation is not a Biblical doctrine, but Jehovah's Witnesses teach that it is the second death of Revelation 20:14-15. However, they fail to consider verse 10 of that chapter. In section D, it is shown that even the New World Translation teaches that Satan will be *"tormented day and night forever and ever."* Why should we assume that the lake of fire is different for Satan than it is for those whose names are not written in the Book of Life?

K. *"In the same way, Christ's return does not mean that he literally comes back to this earth. Rather it means that he takes Kingdom power toward this earth and turns his attention to it. He does not need to leave his heavenly throne and actually come down to earth to do this . . . Bible evidence shows that in the year 1914 C.E. God's time arrived for Christ to return and begin ruling." (You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth, page 147). "Some wrongfully expect a literal fulfillment of the symbolic statements of the Bible. Such hope to see the glorified Jesus coming seated on a white cloud where every human eye will see him. They overlook the Lord's words before he left: "Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more." (John 14:19). Since no earthly men have ever seen the Father, whom no man have seen, nor can see, neither will they see the glorified son." These quotations show that Jehovah's Witnesses have a totally different concept of the return of Christ than any Christian group. They claim that he made a spiritual return in 1914 according to biblical evidence. No Jehovah's Witness can prove this, for there is no biblical evidence for a spiritual return in 1914. The biblical statement that all will see His return disproves their teachings. Matthew 24:30 clearly says that all the tribes (or nations) of the earth will know that He has come, for they will see His sign in heaven and "they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and glory."*

Jesus' return will be both physical and visible, see Acts 1:10-11 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Matthew 24:4-14 warns us against just such statements as these. Do not be deceived, no man knows when Christ will return, not the angels in heaven but only God (Matthew 24:36). It is certain, when He does come, we will know it!

- L. Earthly government is known as the Devil's visible organization. Government is ordained of God according to Matthew 22:21, Romans 13:1-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-3 and 1 Peter 13-17. No claim is made that any government is perfect or within the guidelines and leadership of God. It does say that we are subject to it and should be obedient to it. Unless it is in conflict with the teachings of God. A Christian's first allegiance is to God, but we are to render unto Caesar what is his. Jehovah's Witnesses refuse to salute the flag, pledge allegiance to the flag or serve in the armed forces. They cannot be considered a subversive organization however, for they refuse to do this in any government. It is not their intent to do away with government, but their teaching is that they owe allegiance only to God. While this may anger some people, as they certainly enjoy all the benefits of our nation, this point is needless to argue with them. Many scripture passages can be used to show the error of this doctrine, but it will not bring them to true salvation.

### **BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS:**

Another interesting doctrine of Jehovah's Witnesses is their refusal to receive certain types of medical assistance, such as blood transfusions. According to The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life, pages 165-169, the reason for this is the command of God not to eat blood. This book says that to take blood by transfusion is not abstaining from blood. While this may appear ridiculous to Christians, do not condemn them for this practice. If they believe it to be wrong, they should not allow it. Just remember, there is no scriptural evidence against this and that our purpose is not to show them how wrong they are, but the way to salvation. Deal with those topics.

### **WITNESSING EFFECTIVELY TO JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**

1. Know what you believe and why you believe it.
2. Have a basic understanding of the teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses.
3. Know the differences of common terms used.
4. Find the person's status in the Watch Tower Society.
  - a. Is he only interested in the Society?
  - b. Has he been baptized into the Society?
  - c. Is he an active and committed publisher (the ones who visit and attempt to convert others)?
  - d. Does he have doubts about their teachings?
  - e. Is he actively attending, seldom attending, or about to be disfellowshipped?
5. Keep the initiative in the encounter, do not let them control the conversation or subject matter. You need to keep to the subject and not allow them to jump from

- point to point as they are prone to do.
6. Pray to Jehovah, otherwise they will think you are praying to Satan.
  7. Don't argue.
  8. Lead them to agree that to be a true religion, it must agree with all points of the Bible.
  9. Show the Witness the failure of some obvious doctrines such as the resurrection of Christ.
  10. Be prepared or don't attempt it. Get help if needed.
  11. Remember that they believe that the Bible is translated wrong from the Greek and Hebrew and try to use the original languages. Yet they have no knowledge of these languages.

#### FIVE PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING TO THE CULTS

1. Recognize that the real problem is spiritual and centers on the question of authority.
2. Members of cults are blinded by the teachings of their cult and by Satan himself. You must demonstrate that their organization is unreliable and prove that it is not of God.
3. Use the Bible and the cults literature and "scripture" to show that their beliefs are unreliable and unworthy of trust and respect.
4. Don't argue, show the truth and let the Holy Spirit do His job.
5. After instilling doubt about the cult, always share the truth of Jesus, salvation through Him and your salvation testimony.

#### DEBATABLE DOCTRINES:

1. Jesus is God.
  - a. Only God is to be worshiped, correct?
  - u. Jesus is worshiped without rebuke in Matthew 2:11, 14:33, 28:9&17, and John 9:38.
  - c. Their response will be that the New World Translation says "did obedience to."
  - d. Your response is that the Greek word is proskuneo, used 59 times in the New Testament. 50 times it is translated as worship, as in Revelation 7:11, 11:16 & 19:4.
2. Physical resurrection.
  - a. The witness will claim that Jesus was only spiritually resurrected with an occasional physical manifestation.
  - b. You need to remind the Witness of the source of truth.
  - c. Have them read:
    1. John 2:19-21, Jesus prophesied his resurrection.
    2. John 20:26-29 and ask, would Jesus have deceived Thomas by having him examine Jesus' physical body?
    3. Luke 24:36-39. Jesus corrected His disciples for their mistake of thinking He was a spirit and not flesh and bones.
3. Man does face hell.

- a. Jehovah's Witnesses will claim there is not hell.
  - b. The Bible teaches of a concept of hell, though the Greek and Hebrew languages do not have a word for it and borrowed other words to teach it;
    - 1. Matthew 25:46
    - 2. Revelation 20:10 along with Revelation 20:14-15 in the New World Translation. Ask; what is the difference?
    - 3. Who will be weeping and gnashing their teeth? Matthew 8:12 & 13:42
  - c. Is it reasonable to expect God to be a God of justice? If so, then doesn't justice demand punishment?
  - d. If you know so much about Greek, explain the word "tatarus." (Thayer defines it as "the name of a subterranean region, doleful and dark, regarded by the ancient Greeks as the abode of the wicked dead, where they suffer punishment for their evil deeds." Strong defines it as incarcerate in eternal torment.)
4. Christ's return is physical.
- a. The book You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth, on page 147 claims there is biblical evidence that His return is to be only a spiritual return, show it to me.
  - b. Matthew 24:30, New World Translation, says that we will see him coming.
  - c. Matthew 24:4-14, New World Translation, says that many will claim He has returned when He hasn't, since we haven't seen it, it is obvious that Jehovah's Witnesses are some of those we are warned about.

### **CONCLUSION**

Jehovah's Witness doctrines are not Christian doctrines, their Bible is not the Christian Bible, and their Christ is not the Christian's Christ. Therefore, they are not Christian. The claim Jehovah's Witnesses make to be the only true Christian Church, when they are not Christian, makes them more than a false religion. It makes them a cult. It is possible that some members of Jehovah's Witnesses are saved. If so, they are not saved by their membership in Jehovah's witnesses, but in spite of that membership. They need Jesus. It becomes the Christian's responsibility to share Jesus with them. In the following pages there are several helps for this responsibility. Use them when God gives you the opportunity to witness to a Jehovah's witness.

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